ISA 401: Business Intelligence & Data Visualization

04: Scraping Webpages in **R** and *****

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- ? Automated Scheduler for Office Hours

Fall 2023

Quick Refresher from Last Class

- ✓ Subset data in ♠ and ♣.
- Read text-files, binary files (e.g., Excel, SAS, SPSS, Stata, etc), json files, etc.
- Export data from and .

Learning Objectives for Today's Class

- Understand when can we scrape data (i.e., robots.txt)
- Scrape a webpage using and and

Web Technology 5 5 Js

World Wide Web (WWW)

WWW (or the **Web**) is the information system where documents (web pages) are identified by Uniform Resource Locators (**URL**s)

A web page consists of:

- 5 HTML provides the basic structure of the web page
- **CSS** controls the look of the web page (optional)
- JS is a programming language that can modify the behavior of elements of the web page (optional)

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)

with the extension .html.

Return to Home Page

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rendered using a web browser via an URL.

via a web browser

text files that follows a special syntax that alerts web browsers how to render it.

← → C ↑ A Not secure | planecrashinfo.com/2021/2021.htm 🔢 Apps 😚 📙 Teaching 📙 Research 📙 Misc 💌 MU Mail 🔟 MU Calendar 👩 Overleaf 🔘 Canvas 2021 Location / Operator Aircraft Type / Registration Fatalities 09 Jan 2021 Near Jakarta, Indonesia 62/62(0) Sriwijaya Air 02 Mar 2021 Pieri Sudan Let L-410UVP-E 10/10(0) South Sudan Supreme Airlines HK-4274 Eurocopter AS350B3 Ecureuil 5/6(0) 21 May 2021 Near Kaduna, Nigeria Beechcraft B300 King Air 350i 11/11(0) Military - Nigerian Air Force NAF203 Near Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar Beechcraft 1900D 12/14(0) Patikul, Sulu, Philippines Lockheed C-130H Hercules 50/96(3) Military - Philippine Air Force Antonov An 26B-100 Palana, Russia 28/28(0) Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise Kazachinskoye, Russia 4/16(0) RA-67042 Aeroservice/Sil A El Cajon, California 4/4(0)

via a text editor

```
contain http-equive Content-Type Content="text/html; charset=windows-1252">
contain http-equive Content-Type Content="text/html; charset=windows-1252">
contain name="GENERATON" Content=Twicrosoft FrontPage 4.0">
contain name=GENERATON" Content=Twicrosoft FrontPage 4.0">
contain name=GENERATON" Content=Twicrosoft FrontPage 4.0">
contain name=GENERATON" Content=Twicrosoft accidents">
contain name=Textoric Content=Twicrosoft accidents of the statistics, airline attinies, hijack, pilot, probable cause, crash, boeing, cockpit, description of the statistics of the statistics, airline attinies, hijack, pilot, probable cause, crash, boeing, cockpit, description of the statistics of the statistic
```

THE STRUCTURE

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <!--This is a comment and ignored by web client.-->
  <head>
   <!--This section contains web page metadata.-->
    <title>ISA 401: Business Intelligence and Data Viz</title>
    <meta name="author" content="Fadel Megahed">
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/styles.css">
  </head>
  <body>
   <!--This section contains what you want to display on your web page.-->
   <h1>I'm a first level header</h1>
   This is a <b>paragraph</b>.
  </body>
</html>
```

USTAIL Syntax

Author content Author content

Not all HTML tags have an end tag, for example:

→

Use of the Elements

```
block element:
                  <div>content</div>
   inline element:
                   <span>content</span>
      paragraph:
                   content
   header level 1:
                  <h1>content</h1>
   header level 2:
                   <h2>content</h2>
           italic:
                  <i>content</i>
 emphasised text:
                   <em>content</em>
strong importance:
                  <strong>content</strong>
            link:
                   <a href="https://github.com/fmegahed/isa401">content</a>
   unordered list:
                  <l
                   item 1
                   item 2
```

Gascading Style Sheet (CSS)

- with the extension .css
- 3 ways to style elements in HTML:
 - inline by using the style attribute inside HTML start tag:

```
<h1 style="color:blue;">Blue Header</h1>
```

• externally by using the link> element:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">
```

• **internally** by defining within <style> element:

```
<style type="text/css">
h1 { color: blue; }
</style>
```

By convention, the <style> and <link> elements tend to go into the <head> section of the HTML document.

