Ref Numbers for Flex

Overview

For the OpenOffice Linguistic Tools (OOLT), reference numbers are required for each lexical item in order to import and update them in a phonology writeup. The purpose of these scripts is to automatically fill in the reference field with unique serial numbers. These scripts are designed to run through the Bulk Edit Entries section of Fieldworks Language Explorer, as an SIL Converter.

Requirements

The latest stable version of FieldWorks is recommended. Python 2.7 (not Python 3 or higher) is also required, which can be obtained from https://www.python.org/download. Linux and Mac systems usually have Python already.

Instructions

In Flex, go to the Bulk Edit Entries section of the Lexicon. Select the Process tab at the bottom.

Configure which columns to display by clicking on the icon in the upper right hand corner above the scroll bar. Select "More Column Choices..." Find the Sources column in the left hand pane and press Add>>, then press OK. Alternatively you can add a custom field called Reference.

Now in the Bulk Edit Operation pane, for the Source Field, select Lexeme Form (or any field that is never empty). For Target Field, specify Sources. Then click the Setup... button. Click Add to add a new processor, choose More... and select Python Script.

In the Setup tab, click Browse and find add_numbers.py, located in the folder where these files are unzipped (for example the Downloads folder). Click Open after you have selected the file. To see if it is working correctly, go to the Test Area tab. Clicking Test should result in "0001". Running the test again should produce "0002" (you may need to run it twice before it gives 0002).

When finished setting up the converter, click the button to Save In Repository, and press ok to accept the name "add_numbers". Then click OK and Close buttons.

Now click Apply to run the converter. This will fill in the Sources column with numbers starting from 0001.

If the numbers are not starting at 0001, delete the counter.txt file which should be located in the same directory where these files were unzipped. Then go to the Delete tab, specify Sources for the Item to delete, and then press Apply. Now go back to the Process tab and apply the add_numbers process to fill in numbers starting at 0001.

To use 3 digits (001) or 5 digits (00001), edit the add_numbers.py file with a text editor. Towards the top where it says DIGITS = 4, change it to 3 or 5 instead (other values are possible as well).

If the counter gets set incorrectly for some reason, then run count_numbers.py to set it to whatever the highest existing number is. To do this, Specify both Source and Target fields as Sources. Change "If the Target field is not empty" to Overwrite (although this process won't actually be changing anything). Then click Setup and add it as a new process in the same way as we did with add_numbers.py. After running count_numbers.py, run add_numbers.py according to the instructions described earlier, which will start from the highest existing number.

Contact

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