

# CSCE 771: Computer Processing of Natural Language

## Lecture 20: Topic Analysis

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***Carolinian Creed: “I will practice personal and academic integrity.”***

# Organization of Lecture 20

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- Opening Segment
  - Announcements

- Main Lecture



## Main Section

- Topic Analysis
- LSA
- LDA
- Topic Classification

- Concluding Segment
  - About Next Lecture – Lecture 21

# Recap of Lecture 19

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We looked at

- What is an event?
- Extraction and linking
- Spatio-temporal reasoning
- Applications

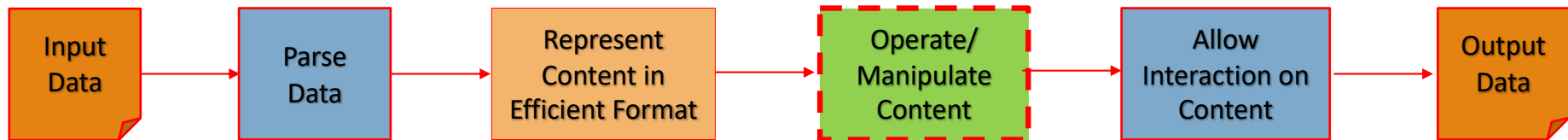
# Main Lecture

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# Topic Detection and Analysis

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Statistical patterns identified from textual data



# Motivation for Topic Analysis

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- Quickly find patterns in textual data (documents)
- Other related concepts -- examples
  - **Word tag cloud** – frequency based
  - **Topics** – statistical property
  - **Summary** – content based
- Usage
  - Manage documents
  - Classify text into groups

# Example in SC Election FAQs

Question	Answer	Source	Topic
When is the 2024 General Election?	Election Day is November 5, 2024.	SC Voter	Date-and-Time
What candidates and/or offices are on the ballot?	<a href="#">The candidates and offices on a particular ballot will differ by county.</a>	SC Voter	Candidates
When do I need to register to vote?	<a href="#">The deadline to register to vote in any election in South Carolina is 30 days before the election.</a>	SC Voter	Date-and-Time
I've moved since the last time I voted and I haven't updated my voter registration. What do I need to do?	If you moved to another residence within your precinct, you do not need to update your registration.	SC Voter	Voting
Can I take my child with me to vote?	Yes. Minor children (under age 18) of a voter may accompany the voter to the polling place.	SC Voter	Voting
What do I need to take with me to vote?	At your polling place, you will be asked to show one of the following forms of identification:	SC Voter	Voting
What if I don't have one of these Photo IDs?	If you do not have one of these photo IDs, you can make a request for a free Photo ID at the polling place.	SC Voter	Voting
What happens if I forget to bring my Photo ID when voting in person?	If you forget to bring your photo ID to your polling place, you may be able to vote using a provisional ballot.	SC Voter	Voting
I've lost my non-photo voter registration card. Can I still vote?	Yes. Voters may also vote with their drivers license, DMV ID card, or other state-issued photo ID.	SC Voter	Voting
How and where can I vote early in person?	<a href="#">Visit an early voting center in your county during the early voting period.</a>	SC Voter	Voting
Who can vote absentee?	State law allows voters with qualifying reasons to vote absentee.	SC Voter	Absentee Vote
How can I vote absentee?	<a href="#">Voters must apply for an absentee ballot by completing an application.</a>	SC Voter	Absentee Vote
It's almost Election Day and I still have my absentee ballot. What should I do?	<a href="#">You can vote your absentee ballot and return it to your county clerk's office.</a>	SC Voter	Absentee Vote
I'm not voting early. Where do I vote on Election Day?	<a href="#">At the polling place in your precinct. Visit scVOTES.gov for more information.</a>	SC Voter	Voting
What hours will the polls be open on Election Day?	Polling places are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the state may vote on Election Day.	SC Voter	Date-and-Time
Are there any laws about candidates posting their signs along the road?	Yes, there are several state laws addressing political signs.	SC Voter	Candidates
Can candidates or their representatives take people to the polls to vote?	Yes. It is permissible for any person, even a candidate, to accompany a voter to the polls.	SC Voter	Candidates

