Empirical Software Engineering

Report 1: Searching and Classifying Empirical Studies (Search year 2020)

学院:软件学院

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Group Id: <u>12组</u>

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1. Search Process

1.1 Search Description

1.1.1 Plan description

In this task, we aim to finish the search of literature reviews about empirical studies in 2020 and group them into several categories according to their research methods. The task is averagely delivered to each member in our group to guarantee that all of us can collaborate to finish this task. After that, we will gather our results and use them to complete the presentation and report.

1.1.2 Search venues and database

VENUE/JOURNAL	DATABASE
Empirical Software Engineering Journal(EMSE)	Springer
International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)	ACM digital library
International Conference on Evaluation and Assessment in Software Engineering (EASE)	ACM digital library

1.1.3 Selection and Classification criteria

First, it's obvious that there're plenty of papers issued in the three venues in 2020, so we have to do the selecting work. We will discard some papers that don't meet our needs. Thus, some criteria are made to help the filting work. The criteria are as follows:

- 1. Published in 2020.
- 2. Must use one or more empirical study methods.
- 3. Written in English.
- 4. More than 6 pages.

As regard to the empirical study methods, we divide it into 7 categories which are as follows. What's more, we find out the features of each method for the convenience of the classification work.

Methods	Features
Systematic (Literature)	Summary and analysis of
Reviews	existing papers
Experiments	control variable, experiments
	Interview survey, questionaire
Surveys	investigation, huge amounts of
	data
Case Studies	Systematic collection of data
	and information
Ethnography	field investigation,
Etimography	observation
Action Research	pratical work
Expert Opinions	the advice of professionals

1.1.4 Execution process

step1 choosing database

We choose Springer and ACM digital library as our databases. Springer is the database for the journals, which represent EMSE, while ACM is the database for the conferences, which represent ESEM and EASE. We choose to use them for the reason that they are free and convenient.

step2 screening & getting papers list and download by sci-hub

In each database, we do the search and successfully filter down some papers. For example, there're 146 papers in EMSE in 2020 in total. However, after the screening, there're 125 left. After that, we will get the list of the target papers and download them according to the list.

step3 Categorizing

The process of categorizing can be very fussy and hard. First, we will read the titles and the abstract to get the main idea of the paper. In

most situations, the abstract is clear enough and we can categorize directly. However, if we can't get the result according to the abstract, we have to read the papers thoroughly and do the discussion.

1.2 Problems and experience

Problems:

problem 1: How to classify a paper that uses a variety of research methods?

solution: When our team members encounter such papers in their respective classification, they will mark them, then read them in depth, and conduct group discussion to find out the research methods used in the most critical steps as the classification standard.

problem 2: How to distinguish between different research
methods?

solution: When we first read and classified the papers, we could not clearly distinguish the differences and definitions of some research methods. In this regard, we have queried the definition of each method.

Experience:

Through the practice of searching and classifying the literature review of empirical research, we understand the main research methods used in the paper and the meaning of each research method. In addition, we have a clearer understanding of the process of literature search and classification.

2. Search Result

2.1 Statistic Summary

VENUES	COUNT
EASE	30

EMSE	125
ESEM	22
Total	177

	EASE	EMSE	ESEM	TOTAL
Experiments	3	35	4	42
Case study	6	30	10	46
Survey	10	26	4	40
Action research	1	19	1	21
Systematic reviews	6	10	2	18
Ethnographies	2	3	0	5
Expert opinion	2	2	1	5
TOTAL	30	125	22	177

TOTAL

单位: %



2.2 Study list

2.2.1 ESEM

PAPER CITATION	METHOD
Nyyti Saarimäki, Valentina Lenarduzzi, Sira Vegas,	
Natalia Juristo, and Davide Taibi. 2020. Cohort	
Studies in Software Engineering: A Vision of the	
Future. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE</i>	
International Symposium on Empirical Software	Experiments
Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)	
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Libraries using API Utilization Profiles. In	
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Gilje Jaatun. 2020. Using Situational and Narrative	
Analysis for Investigating the Messiness of Software	Case Study
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3. Classification Rationale

3.1 Experiments

3.1.1 case1

Citation

Andreas Schuler and Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis. 2020. Characterizing Energy Consumption of Third-Party API Libraries using API Utilization Profiles. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM) </i>
(<i>ESEM '20</i>
). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 8, 1-11.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3410688

Rationale

Like other experiments, the process is explicit and the data related is sufficient. The researchers introduce System API Utilization Profiles (uAPI) which are based on the general assumption that the actual energy consumption of a library is directly tied to its utilization of the underlying System API and provide a formal definition and implementation of the proposed uAPI profiles that are calculated based on dynamic call graphs obtained from a library under test. Therefore, the study is a typical experiment.

