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 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.

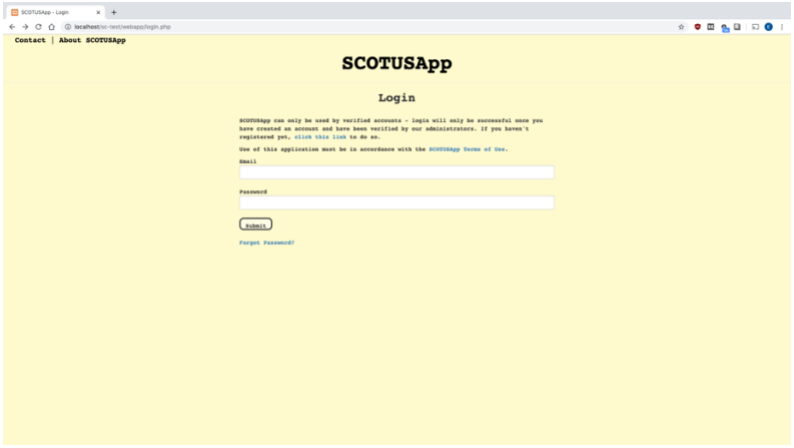
Others

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.

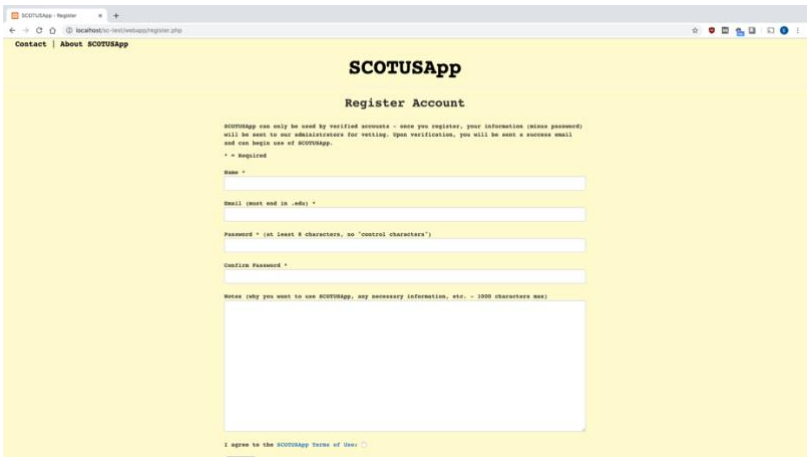
Application Pages

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.

