

Supreme Court Coverage & Analytics Application, Version 2.0

User Manual

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Introduction

The Supreme Court Coverage/Analysis Tool (SCOTUSApp) is a web application that collects and stores U.S. Supreme Court-related news articles and allows users to view and download them.

History

SCOTUSApp was originally developed by computer science students at the University of Kentucky at the request of Dr. Justin Wedeking and Dr. M Michael Zilis of the UK Political Science department in the fall of 2017. The tool has since been worked on by several students, but is now maintained by Evan Cole and Darin Ellis, UK alumni and former members of the original development team.

Description

SCOTUSApp will automatically collect Supreme Court-related articles from the internet throughout the day. These articles are stored in a database and can be viewed using a web page. Filters can be applied to view a subset of the articles, which can then be downloaded directly to your computer.

Platform Requirements

SCOTUSApp is a web application and, as such, can be accessed on any platform by using a web browser.

Developer Contact Information

Questions and bug reports should be sent to the project email:
ukscotusapp@gmail.com

Supported Web Browsers

Google Chrome

We can guarantee full functionality of the webpages when they are viewed on the Google Chrome web browser.

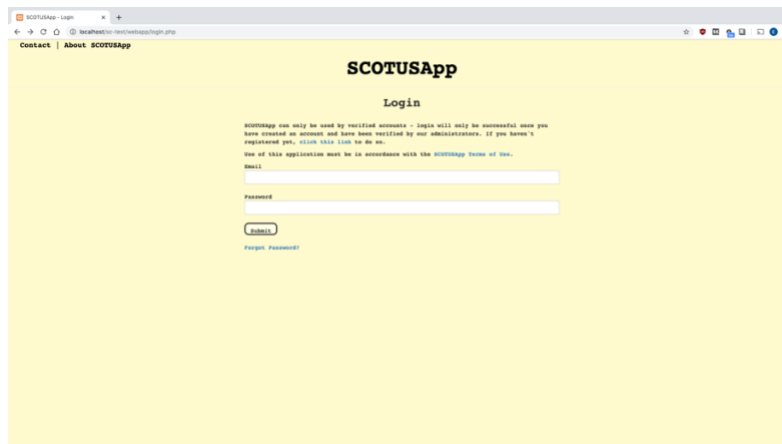
Others

The Safari and Firefox web browsers, while not as thoroughly tested, should also be suitable. Other web browsers should work as well, but we cannot guarantee that they will.

Application Pages

User Account Pages

SCOTUSApp is a closed-access application that can only be used upon approval from our administrators. Therefore, users must register an account (.edu email required) and be approved by our administrators before using the application. Upon successful registration, an email and approval link will be sent to the administrators with the user's information. The administrators can decide to approve or reject an account and provide notes to the user; the user will be notified (emailed) of their decision. If approved, users can then log in and make use of SCOTUSApp. Should users forget their password or desire to alter their account information, those options are available.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the SCOTUSApp login page. The page has a light yellow background. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Contact' and 'About SCOTUSApp'. The main heading is 'SCOTUSApp' followed by 'Login'. Below this, there's a paragraph of text explaining that the app is for verified accounts and that users must be approved by administrators. It also mentions that users will be notified of their decision. Below the text are two input fields: one for 'Email' and one for 'Password'. There is a 'Login' button below the password field. At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says 'Forgot Password?'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'localhost:3000/login.php'.

Login page

SCOTUSApp

Register Account

SCOTUSApp can only be used by verified accounts - once you register, your information (unless password) will be sent to our administrators for review. Upon verification, you will be sent a welcome email and can begin use of SCOTUSApp.

* = Required

Name *

Email (must end in .edu) *

Password * (at least 8 characters, no "control characters")

Confirm Password *

Bio (why you want to use SCOTUSApp, any necessary information, etc... - 1000 characters max)

I agree to the SCOTUSApp Terms of Use ☐

Submit

Registration page

SCOTUSApp

Update Account

If you need to change any of your account information, do so below. Leave fields as-is if you don't want to change anything.

* = Required

Name *

Email (must end in .edu) *

New Password * (at least 8 characters, no "control characters")

Confirm New Password *

Bio (why you want to use SCOTUSApp, any necessary information, etc... - 1000 characters max)

Submit

Account Information page

SCOTUSApp

Reset Password

Enter your password reset code and desired new password.

Token *

Password (at least 8 characters, no "control characters")

Confirm Password *

Submit

Password reset page

Article Search / Download (Main Page)

In the figure below you can see an example of the Search (or main) page. By default it displays all articles. You can search the stored articles by entering your search terms in the search bar – the application looks for articles with matching titles and/or keywords. Searching can be refined further – you can directly search for articles from a date range using the “From” and “To” boxes, from a list of sources using the “Sources” box (listing sources separated by whitespace), or for direct articles by searching for a list of article IDs via the “IDs” box (also separated by whitespace). Source searching can also be accomplished after a search by using the Sources sidebar – just check the sources you want and hit “Apply Filter.”