*What information do they convey? Are they accurate? Should there be more than one? When are they enough?*

# What is a Topic?

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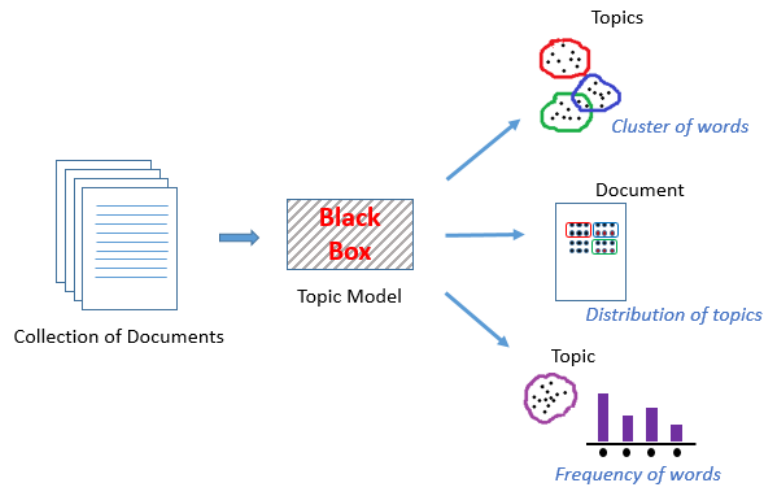
- Words: building block on language writing; separated by white-spaces
  - Other building blocks: sentences, paragraphs
- Documents: logical / physical organization of content
- Topics are:
  - Set of words/ phrases that are indicative of document/ corpus content

## Two Categories of Techniques

- Topic Learning – *unsupervised*
  - Topic as implicit concept
- Topic Classification – *supervised*
  - Topic as label



# Conceptual Framework and Example



"Manipulating facial expressions and body movements in videos has become so advanced that most people struggle to tell the difference between fake and real. A fake video of Barack Obama went viral last year where you see the former President addressing the camera. If you turn off the sound, you will not even realize it's a fake video!"

Topic 1
Topic 2
Topic 3

Credit: <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2018/10/stepwise-guide-topic-modeling-latent-semantic-analysis/>

# Topic Learning

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- Words: building block on language writing; separated by white-spaces
  - Other building blocks: sentences, paragraphs
- Documents: logical / physical organization of content
- Topics:
  - **Implicit concept - Latent**
  - Set of words/ phrases that are indicative of document/ corpus content

## Many techniques:

- Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)
- Latent Semantic Indexing (LSI) (Deerwester et al., 1988), Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) (Deerwester et al., 1990)
- Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) (Blei et al., 2003)
- Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) (Lee and Seung, 1999)
- LDA2VEC, ...

# Singular-Value Decomposition

(Compact) SVD Idea:

$$A(m \times n) = U(m \times r) \times S(r \times r) \times V(r \times n)$$

$$A(m \times n) = U(m \times m) \times S(m \times n) \times V(n \times n)$$

Matrix  $S$  is a diagonal matrix of the singular values of the original matrix.

Document – Term Matrix

Document-Term Matrix	Document 1	Document 2	Document 2	Document 2	...
Lebron	0.4	0	0	0	...
Senate	0.01	0.9	0	0	...
Celtics	0.2	0	0	0	...
Sprain	0	0	0.2	0.2	...
Cancer	0	0.02	0.3	0.3	...
...	...	...	...	...	...

Document-Topic	T1	T2	T3	T4	...
D1	0.8	0.2	0	0	...
D2	0	0.7	0	0	...
D3	0.1	0	0	0	...
D4	0.6	0	0.2	0.2	...
...	...	...	...	...	...

Term-Topics	T1	T2	T3	...
Lebron	0.8	0.1	0.1	...
Senate	0	0.7	0.3	...
Celtics	0.9	0.1	0	...
Sprain	0.6	0	0.4	...
Cancer	0		0.7	...
...	...	...	...	...