GSS Syntax

```
<style type="text/css">
h1 { color: blue; }
</style>
<h1>This is a header</h1>
```

This is a header

```
selector: h1 { color: blue; }

property: h1 { color: blue; }

property name: h1 { color: blue; }

property value: h1 { color: blue; }
```

```
h1 {
  color: blue;
  font-size: 16pt;
}
```

SECTION CSS Properties

```
<div>Sample text</div>
background color:
                                                                   Sample text
                  div { background-color: yellow; }
      text color:
                                                                   Sample text
                 div { color: purple; }
         border:
                                                                   Sample text
                   div { border: 1px dashed brown; }
  left border only:
                                                                    Sample text
                  div { border-left: 10px solid pink; }
       text size:
                  div { font-size: 10pt; }
                                                                   Sample text
        padding:
                  div { background-color: yellow;
                                                                    Sample text
                         padding: 10px; }
         margin:
                   div { background-color: yellow;
                                                                    Sample text
                         margin: 10px; }
```

SECTION CSS Properties

```
<div>Sample text</div>
center align text:
                 div { background-color: yellow;
                        padding-top: 20px;
                                                                      Sample text
                        text-align: center; }
    font family:
                                                                     Sample text
                 div { font-family: Marker Felt, times; }
                                                                     Sample text
         strike:
                  div { text-decoration: line-through; }
      underline:
                                                                     Sample text
                 div { text-decoration: underline; }
                                                                     Sample text
       opacity:
                 div { opacity: 0.3 }
```

SECONT OF SECONT OF SECON

*	selects all elements
div	selects all <div> elements</div>
div, p	selects all <div> and elements</div>
div p	selects all within <div></div>
div > p	selects all one level deep in <div></div>
div + p	selects all immediately after a <div></div>
div ~ p	selects all preceded by a <div></div>

```
<h1>This is a sample html</h1>
<blookquote>
Maybe stories are just data with a soul.
<footer>-Brene Brown</footer>
</blockquote>
<div id="p1" class="parent">
Hmm
Hi!
How are you?
<div class="child nice">
 Hello!
</div>
</div>
Household 1
<div class="parent">
Hi!
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  Don't talk to me!
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</div>
<span class="child">
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  Clean your room!
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</span>
End of households
```

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Ignores inline elements like

<h1>This is a sample htr span, i, b,...

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```

.classname	selects all elements with the attribute class="classname".
.c1.c2	selects all elements with <i>both</i> c1 and c2 within its class attribute.
.c1 .c2	selects all elements with class c2 that is a descendant of an element with class c1.
#idname	selects all elements with the attribute id="idname".

```
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</span>
End of households
```

.parent	selects all elements with the attribute class="parent".	
.c1.c2	selects all elements with both c1 and c2 within its class attribute.	
.c1 .c2	selects all elements with class c2 that is a descendant of an element with class c1.	
#idname	selects all elements with the attribute id="idname".	

```
Note some offspring do not
<h1>This is a sample htr inherit class from their
                      parents.
<blookquote>
Maybe stories are just data with a soul.
<footer>-Brene Brown</footer>
</blockguote>
<div id="p1" class="parent">
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End of households
```

.classname	selects all elements with the attribute class="classname".
.child.rebel	selects all elements with both child and rebel within its class attribute.
.c1 .c2	selects all elements with class c2 that is a descendant of an element with class c1.
#idname	selects all elements with the attribute id="idname".

```
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.classname selects all elements with the attribute class="classname" .c1.c2 selects all elements with both c1 and c2 within its class attribute. selects all elements .parent .rebel with class rebel that is a descendant of an element with class parent. #idname selects all elements with the attribute id="idname".

```
<h1>This is a sample html</h1>
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.c1 .c2	selects all elements with class c2 that is a descendant of an element with class c1.
#p1	selects all elements with the attribute id="p1".

```
Unlike class, you can only
<h1>This is a sample htr have one id value and must
                      be unique in the whole HTML
<blookquote>
                      document.
Maybe stories are jud
<footer>-Brene Brown</footer>
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</span>
```

Js JavaScript (JS)*

- JS is a programming language and enable interactive components in HTML documents.
- 2 ways to insert JS into a HTML document:
 - **internally** by defining within <script> element:

