Discussion 8

SI206 Discussion 8

Beautiful Soup

Beautiful Soup for scraping

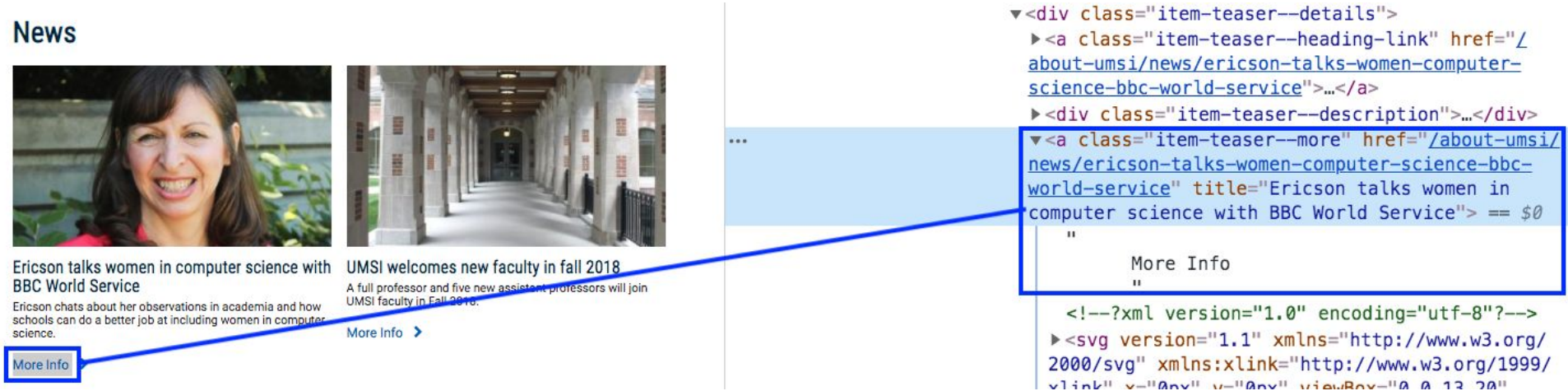
To use the Beautiful Soup module for scraping, you need to create the Beautiful Soup object. There are 3 steps to it:

1. Create a variable that stores the url of website
2. Get the data from the url i.e. `r = requests.get(url)`
3. Create a soup object using the data i.e.
   `soup = BeautifulSoup(r.text, 'html.parser')`

Things to keep in mind with BeautifulSoup

1. soup.find('tag') will return the first tag that matches
2. soup.find_all('tag') will return a list of all the tags that match
3. You can use find and find_all on the tag objects to find children tags!
4. Use the tag_object.attrs to obtain a dictionary of the attributes in a tag object
5. Use the tag_object.get(attr_name) to get a specific attribute