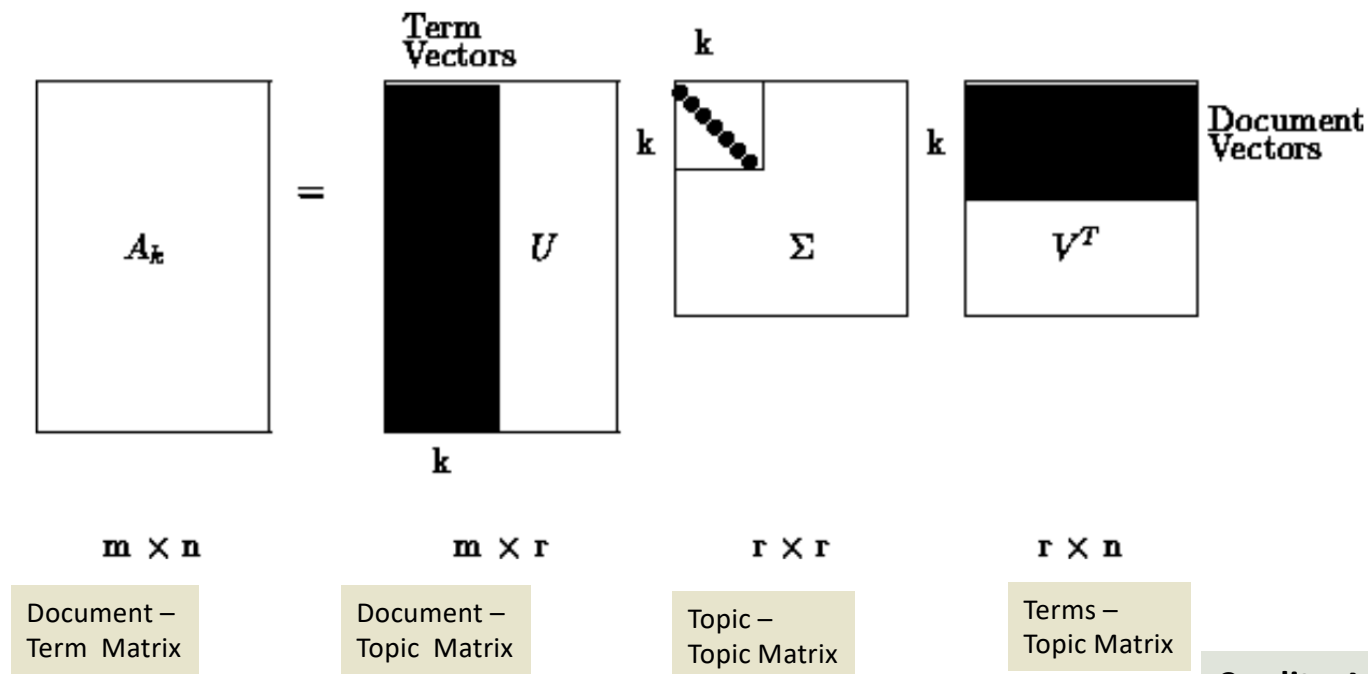
Document – Topic Matrix

Term – Topic Matrix

**Informally:** consider documents in a corpus as a distribution over topics – a latent set words – which is distributed over terms in the documents

Credits: <https://monkeylearn.com/topic-analysis/>,  
Mausam lecture slides

# LSA - Latent Semantic Analysis



Elements of  $\Sigma$  (i.e.,  $\Sigma$ ) are the topics

Credits: Mausam lecture slides

# LDA - Latent Dirichlet Allocation

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- Each topic is represented by an (unknown) set of words.
- Assumption: Every document is composed of a mixture of topics, and every word has a probability of belonging to a certain topic.
- Cover all the (known) documents in the corpus to the (unknown) topics in a way such that the words in each document are mostly captured by those topics.
- **Objective:** “a generative probabilistic model of a corpus that not only assigns high probability to members of the corpus, but also assigns high probability to other “similar” documents.”
- Video lecture by Prof. Blei: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkckgwMHP2s>

