



ENGW 3307: Advanced Writing for the Sciences
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Text Analysis using Lexos

Important Terminology

- Corpus/corpora: a text or collection of texts that is used for analysis
- Stopwords: the most common words in a language
 - (English: the, a, she, her, it, they, etc.)

Lexos website: <http://lexos.wheatoncollege.edu/>

What is Lexos?

Lexos is a powerful web-based tool to help explore different corpora of digitized texts. Lexos provides a workflow of effective practices to help you be cognizant of choices you are making. For Lexos, separate .txt files are required.

Lexos provides a step-by-step guide for corpus uploading, preparation, and analysis.

Step-by-Step Guide for using Lexos:

1. Upload
 - a. Upload your corpus (your separate .txt. files)
 - b. Click “Browse” and select your entire corpus
2. Manage
 - a. Make sure all documents in the corpus you want to use are selected
 - i. Blue = selected
 - ii. Gray = not selected
3. Prepare
 - a. Click “Prepare” and then “Scrub,” which transforms the text in your corpus and makes choices that will impact your results. Some possibilities:
 - i. Make all your letters lowercase (the computer reads upper and lower case letters as two separate characters)
 - ii. Remove punctuation, which may influence results
 - iii. Remove a list of words, usually stopwords (Get a list of English stopwords here: <https://gist.github.com/sebleier/554280>)
 - b. Once you have finished preparations, click “Apply” and wait a few minutes
 - c. You can also download your corpus after preparation.



4. Visualize
 - a. Click “Visualize” and a drop down of visualization choices will appear
 - b. Click “Word Cloud” to visualize a word cloud across the entire corpus
 - c. Click “Multi Cloud” to visualize word clouds for each individual text
 - d. “Rolling Window” allows you to look at word trends across **one** document
5. Analyze
 - a. The “Analyze” tab provides a drop down menu of more analytical options for analyzing your texts
 - b. This includes comparing texts through functions like “Top Words” and “Similarity Query”
6. This is just a sample of the wide variety of tools Lexos offers for exploration