

Preflib 2.0

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1 Folder Structure

The folder structure of the project follows that of a typical Django project with one application. In the following we will go through the important files.

- preflib
 - settings.py: all the inner settings of the project, only change things there if you know what you're doing.
 - urls.py: general patterns for URL, since there only is one application the file is quite basic. Handlers for errors (500, 404, ...) also are defined there.
 - wsgi.py: used to link django to the http server, do not modify.
- preflibApp
 - management/commands
 - * adddataset.py: management command used to add a dataset to the database.
 - * createmetadata.py: command to generate all the metadata for the datafile in the database.
 - * generatezip.py: generates all the zip files.
 - * initializedb.py: command to be run when setting up the website.
 - * updatepapers.py: update the list of the papers using Preflib according to a bib file.
 - migrations: inner Django stuff, do not modify.
 - preflibtools: nothing to do with Django, all the tools used to deal with the data.
 - static: all the static files that are served by the website.
 - templates: a template is an html file which can incorporate some Django code to perform some computations in it. This folder contains the general html structure of the website, i.e., all its templates.
 - templatetags: custom tags that can be used in the templates.
 - admin.py: define which tables can be accessed on the Django admin page of the website.
 - apps.py: inner Django stuff, do not modify.

- `choices.py`: several fields in the database have to be selected among a specific list. All the lists that are not worth putting in the database (because they never change for instance) are defined here.
 - `forms.py`: the Django representation of the html forms that are used in the website. It is for instance, the login form, some administrative forms...
 - `models.py`: all Django objects representing the tables in the database. This is an important file that describes the entire database structure.
 - `scripts.py`: some useful scripts, mainly used for management purposes.
 - `urls.py`: the URL pattern for the pages available through this app.
 - `views.py`: the most important file. The views are functions that are called to render the page requested by the user. This is where all the computations that are done at runtime are described.
- `manage.py`: Python file to run local functions

2 Database Structure

In the following, we provide more details about the structure of the database behind Preflib.

Let us first go through all the tables present in the database.

DATAFILE The most fundamental entity for Preflib is the datafile. The `DATAFILE` table contains a reference to all the datafiles that are in Preflib. The table does not contain the data in itself—it is stored in a file and not in the database—but all the relevant information about it: some basic details and datapatch in which the file is.

DATAPATCH The datapatch is the first level of classification of the datafile. It contains several datafile of different datatype. All the datafiles are based on the same preferences but the representation, the datatype, is different.

DATASET A dataset is a collection of datapatches. The datapatches will typically represent different years of the same election.

DATAPROPERTY A dataproperty is an additional information about a given datafile. It can have to do about the general properties of the data (number of candidates...) or about some more specific structure of the data (single-peakedness...).

METADATA The `METADATA` table stores all the different metadata available in the system. Their values are in the `DATAPROPERTY` table.

PAPER This table stores the information about the papers which are using Preflib.

USERPROFILE All the informations about the users that are not in the Django User class are present in this table.

LOG Logs of what is happening in the inside are gathers in this table.

The following figure summarizes the links between the different tables and presents all the elements present in the tables.