LDA paper: <https://www.jmlr.org/papers/volume3/blei03a/blei03a.pdf>

Blog: <https://monkeylearn.com/topic-analysis/>,

# LDA - Latent Dirichlet Allocation

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- Intuition

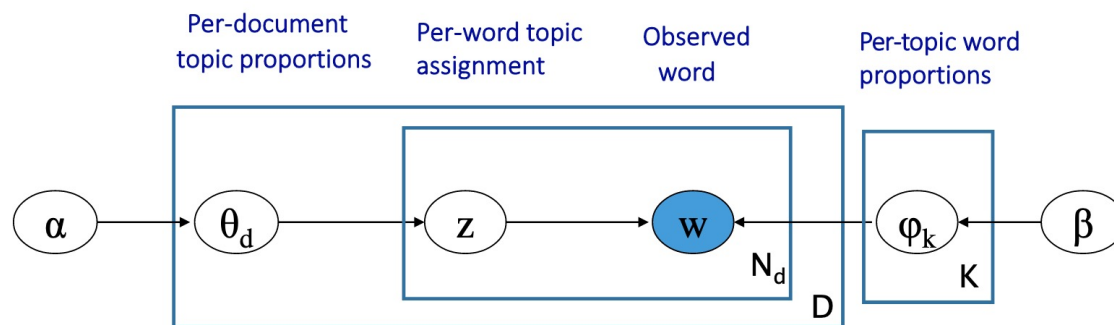
- any corpus (collection of documents) can be represented as a **Document-Term** matrix. The value of  $i,j$  cell gives the frequency count of word  $W_j$  in document  $D_i$ .
- LDA converts this **Document-Term** Matrix into two lower dimensional matrices – M1 and M2.
- M1 is a **Document-Topics** matrix and M2 is a **Topic – Terms** matrix with dimensions  $(N, K)$  and  $(K, M)$  respectively, where  $N$  is the number of documents,  $K$  is the number of topics and  $M$  is the vocabulary size.

Credit: <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2016/08/beginners-guide-to-topic-modeling-in-python/>

# LDA - Latent Dirichlet Allocation

## • Generative Model

1. Choose  $\theta_i \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha)$ , where  $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$  and  $\text{Dir}(\alpha)$  is a [Dirichlet distribution](#)
2. Choose  $\varphi_k \sim \text{Dir}(\beta)$ , where  $k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$  and  $\beta$  typically is sparse
3. For each of the word positions  $i, j$ , where  $j \in \{1, \dots, N_i\}$ , and  $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$ 
  - (a) Choose a topic  $z_{i,j} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\theta_i)$ .
  - (b) Choose a word  $w_{i,j} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\varphi_{z_{i,j}})$ .



Credit: Mausam slides;  
LDA paper:

<https://www.jmlr.org/papers/volume3/blei03a/blei03a.pdf>

*From LDA paper - The boxes are “plates” representing replicates. The outer plate represents documents, while the inner plate represents the repeated choice of topics and words within a document.*

# LDA Parameters

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## Alpha and Beta Hyperparameters –

- Alpha represents document-topic density
  - Higher the value of alpha, documents are composed of more topics and lower the value of alpha, documents contain fewer topics.
- Beta represents topic-word density.
  - Higher the beta, topics are composed of more number of words in the corpus, and with the lower value of beta, they are composed of fewer words.

Credit: <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2016/08/beginners-guide-to-topic-modeling-in-python/>



# Code Example

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<https://github.com/biplav-s/course-nl/blob/master/l17-topicanalysis/ExploreTopics.ipynb>

## Libraries:

- Gensim: <https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/models/ldamodel.html>,  
[https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/auto\\_examples/core/run\\_topics\\_and\\_transformations.html](https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/auto_examples/core/run_topics_and_transformations.html)
- Scikit-learn: <https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.decomposition.LatentDirichletAllocation.html>
- LDA2VEC: <https://github.com/cemoody/lda2vec?tab=readme-ov-file>
- Notebook: [http://nbviewer.jupyter.org/github/cemoody/lda2vec/blob/master/examples/twenty\\_newsgroups/lda2vec/lda2vec.ipynb](http://nbviewer.jupyter.org/github/cemoody/lda2vec/blob/master/examples/twenty_newsgroups/lda2vec/lda2vec.ipynb)

