Aman Patel

UROC@SICE

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Week 2: Getting familiar with MediaWiki API

This week I was tasked with getting familiar with MediaWiki API and learning the basics of JSON. I did this through editing a MediaWiki URL to extract various pieces of information from a Wikipedia article. To begin, I extracted the categories and titles from a page:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php?format=xml&action=query&prop=categories&titles=Google>

I used cllimit to increase and reduce the number of categories displayed:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php?format=xml&action=query&prop=categories&titles=Google&cllimit=100>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php?format=xml&action=query&prop=categories&titles=Google&cllimit=5>

I used Categorymembers and cmtype to extract the subcategories of the given category:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/api.php?format=xml&action=query&list=categorymembers&cmtitle=Category:Google&cmtype=subcat>

I also explored all the properties listed on the following page:

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/API:Properties>

Regarding JSON, I have read a webpage detailing what JSON is and what it is used for. JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation, and it is a data format that is used to store JavaScript objects as text. Data exchanged between a browser and server can only be in textual format, making JSON useful for transporting data to and from a server. It is also versatile in that it can be used as a data format by any programming language. Compared to XML, JSON is simpler to understand and requires less text than XML. JSON also parses faster than XML and it supports the use of arrays. However, both are very versatile and have their own use cases. XML is a markup language while JSON is a data format. This makes XML more useful for sharing data between systems and storing archival data.

Works Cited

1. “API:Categories.” *MediaWiki*, [www.mediawiki.org/wiki/API:Categories](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/API:Categories).

2. “API:Categorymembers.” *MediaWiki*, [www.mediawiki.org/wiki/API:Categorymembers](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/API:Categorymembers).

3. “JSON - Introduction.” *W3Schools Online Web Tutorials*, [www.w3schools.com/Js/js\_json\_intro.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/Js/js_json_intro.asp).