3.1.2 case2

Citation

Gabriel Yago de Oliveira Moreira and José Amancio Macedo Santos. 2020. Applying coupling and cohesion concepts in object-oriented software: a controlled experiment. In 19th Brazilian Symposium on Software Quality (SBQS'20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 8, 1-10.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3439961.3439969

Rationale

Despite the fact that most studies have focused on high-level metaphors, The researchers have designed an experiment which aims to build empirical evidence reinforcing that basic concepts deserve more attention towards better 00 design. The researchers compared the software the participants with experiment's oracle to draw conclusions. The ultimate results are that previous knowledge on the concepts impacts on design quality heavily compared to programming experience and application of cohesion is significantly easier than application of coupling. The process of the experience is explicit and the result is remarkable. The researchers have designed and carried out a complete experiment, so we classify this paper as a controlled experiment.

3.2 Case study

3.2.1 case1

Citation

Jorge Melegati and Xiaofeng Wang. 2020. Case Survey Studies in Software Engineering Research. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)</i> (<i>ESEM '20</i>). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 6, 1-12.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3410683

Rationale

The researchers perform a systematic mapping study and analyzed 12 Software Engineering studies that used the case survey method. They aim to provide a better understanding of how case survey has been applied in Software Engineering research. We can find a statistical analysis of the key points of all the paper referenced from this article.

3.2.2 case2

Citation

Mansooreh Zahedi, Roshan Namal Rajapakse, and Muhammad Ali Babar.

2020. Mining Questions Asked about Continuous Software Engineering: A

Case Study of Stack Overflow. InProceedings of the Evaluation and

Assessment in Software Engineering (EASE '20). Association for

Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 41 - 50.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3383219.3383224

Rationale

The researchers presented an empirical study aimed at exploring Continuous Software Engineering (CSE) from the practitioners.

Devoting their efforts in survey, the researchers have analyzed 12,989 questions and answers posted on Stack Overflow from Q&A websites. Further on, a qualitative analysis was conducted to identify the significant challenges discussed. Eventually, the researchers identified 32 topics of discussions, among which "Error messages in Continuous Integration/Deployment" and "Continuous Integration concepts" are the most dominant. Simultaneously, they presented the most challenging areas in this domain from the practitioners' perspectives. From the paper, It's obvious to find out that their efforts contains all phases required by a case study, so it is classified as a case study.

3.3 Survey

3.3.1 case1

Citation

Cecilia Apa, Martin Solari, Diego Vallespir, and Guilherme Horta Travassos. 2020. A Taste of the Software Industry Perception of Technical Debt and its Management in Uruguay: A survey in software industry. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM) </i>
(<i>ESEM '20</i>
). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 42, 1-9.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3421463

Rationale

The article aim to characterize how the software industry professionals in Uruguay understand, perceive, and adopt technical debt management (TDM) activities. The researchers replicate a Brazilian survey with the Uruguayan software industry and compare their findings. They surveyed 259 respondents indicated any awareness of the TD concept due to the faced difficult to realize how to associate such a concept with actual software issues. Given the respondents involved, this work is a good survey.

3.3.2 case2

Citation

Fengrong Zhao, Junqi Zhao, and Yang Bai. 2020. A Survey of Automatic Generation of Code Comments. InProceedings of the 2020 4th International Conference on Management Engineering, Software Engineering and Service Sciences (ICMSS 2020). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 21-25.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3380625.3380649

Rationale

Taking it into consideration that most programmers only pay attention to the code and ignore the comments and documents, the researchers decided to carry out a survey to discuss the current progress in the field of code comments research. The researchers divide code comments into three types, named document comments, block comments, and line comments. Then, they compare the main methods of code comments.

Subsequently, they discuss the main tools of code comments, then analyze the effectiveness and limitations. Eventually, they present some concluding remarks and directions for the future research. Their efforts has a significant impact on this area that code comment is an important element to a program. It's necessary to ensure the quality of code comments. The researchers have investigated a number of documents and experiments, besides, they have conducted interviews, so we classify this paper as a survey.

3. 4 Ethnography

3.4.1 case1

Citation

Christine T. Wolf and Drew Paine. 2020. Sensemaking Practices in the Everyday Work of AI/ML Software Engineering. Proceedings of the IEEE/ACM 42nd International Conference on Software Engineering Workshops**. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 86-92. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3387940.3391496

Rationale

The researchers engaged with the topic of sense-making in everyday SE work and focus on projects building artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) services. Their findings highlight the breadth of sense-making practices in AI/ML projects, noting developers' efforts to make sense of AI/ML environments, of AI/ML model ecosystems and of business-AI relations. Their work empirically investigated how and in what ways AI/ML projects present software teams with emergent sense-making requirements and opportunities. The topic of their research is quite unique and their working experience is precious. The researchers participated in everyday SE work without any priori knowledge, so we classify this paper as an ethnography.