# Code Exercises

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- Working code: <https://github.com/biplav-s/course-nl-f22/blob/main/sample-code/l19-topic/ExploreTopics.ipynb>
- Exercise #1
  - Data: Copy file-1 (Example-TDBank-PersonalAcctAgree) data into local directory.
  - Activity: Run notebook on it. Compare output of url fetch v/s local file
- Exercise #2
  - Data: Take your favorite piece of text. Example resume
  - Activity: Run notebook on it. Explore output of LDA visualizer

# Case Study: Topics in Newgroups

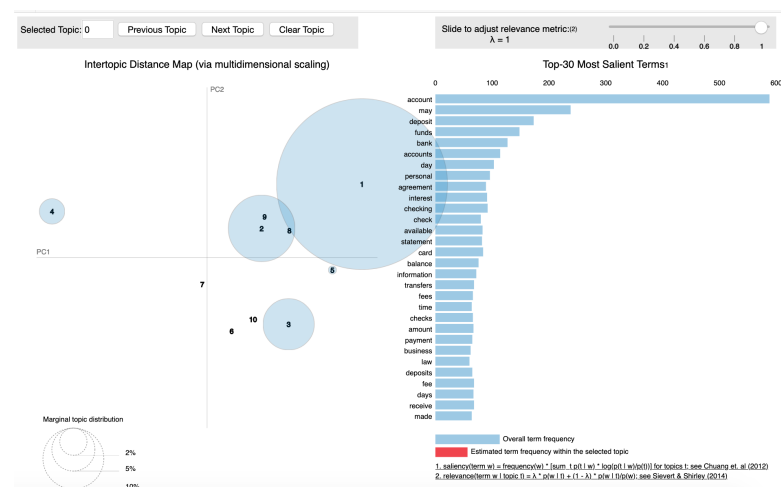
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- LDA Visualization ([pyLDAvis](#))
- Talk by Ben Mabey
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lksL96ls4o0>

# Visualization of Topics

- LDA: PyLDAVis - <https://github.com/bmabey/pyLDAvis>
  - Talk on visualizing topics for 20 Newsgroups
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IksL96Is4o0>

- Other measures (SVD)
  - Arrange documents by similarity of topics using bokeh –  
<https://nlpforhackers.io/topic-modeling/>



# References

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- Blogs
  - LSA, <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2018/10/stepwise-guide-topic-modeling-latent-semantic-analysis/>, 2024
- Cvitanić, Tonči, Bumsoo Lee, Hyeon Ik Song, Katherine K. Fu and David W. Rosen. “LDA v. LSA: A Comparison of Two Computational Text Analysis Tools for the Functional Categorization of Patents.” ICCBR Workshops (2016).
- Zengul, Ferhat Devrim, Ayşegül Bulut, Nurettin Oner, Abdulaziz Ahmed, Manju Yadav, Hope G. Gray and Bunyamin Ozaydin. “A Practical and Empirical Comparison of Three Topic Modeling Methods Using a COVID-19 Corpus: LSA, LDA, and Top2Vec.” Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (2023).

# Topic Classification

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- Supervised task of assigning labels to a document
  - Assumption: topics for the population corpus are known
- For documents in corpus:
  - From the set of topics assigned to document, pick the topic with the highest probability
- For new documents:
  - Train a supervised classifier on known documents using topic labels from corpus
  - Assign topic to new documents from the learned classifier

Also see: <https://www.kdnuggets.com/2019/11/topics-extraction-classification-online-chats.html>

# Review Paper

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Shervin Minaee, Nal Kalchbrenner, Erik Cambria, Narjes Nikzad, Meysam Chenaghlu, and Jianfeng Gao. 2021. [Deep Learning--based Text Classification: A Comprehensive Review](https://doi.org/10.1145/3439726). ACM Comput. Surv. 54, 3, Article 62 (April 2022), 40 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3439726>

