

Instruction

The goal of this test session is to investigate the features and functionalities of *TAL (Through a Lens)* in terms of its usability and effectiveness.

TAL is a service that supports exploratory search on a scholarly paper – in this test session it will be *Ontologies are us: A unified model of social networks and semantics* by Peter Mika. In particular, it enables the visualization of additional semantic data about all the components of a document, providing:

- an “argumentation index” (on the right) with all the argumentations of the document. It is possible to click on each claim in this index to scroll the document down to where that sentence is written and to show up the related argumentative components (i.e. *evidences* supporting the claim, *warrants* leading from evidences to the claim, *backings* of warrants, *qualifiers* and *rebuttals* related to the claim);
- a “citation index” (on the right) listing all the citations to other documents, grouped according to motivations a particular document is cited. In addition, it is possible to scroll to the various occurrences of a citation by clicking on “here” links;
- the “rhetoric denotation” (at the beginning) of each paragraph of the article according its rhetoric function;
- a yellow “tooltip box” (on the right) showing additional information about in-line references (i.e. the reasons the related document is cited) and claims (i.e. the rhetoric denotation of the paragraph containing them).

Our interest is to assess how much TAL supports users when understanding a scholarly paper.

The test session is structured as follows:

- as a warm-up task, we ask you to use TAL to answer to a question, in order to become confident with the tool, its interface and its navigation mechanisms [5 mins.];
- then, as the real test, we ask you to address three different tasks [max 5 mins. per task];
- finally, we ask you to fill out two questionnaires about your experience in using TAL to complete these tasks [10 mins.].

Before proceeding, please insert your name or nickname: _____

Warm-up [max 5 mins.]

Click on the following link (it will be open in another window/panel)

<http://www.essepuntato.it/2013/sac/LensedMika.html>

and answer to the following question:

- Find the paragraph containing the second claim and write down all the citations in that paragraph, explaining also the reason for the citation.

Test tasks [max 5 mins. per task]

Click on the following link (it will be open in another window/panel)

<http://www.essepuntato.it/2013/sac/LensedMika.html>

and record the answers to the following three tasks (remember: **max 5 mins per task**):

1. Write down all the reasons why the document cites the reference [8].
2. Write down the *evidences* of the claim “It is important to note that in terms of knowledge representation, the set of these keywords cannot even be considered as vocabularies, the simplest possible form of an ontology on the continuous scale of Smith and Welty [5]”.
3. Write down the (first words of the) paragraphs containing statements of the problems discussed in the paper.

Post-task questionnaire 1 [2 mins.]

**strongly
disagree**

**strongly
agree**

1 I think that I would like to use TAL frequently

1	2	3	4	5

2 I found TAL unnecessarily complex

1	2	3	4	5

3 I thought TAL was easy to use

1	2	3	4	5

4 I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use TAL

1	2	3	4	5

5 I found the various functions in TAL were well integrated

1	2	3	4	5

6 I thought there was too much inconsistency in TAL

1	2	3	4	5

7 I would imagine that most people would learn to use TAL very quickly

1	2	3	4	5

8 I found TAL very awkward to use

1	2	3	4	5

9 I felt very confident using TAL

1	2	3	4	5

10 I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with TAL

1	2	3	4	5

Post-task questionnaire 2 [8 mins.]

1. How effectively did TAL support you in answering to the previous tasks?
2. What were the most useful features of TAL to help you realise your tasks?
3. What were the main weaknesses that TAL exhibited in supporting your tasks?
4. Can you think of any additional features that would have helped you to accomplish your tasks?