3.5 Systematic literature review

3.5.1 case1

Citation

Alex Serban, Koen van der Blom, Holger Hoos, and Joost Visser. 2020. Adoption and Effects of Software Engineering Best Practices in Machine Learning. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)</i>

(<i>ESEM '20</i>
). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 3, 1-12.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3410681

Rationale

The researchers aim to empirically determine the state of the art in how teams develop, deploy and maintain software with ML components. They mined both academic and grey literature and identified 29 engineering best practices for ML applications. This work is quite an excellent mixture of both white and grey literature analysis.

3, 5, 2 case2

Citation

Ahmed Remaida, Aniss Moumen, Younes El Bouzekri El Idrissi, and Zineb Sabri. 2020. Handwriting Recognition with Artificial Neural Networks a Decade Literature Review. InProceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Networking, Information Systems & Security (NISS2020). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 65, 1-5. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3386723.3387884

Rationale

The researchers proposed an exploratory analysis of 294 research papers collected from five indexed research engines to provide a research papers distribution across years and journals, a Keywords frequency analysis using cloud visualization, and a Natural Language Processing Topic Modeling using Non-Negative Matrix Factorization. In order to avoid the interference of massive concerning research papers, the researchers focus the research papers published in the last decade. Their study tracks the recent research papers concerning

handwriting recognition that reflects the trend of this area. The researchers investigated a large amount of documents to gather evidence and utilized mapping study, so we classify this paper as a systematic literature review.

3.6 Action research

3.6.1 case1

Citation

Arthur-Jozsef Molnar and Simona Motogna. 2020. Long-Term Evaluation of Technical Debt in Open-Source Software. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)</i> (<i>ESEM '20</i>). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 13, 1-9. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3410673

Rationale

The article aim to study the evolution and characteristics of technical debt in open-source software. The researchers carry out a longitudinal study that covers the entire development history of several complex applications. The evaluation uses three complex, open-source Java applications. All 110 released versions, covering more than 10 years of development history for each application were analyzed using SonarQube. The systematic study in this article and the length of the time span are worth learning.

3.6.2 case2

Citation

Andrés Paul Moya Flores and Fernanda Maria Ribeiro de Alencar. 2020. Competencies Development based on Thinking-based Learning in Software Engineering: An Action-Research. InProceedings of the 34th Brazilian Symposium on Software Engineering (SBES '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 680-689.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3422392.3422481

Rasionale

The researchers believe that traditional ways of teaching SE has some shortages that it ignores the students' personality reflection.

Therefore, the researchers proposed a teaching method called

Thinking-based Learning which develops effective thinking in students using thinking skills, habits of the mind and the meta-cognition during the teaching of subject content. The action research as a methodology to improve their teaching practices in education has been seen as a positive change in educational practices. This methodology is considered as a positive change in educational practices, due to teachers can solve practical problems and improved deficiencies found during the teaching of SE and has encouraged the development of competencies among SE teachers. The researchers raised an problem on SE teaching and tried to find out a solution, so we classify this paper as an action research.

3.7 Expert opinion

3. 7. 1 case1

Citation

Martin Forsberg Lie, Mary Sánchez-Gordón, and Ricardo Colomo-Palacios. 2020. DevOps in an ISO 13485 Regulated Environment: A Multivocal Literature Review. In <i>Proceedings of the 14th ACM / IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM)</i>

(<i>ESEM '20</i>
). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 9, 1-11.

DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3382494.3410679

Rationale

The article synthesize sources published between 2015 to March of 2020 to capture the opinions of experts and community in this field. Their findings reveal that adoption of DevOps in a regulated medical device environment such as ISO 13485 has its challenges, but potential benefits may outweigh those in areas such as regulatory, compliance, security, organizational and technical. Undoubtedly, it is

obvious that their conclusions are based on numerous expert opinions and thus reasonable.

3.7.2 case2

Citation

Nagendra Kumar Sharma, Wen-Kuo Chen, and Kuei-Kuei Lai. 2020. Challenges and Prospects for Digital Marketers while Dealing with SMEs: An Interview. In* 2020 The 4th International Conference on Software and e-Business (ICSEB 2020). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 25-31.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3446569.3446573

Rationale

The findings of the study, which is a qualitative analysis of the interview responses, are based on an interview of a reputed Delhi (India) based digital marketing firm, who deals with small-medium enterprises. In order to uplift the business of the SMEs, the satisfaction level of SMEs with the services rendered by digital marketing firms should be aware by service providers. However, the amount of concerning research paper doesn't meet the demand. This study may reach an helping hand to managers of digital marketing firms that they can implement the findings of this study in redesigning and augmenting their services. Taking it into consideration that this paper is based on an interview of an expert of this domain, it is classified as an expert opinion.