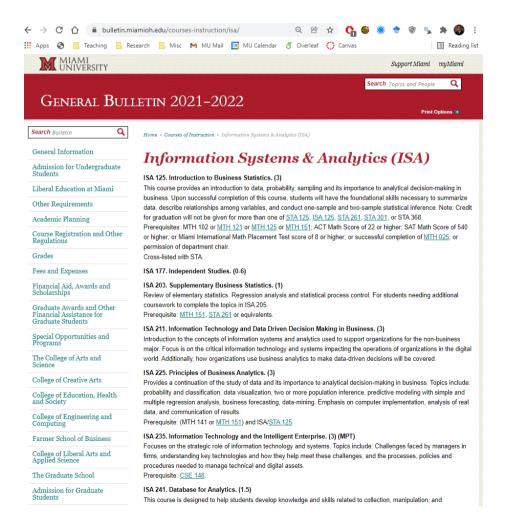
```
<script>
document.getElementById("p1").innerHTML = "content";
</script>
```

• externally by using the src attribute to refer to the external file:

```
<script src="js/myjs.js"></script>
```

Web Scraping 🕸

rvest: Step 1 - Reading Static HTML Pages in R



Use {rvest} >= v1.0.2 (if not, update)

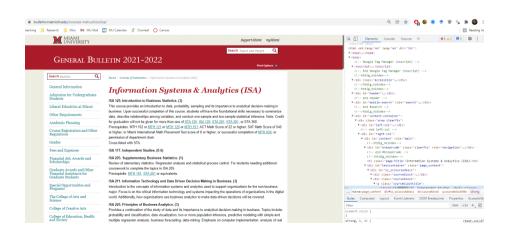


```
if(require(pacman) == FALSE) install.packag
pacman::p_load(rvest)
isa_courses = read_html("http://bulletin.
isa_courses
```

```
## {html_document}
## <html xml:lang="en" lang="en" dir="ltr
## [1] <head>\n<title>Information System
## [2] <body>\n\n\n\n\n\n<!-- Google Tag</pre>
```

rvest: Step 2 - Selecting HTML Elements

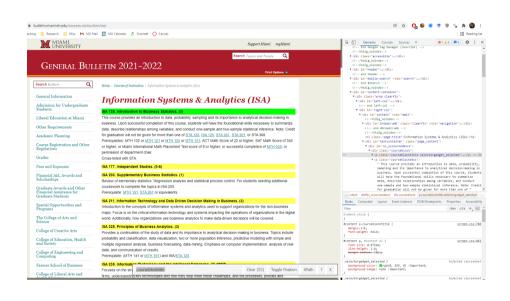
Q Inspector







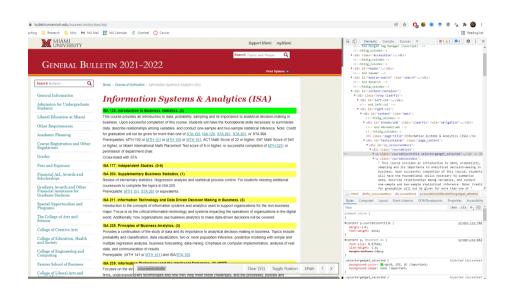
rvest: Step 2 - Selecting HTML Elements



```
isa_course_titles = isa_courses |>
  html_elements(css = "p.courseblocktitle
isa_course_titles
```

```
{xml nodeset (50)}
  <str</pre>
  <str</pre>
[15] class="courseblocktitle"><str</pre>
```

rvest: Step 3 - Getting HTML Text



```
isa_course_titles en = isa course titles
  html text2()
isa_course_titles_en
        "ISA 125. Introduction to Busines
        "ISA 177. Independent Studies. (0
        "ISA 203. Supplementary Business
        "ISA 211. Information Technology
        "ISA 225. Principles of Business
        "ISA 235. Information Technology
        "ISA 241. Database for Analytics.
        "ISA 242. Programming for Analyti
        "ISA 245. Database Systems and Da
        "ISA 250. Basic Math for Analytic
        "ISA 277. Independent Studies. (0
        "ISA 281. Concepts in Business Pr
        "ISA 291. Applied Regression Anal
        "ISA 301. Business Data Communica
        "ISA 303. Enterprise Systems. (3)
   [16] "ISA 305. Information Technology
```

Demo: Scraping the Course Descriptions

- We will build on the previous example and we will scrape the **course descriptions** associated with these courses.
- Then, we will create a data frame containing both the course titles and descriptions
- Then, we will **export the results to a CSV** so that we can analyze that in a separate program if we wanted to.

