

A blurred background image of a diverse group of people in a modern office environment. They are smiling and some have their hands raised, suggesting a sense of accomplishment or excitement. The overall atmosphere is professional and positive.

bclawsR

DATA 534

PROJECT

PROPOSAL

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Background



- British Columbia laws and regulations are available online through BC Laws and its public API.
- These public information are useful for policy and government studies, academic projects, and public understanding of current rules
- Currently, to do research on BC laws in R , researchers need to read laws through the website, copy–paste or download documents manually

There is data in BC laws, but it is not yet easy to use directly inside R!

Gap

1

There is no simple R package that:

- searches BC laws by keyword and year
- retrieves law text in a easy-to-read format
- provides a ready-to-use workflow from API to plot

2

Current situation for an R user:

- must write their own HTTP requests
- must parse raw XML responses by hand
- analysis is harder to reproduce and share

We are missing a small R wrapper that connects the BC Laws API to typical R workflows.

Our Idea



1

A new R package - bclawsR

2

Wrap the BC Laws REST API into a few clear R functions

- search BC laws by keyword / year / type
- pull the text of a law as a data frame
- generate a simple plot showing how a keyword appears over time

Thought Process: From Question to Design



Question

What do we want to know?
e.g., “How often does ‘climate’ appear in BC laws over time?”

Search

Find relevant laws.

Text Retreve

Get the text of a chosen law

Summarize

Turn many laws/years into a small table (year + count), looking for trends

Graphing

Show the trend as a simple line chart

Function Set



search_laws(query, year, type)

Using API to get laws and filtering them, return tibble

get_laws_text(type_id, law_id)

Getting the content of laws by their indexes

keyword_trend(keyword, from, to, type)

Looking for the keyword trend of BC laws by time periods and type

plot_keyword_trend(trend_data, keyword)

Graphing the trends for visualization

Plan for vignette



Choose a topic

Such as “climate”

Search Laws

```
search_laws("climate",  
           type = "statute")
```

Inspect the laws

```
get_law_text()
```

Build a keyword trend

```
keyword_trend("climate",  
              from = 2000, to = 2024)
```

Visualization

```
plot_keyword_trend()
```

Thank You for Watching !