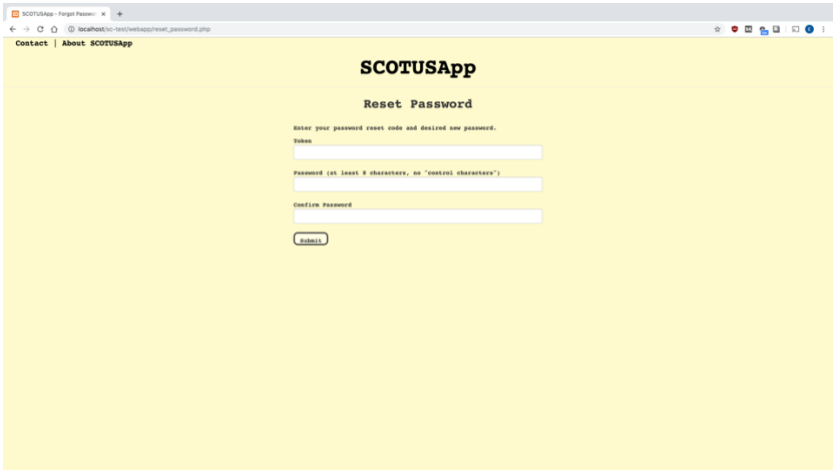


Login page



Registration page

Account Information page



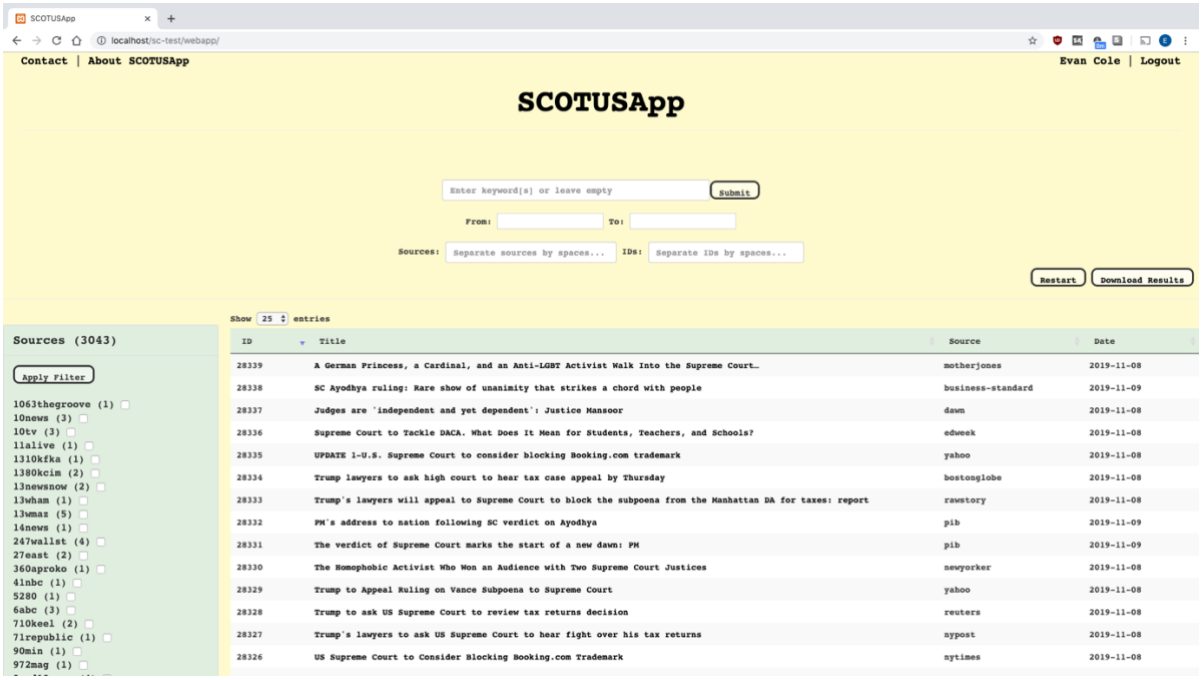
Password reset page

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.

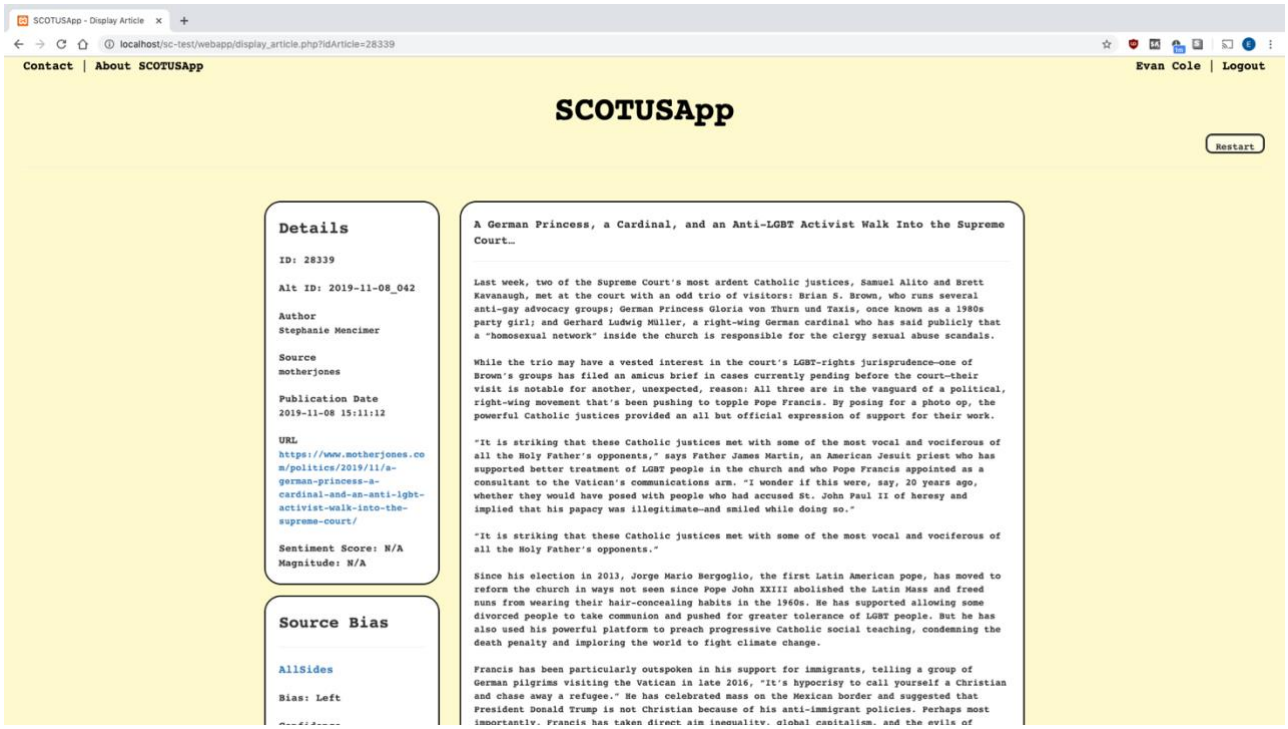
The Restart button next to the download button allows you to clear all of your search terms and filters (clicking the top “SCOTUSApp” header also accomplishes this).



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.



Article Page