Non-Graded Class Activity



Activity

Your Solution

My Solution

- Go to this database on plane crashes
- Scrape the HTML table. Note the difference from text elements:
 - The CSS selector for html_elements() will be different.
 - You will extract a table (in its entirety) and hence:
 - we will use html_table() instead of html_text2()
- Store the scraped data in an appropriate location on your computer (e.g., within the data folder for ISA 401)

Non-Graded Class Activity



Activity

Your Solution

My Solution

Over the next 4 minutes, use an **Q** or a **e** script file to perform the tasks outlined in the activity panel.

Non-Graded Class Activity



Activity Your Solution My Solution

Please refer to our discussion in class

Legal and Ethical Issues with Web Scraping

Robots.txt

When scraping/crawling the web you need to be aware of robots.txt.

The robots exclusion standard, also known as the robots exclusion protocol or simply robots.txt, is a standard used by websites to communicate with web crawlers and other web robots. The standard specifies how to inform the web robot about which areas of the website should not be processed or scanned. --- Wikipedia

Using the excellent robotstxt is to check if scraping/crawling a specific directory is allowed.

```
if(require(robotstxt) == FALSE) install.packages("robotstxt")
robotstxt::paths_allowed(paths = "2022/", domain = "planecrashinfo.com", bot = "*")
## [1] TRUE
```

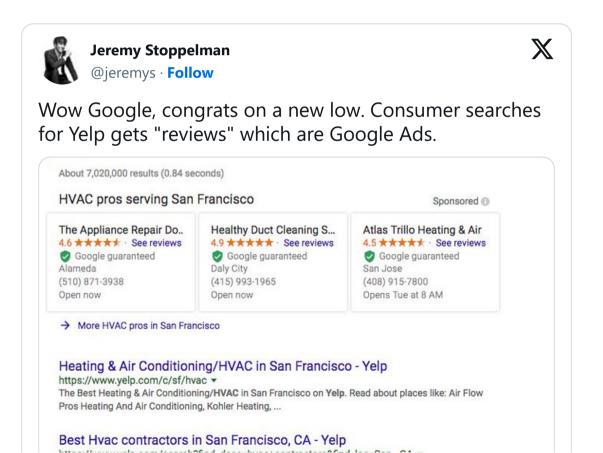
Terms of Service

Most large companies have **terms of service** that supplement what is permitted and/or disallowed on their robots.txt file. Examples include:

- Yelp's US Terms of Service
- LinkedIn Terms of Service

Ethical/Legal Considerations

• Use of publicly available reviews as a part of your service: Would you classify the Yelp vs Google Feud as such an example?

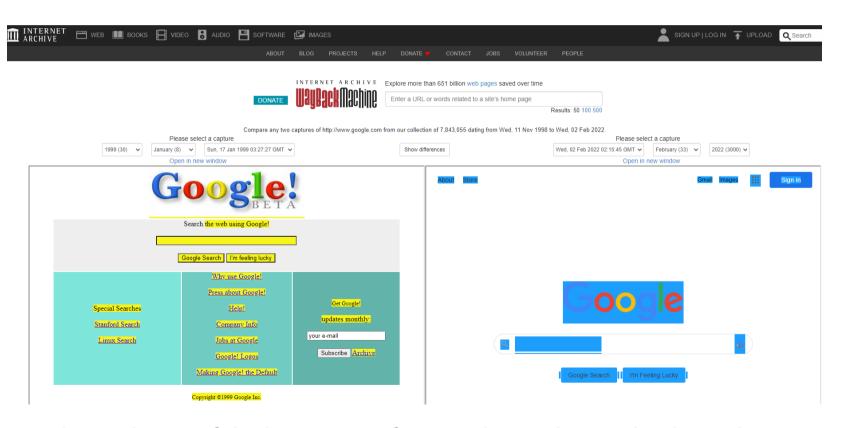


Ethical/Legal Considerations

- Use of publicly available profiles as a part of your service:
 - LinkedIn vs Hiq Labs: Ninth Circuit Decision in 2019
 - Revival of Case in 2021 by Supreme Court

Ethical/Legal Considerations

What about scraping entire websites/webpages for the purpose of archiving the internet?



The evolution of the home page for Google per the Wayback Machine

Recap

Summary of Main Points

By now, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand when can we scrape data (i.e., robots.txt)
- Scrape a webpage using and and

Things to Do to Prepare for Next Class

 Go over your notes, read through the supplementary material (below) and complete Assignment 04 on Canvas.



- PDF of Published Paper
- ePub of Published Paper



- Selector Gadget
- Getting Started with rvest