

Title: Building a simple IR web app

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Description:

This program uses the Flask framework to create a simple application to perform searches on a subset of the TREC Washington Post Corpus.

Dependencies:

The only dependency is Flask the application framework used and its dependencies. The version used is 1.1.2, URL: <https://palletsprojects.com/p/flask/>.

Build Instructions:

To build simply download and then extract files and ensure required dependencies are installed.

Run Instructions:

To run: `python hw2.py`

There is no input for this application aside from interaction with the created application. The application can be interacted with in 3 ways:

- Entering queries into the search bar, accepts any string and no input
- pressing next which will return the next page of input
- pressing prev which will return the previous page of input

(prev and next are only present if a valid page could be returned)

The application handles a null/empty query by rendering the template with no returned matches

Testing:

The application was tested by manual interaction. For simple queries they were entered manually and the results were compared to a ctrl-f of the corpus itself. Then page navigation was tested by using the query "to" to return many results. Then to test edge cases caused by browsers interacting with cookies the session cookies were manually removed after search and then page navigation was again tested.

General Comments:

Assignment was not hard and I enjoyed working on it. There were a few unintuitive things such as how to handle pages so overall the difficulty evened out. I have spent many hours on this project but that is only because I went through a few redesigns of the aforementioned page system to remove excess operations.