# Topic – Practical Considerations

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- Can we assume topics are distributed across corpus ?
- How to be robust
  - Common words
  - Noisy text
- Drift of topics over time



# Comments: Topic and Language Models

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- Topic Modeling in Embedding Spaces, Adji B. Dieng, Francisco J. R. Ruiz, David M. Blei, TACL 2020
  - Embedded Topic Model (ETM) – “the etm models each word with a categorical distribution whose natural parameter is the inner product between the word’s embedding and an embedding of its assigned topic”
  - Handles rare words and stop words

<https://paperswithcode.com/paper/topic-modeling-in-embedding-spaces>

# Lecture 19: Concluding Comments

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- We reviewed topic analysis
- Statistical property indicating key insights about a document
- Topic modeling/ detection
  - Identify topics
- Topic classification

# Concluding Segment

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# Discussion: Course Project

**Theme:** Analyze quality of official information available for elections in 2024 [in a state]

- Take information available from
  - Official site: State Election Commissions
  - Respected non-profits: League of Women Voters
- Analyze information
  - State-level: Analyze quality of questions, answers, answers-to-questions
  - Comparatively: above along all states (being done by students)
- Benchmark and report
  - Compare analysis with LLM
  - Prepare report

- Process and analyze using NLP
  - Extract entities
  - Assess quality – metrics
    - Content – *Englishness*
    - Content – *Domain* -- election
  - ... other NLP tasks
  - Analyze and communicate overall

## Major dates for project check

- Sep 10: written – project outline
- Oct 8: in class
- **Oct 31: in class // LLM**
- Dec 5: in class // Comparative

# Obtaining Election Data

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Here are a few things to do:

A) **Official data** backed by laws: state election commission

a) Find the state's election commission

b) Find the Q/As they provide. They may be as FAQs or on different web pages.

c) Collect the Q/A programmatically

B) **Secondary data** sources: non-profit

a) Find Q/As from Vote 411 which is supported by the non-profit: LWV.

For reference, for SC,

A) Official - <https://scvotes.gov/voters/voter-faq/>

B) Secondary - <https://www.vote411.org/south-carolina>

For extraction, one or more approaches:

- Manually annotating
- BeautifulSoup,
- Tika
- or other open source libraries.

# Election Q/A for Your State

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- Format in .json; name file as “**xy**\_qa.json”, where **xy** is the two-character US state acronym
- Fixed attributes in .json
  - state: **xy**
  - num\_questions: **a**, where **a** is the number of questions
  - num\_answers: **b**, where **b** is the number of answers
  - contributor: student name
- **questions**: List of Q/As with attributes for each it:
  - **q** // question
  - **a** // answer
  - **s** // source url from where the information is taken
  - **t** // time when the information is taken – UTC format
- Store it in your github repo; put in sub-dir like “project/data”
- Instructor will keep it in common place inside course github repo and share.

# Election Q/As for Multiple States

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- Instructor will keep it common place inside course github repo and share.
- You will be able to access Q/As of all states from common location
  - To compare data across all states

# Discussion – a Paper Based on All Data?

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- Contributions
  - Analysis of current situation, perspective on gaps and opportunities with NLP
  - Dataset
- Logistics
  - Target venue
  - People
  - Timeline



# About Next Lecture – Lecture 21

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# Lecture 21 Outline: Project Milestone #2 Update

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- How has LLMs been used for election data analysis
  - for your state
  - For SC
- Template given in good-drive

18	Oct 22 (Tu)	Entity extraction, linking
19	Oct 24 (Th)	Events extraction, spatio-temporal analysis
20	Oct 29 (Tu)	Topic Analysis
21	Oct 31 (Th)	PROJ REVIEW
	Nov 5 (Tu)	
22	Nov 7 (Th)	NLP Task: Sentiment
23	Nov 12 (Tu)	NLP Task: Summarization
24	Nov 14 (Th)	Conversation Agents
25	Nov 19 (Tu)	Ethical Concerns with NLP, Trusted AI and Societal Impact
26	Nov 21 (Th)	Working with LLMs for NLP Tasks - programming, Quiz