The second primary feature of this page is the “Download Results” button, which enables you to download the results of search as a zip archive. This archive contains .txt files of the each result’s article text (titled by article ID), and a CSV of the results with all metadata and analysis data included as columns.

The Restart button next to the download button allows you to clear all of your search terms and filters (clicking the top “SCOTUSApp” header also accomplishes this).

The screenshot shows the SCOTUSApp web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with "Contact" and "About SCOTUSApp" links, and a user profile "Evan Cole | Logout". The main heading is "SCOTUSApp". Below it, there's a search bar with the placeholder "Enter keyword(s) or leave empty" and a "Submit" button. Underneath the search bar are two input fields for "From:" and "To:". Below those are two input fields for "Sources:" and "IDs:", both with the placeholder "Separate sources by spaces...". To the right of these fields are "Restart" and "Download Results" buttons. On the left side, there's a sidebar titled "Sources (3043)" with an "Apply Filter" button. Below this, there's a list of sources with checkboxes next to them, including "1063thegroove (1)", "10news (3)", "10tv (3)", "11alive (1)", "1310kika (1)", "1380kika (2)", "13newsnow (2)", "13wham (1)", "13wmax (5)", "14news (1)", "247wallst (4)", "27east (2)", "360proko (1)", "41nbc (1)", "5280 (1)", "6abc (3)", "710keel (2)", "71republic (1)", "90min (1)", and "972mag (1)". The main content area displays a table of search results with columns "ID", "Title", "Source", and "Date". The table shows 25 entries, with the first few rows visible. The first row has ID 28339, Title "A German Princess, a Cardinal, and an Anti-LGBT Activist Walk Into the Supreme Court...", Source "motherjones", and Date "2019-11-08". The second row has ID 28338, Title "SC Ayodhya ruling: Rare show of unanimity that strikes a chord with people", Source "business-standard", and Date "2019-11-09". The third row has ID 28337, Title "Judges are 'independent and yet dependent': Justice Mansoor", Source "dawn", and Date "2019-11-08". The fourth row has ID 28336, Title "Supreme Court to Tackle DACA. What Does It Mean for Students, Teachers, and Schools?", Source "edweek", and Date "2019-11-08". The fifth row has ID 28335, Title "UPDATE 1-U.S. Supreme Court to consider blocking Booking.com trademark", Source "yahoo", and Date "2019-11-08". The sixth row has ID 28334, Title "Trump lawyers to ask high court to hear tax case appeal by Thursday", Source "bostonglobe", and Date "2019-11-08". The seventh row has ID 28333, Title "Trump's lawyers will appeal to Supreme Court to block the subpoena from the Manhattan DA for taxes: report", Source "reuters", and Date "2019-11-08". The eighth row has ID 28332, Title "PM's address to nation following SC verdict on Ayodhya", Source "pib", and Date "2019-11-09". The ninth row has ID 28331, Title "The verdict of Supreme Court marks the start of a new dawn: PM", Source "pib", and Date "2019-11-09". The tenth row has ID 28330, Title "The Homophobic Activist Who Won an Audience with Two Supreme Court Justices", Source "newyorker", and Date "2019-11-08". The eleventh row has ID 28329, Title "Trump to Appeal Ruling on Vance Subpoena to Supreme Court", Source "yahoo", and Date "2019-11-08". The twelfth row has ID 28328, Title "Trump to ask US Supreme Court to review tax returns decision", Source "reuters", and Date "2019-11-08". The thirteenth row has ID 28327, Title "Trump's lawyers to ask US Supreme Court to hear fight over his tax returns", Source "nypost", and Date "2019-11-08". The fourteenth row has ID 28326, Title "US Supreme Court to Consider Blocking Booking.com Trademark", Source "nytimes", and Date "2019-11-08".

Article Search / Download page

Article Page

By clicking on a result on the search page, users can view an article's full details – article text (for legal reasons only a third of the text is displayed on the page), metadata, keywords, image analysis, and social media popularity metrics.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SCOTUSApp article page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `localhost/sc-test/webapp/display_article.php?idArticle=28339`. The page has a yellow background and a navigation bar at the top with links for "Contact" and "About SCOTUSApp". The user's name "Evan Cole" and a "Logout" link are in the top right corner. A "Restart" button is located in the top right area of the page content.

The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a "Details" section with the following information:

- ID: 28339
- Alt ID: 2019-11-08_042
- Author: Stephanie Hescimer
- Source: motherjones
- Publication Date: 2019-11-08 15:11:12
- URL: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/11/a-german-princess-a-cardinal-and-an-anti-lgbt-activist-walk-into-the-supreme-court/>
- Sentiment Score: N/A
- Magnitude: N/A

Below the details is a "Source Bias" section with the following information:

- AllSides
- Bias: Left

The right column contains the article text, which is titled "A German Princess, a Cardinal, and an Anti-LGBT Activist Walk Into the Supreme Court...". The text discusses the Supreme Court's decision on the case, the role of the Catholic Church, and the impact of the decision on the LGBTQ+ community. The text is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent watermark that reads "Article Page".