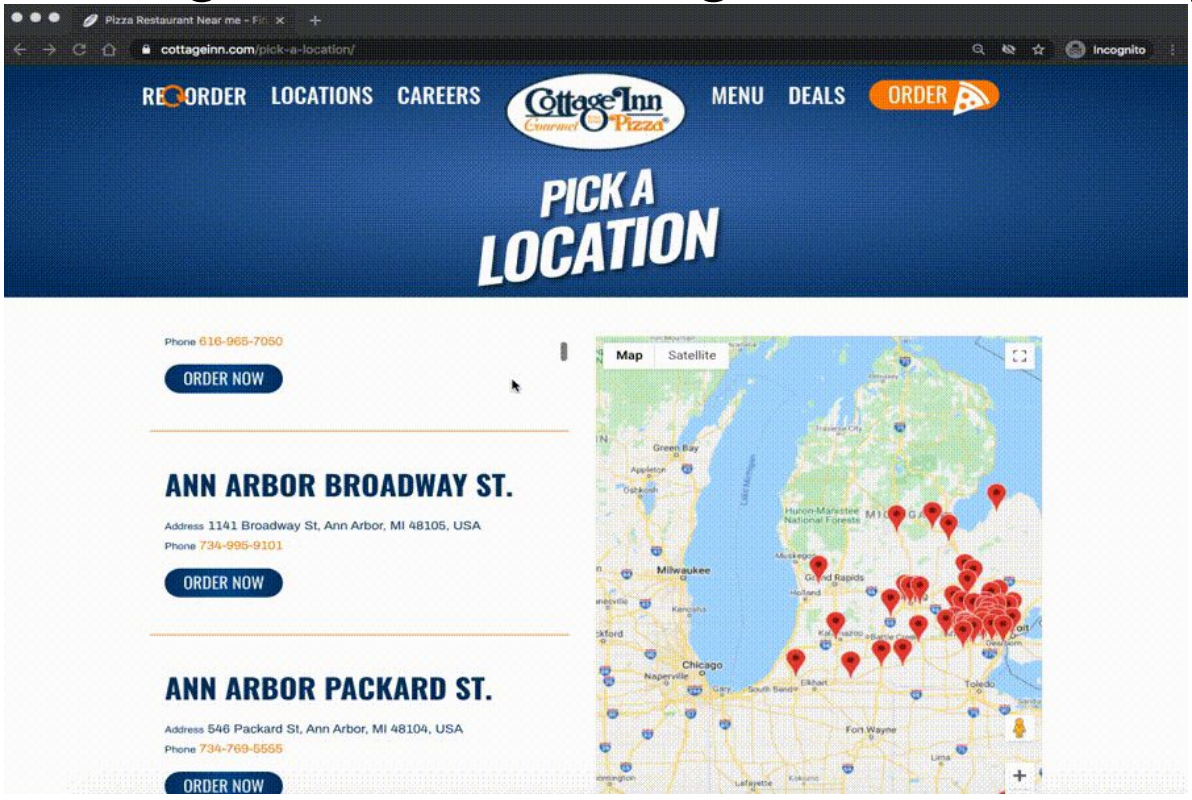
Getting info from a single tag



Since that tag is the first of its type on the page, we can use the soup.find()

```
# Get first tag of a certain type from the soup
tag = soup.find('a', class_='item-teaser--more')
# Get info from tag
info = tag.get('href')
```

Getting info from all tags of a certain type



We see that we need to get info from all the h3 tags from the webpage. The *text* in those tags has the information we need!

```
# Get all tags of a certain type from the soup
tags = soup.find_all('h3')
# Collect info from the tags
collect_info = []
for tag in tags:
    # Get info from tag
    info = tag.text
collect_info.append(info)
```

