

Web Scraping Practice

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Here are some simple exercises to reinforce the web scraping techniques taught in class today. If you have any questions about any of the exercises, feel free to reach out to any of us!

1 GEOGRAPHICAL STUDIES

I did not know Geographical Studies was a major, but I'm interested in learning more about it next quarter. Write a program that scrapes the Geographical Studies page in the course catalog:

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"http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/geographicalstudies/"
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and prints out all of the courses in the department offered in the Spring that also have no prereqs.

2 CONFIRMATION BIAS

A really cool way to see the opinions of some of the world's most prominent economists is through the Chicago Booth IGM Economic Experts Panels:

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"http://www.igmchicago.org/igm-economic-experts-panel"
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Here, every so often, a statement will be made about a subject like oil prices, taxation, or Fed Policy and famous economists will state (1) if they agree or not, (2) how certain they are, and (3) maybe offer some more detailed comments to justify their opinion.

I like to hear other people's opinions on a subject, but only if they agree with my own opinion. Write a program that takes in a string representing an IGM Economic Experts Panel Survey url and a string 'agree' or 'disagree' and prints the name, school, vote, confidence, and comments of all professors who agree with my opinion.

3 EARLY EARNINGS: GOOD OR BAD?

If you are trading stocks and decide you want to make a play on quarterly financial reports, a lot of different metrics could be important, depending on the company or industry. For Apple, it could be a number like number of iPads sold or for Netflix, it could be monthly subscriber growth. However, EPS, or earnings per share is one of the most prevalent metrics, regardless of industry. If EPS beats wall street estimates, then all else equal, the stock price will probably go up. If EPS fails to meet wall street estimates, the stock price may go down.

Companies can choose to release their earnings before the market close or after the market close. But is this a positive signal towards earnings, or negative signal towards earnings? We will be using the following website to get our data:

"<http://www.rttnews.com/Calendar/Earnings.aspx?Date=29-Jan-2015>"

Your task is to look at estimated EPS, Actual EPS, and the time the results were released (before market close or after market close) for all companies in January 2015. Write a program that prints out (for January 2015)

1. Number of earnings calls that beat expectations and were reported before market open
2. Number of earnings calls that failed to meet expectations and were reported before market open
3. Number of earnings calls that beat expectations and were reported after market close.
4. Number of earnings calls that failed to meet expectations and were reported after market close.