1. Find the tag description and use that as an argument in soup.find() or soup.find_all()

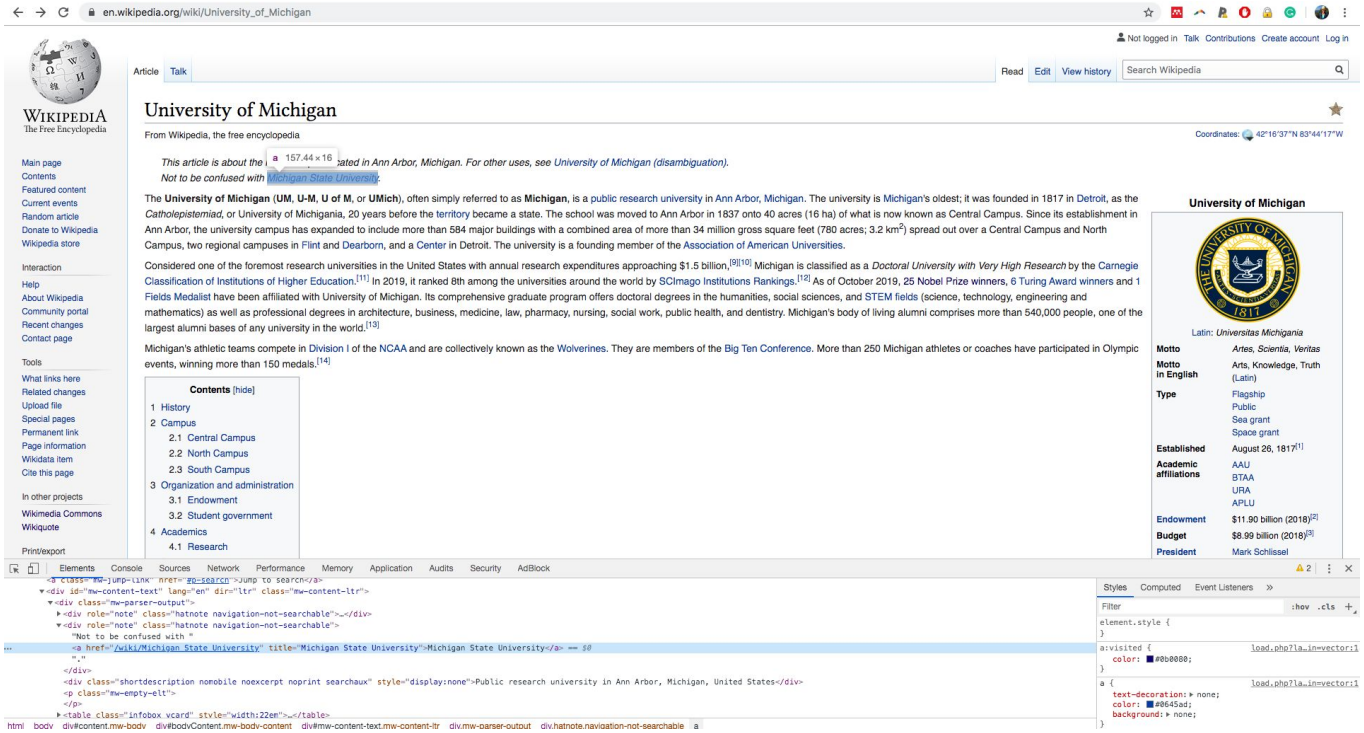
What you see when you inspect		Tag description in the code
`<p>`	->	`'p'`
`<h3>`	->	`'h3'`
`<div class="comment">`	->	`'div', class_='comment'`
`<span style="X5e72;">`	->	`'span', style='X5e72;'`
`<a class="css4z" href="/orders">`	->	`'a', class_='css4z'`

2. Determine if you want to get text from a tag, or a link from a tag

The info you want		What you put in the code
The tag's text	->	`text`
The tag's link	->	`get('href')`

Use Dev Tools!

Right click on an element you want to know more about and choose ‘Inspect’.



Scraping Wikipedia

We will use BeautifulSoup to get some data from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Michigan

Task 1: Create a BeautifulSoup object

Task 2: Get the URL that links to list of Nobel Prize Winners. The clickable link can be found in the second paragraph on the page.
HINT: You will have to add https://en.wikipedia.org to the URL retrieved using BeautifulSoup

Scraping Wikipedia

Task 3: Get the details from the box titled "College/school founding". Get all the college/school names and the year they were founded and organize the same into key-value pairs.

Organize the details into a dictionary as shown below:

```
{'College of Literature, Science, and the Arts': '1841',
 'School of Medicine': '1850',
 .
 .
 'School of Kinesiology': '1984'}
```

APPENDIX - Tips

1. We can filter tags by their attributes by passing additional arguments to the *find()* or *find_all()* methods. For instance, if I only want to get *a* tags that link to Google, I could do:
   a. `soup.find_all('a', href='https://www.google.com')`
2. Remember that you need to use *class_* instead of *class* in *find* or *find_all* because class is a reserved word in Python.
3. When trying to decide how you want to grab a particular tag, remember that in HTML a *class* is typically assigned to multiple tags while an *id* is unique.
   a. Sometimes a tag may have multiple classes separated by a space. Do not treat these all as one class.