

Half-Day Tutorial (dg.o 2011 Conference)

Collecting, Analyzing and Visualizing Tweets using Open Source Tools

Seungwon Yang and Andrea L. Kavanaugh
Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech
{seungwon, kavan}@vt.edu

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This tutorial will teach participants how to collect, analyze and visualize results from twitter data. We will demonstrate several different free, open-source web-based tools that participants can use to collect twitter data (e.g., Archivist, 140kit.com, TwapperKeeper), and show them a few different methods, tools or programs they can use to analyze the data in a given collection. Finally, we will show participants visualization tools and programs they can use to present the analyses, such as tag clouds, graphs and other data clustering techniques. As much as possible this will be a hands-on tutorial, so participants can learn by making their own twitter data collection, analysis and visualization as part of the tutorial.

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Part 1. Web-Based Tools

1. Collecting Tweets

Twitter provides tweets through their REST & Search API and through their Streaming API¹. The REST & Search API is used to find relevant tweets that are already archived in Twitter's servers. Tweets as old as 7 days usually can be collected from this API. The Streaming API, also called a ‘fire hose’ API, provides current tweets that are posted in real time. Most tweet collection tools use both of these APIs to archive existing older tweets as well as incoming new tweets.

Terminology

Hashtag

They are a community-driven convention for adding additional context and metadata to your tweets. It is added inline to your post. You create a hashtag simply by prefixing a word with a hash symbol (e.g., #twitter, #japanearthquake, etc.). For more information, please see <http://twitter.pbworks.com/w/page/1779812/Hashtags>

Retweet (RT)

It is similar to forwarding email to another person. It helps quickly share tweets with all of your followers. The retweeted tweets look like “RT @VerifiedQuotes: I'm not addicted to #twitter. I only tweet...”, with ‘RT’ in front of the text. For more information, please see <http://support.twitter.com/entries/77606-what-is-retweet-rt>

1.1. The Archivist

Web version

*The (Online) Archivist*² developed by Mix Online provides quick and easy creation of tweet visualizations. However, due to Twitter's API Terms and Service, collections created by users reside in the company's servers. In addition, only three collections per account can be created. Export/download of the collected tweets is not allowed.

However, it provides six visualizations for the basic analysis of archived tweets:

- Tweet volume over time: the number of tweets posted during a period of time
- Top users: the user IDs of people who tweeted much
- Tweet vs. Retweet: the ratio of original tweets and retweets
- Top words: a list of frequent words in tweets
- Top URLs: a list of frequent URLs found in tweets
- Source: the name of an online service that is used to post tweets

¹ Twitter API FAQ. http://dev.twitter.com/pages/api_faq

² <http://archivist.visitmix.com/>



Instructions to create a new tweet archive and view the visualization of the basic analyses in The Archivist (Web version)

Step 1. You can sign-in using your Twitter account. Click ‘Sign In To Twitter’ link on the top right corner of the main page.



Step 2. Type in your Twitter account info, and click ‘Authorize app’ button.



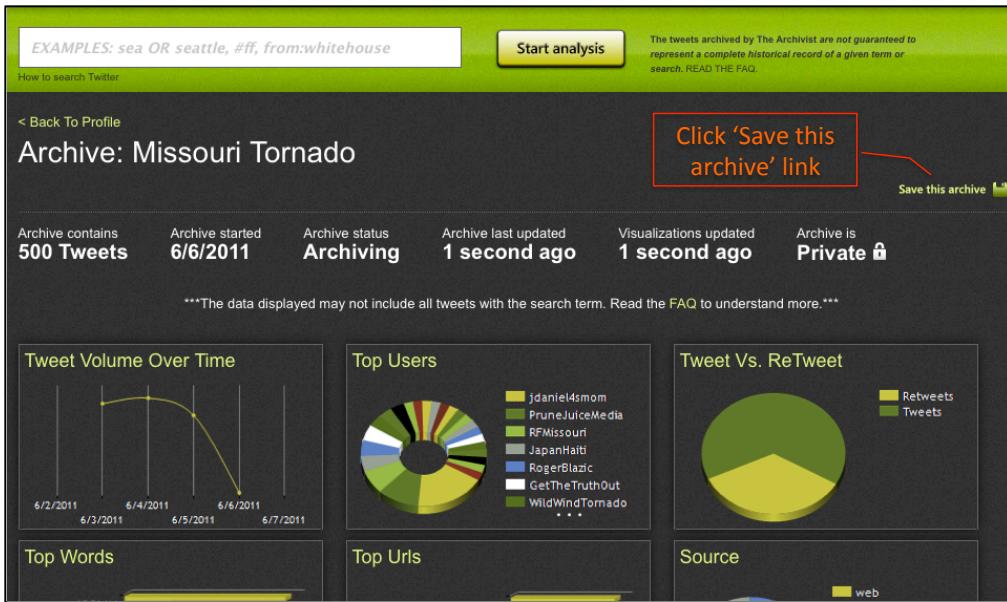
Step 3. Enter a key phrase or a hashtag of your interest. Then click ‘Start analysis’ button right next to the text box. After some seconds, The Archivist will show six different visualizations, each of which has a link to its full-page view.

The image shows a screenshot of the "THE ARCHIVIST alpha" dashboard. At the top, it says "Save and analyze tweets". A red box highlights the search bar containing "missouri Tornado" with the text "Type in a key phrase or a hashtag" above it. Below the search bar is a "Start analysis" button. On the left, it says "Your archived tweets" and shows "2 Archive(s)" and "176,373 Tweets". A red arrow points from the text "Type in a key phrase or a hashtag" to the search bar. The main area displays a table of archived tweets:

Search Name	Number of Tweets	Archive Started	Archive Status	Privacy Settings	Delete
#Egypt	149,000	1/28/2011	Archiving	Public	Remove archive
blacksburg	27,373	1/27/2011	Archiving	Public	Remove archive

At the bottom, there's a "Compare Selected" button with a graph icon.

Step 4. To keep archiving the tweets, you should save the archive in your profile page by clicking ‘Save this archive’.



Step 5. To remove an archive, simply click the ‘Remove archive’ link on your profile page.



Note: to have more than 3 archives, you can sign out from Twitter and create an archive. Then, click ‘Save this archive’ link. It will direct you to the Twitter login page. Once you login, the newly created archive is added to your profile page even if your total number of archive has already exceeded the limit of 3. (May be there is a bug in the software’s logic.)

(You need a Twitter account to do this exercise. Please make one if you don’t have it yet.)

Exercise

- Participants get together and have a short brainstorming session.

2. Discuss current issues of interest.
3. Each participant selects an event/issue that he/she would like to collect tweets about.
4. Develop a keyword or a key phrase that represents the event/issue.
5. Use the developed key word or a key phrase as a query to a search engine. See if it returns a good result.
6. Use the same keyword or a key phrase as a search term in Twitter. See if it returns relevant tweets.
7. Modify the keyword or a key phrase.
8. Create an archive using The Archivist Web version using your keyword or key phrase.
9. From six different visualizations, which one(s) do you like the most? Which one will be most useful for your research?

* The same search keyword / key phrase will be used to create archives in other tools in this tutorial session to compare the collection results.

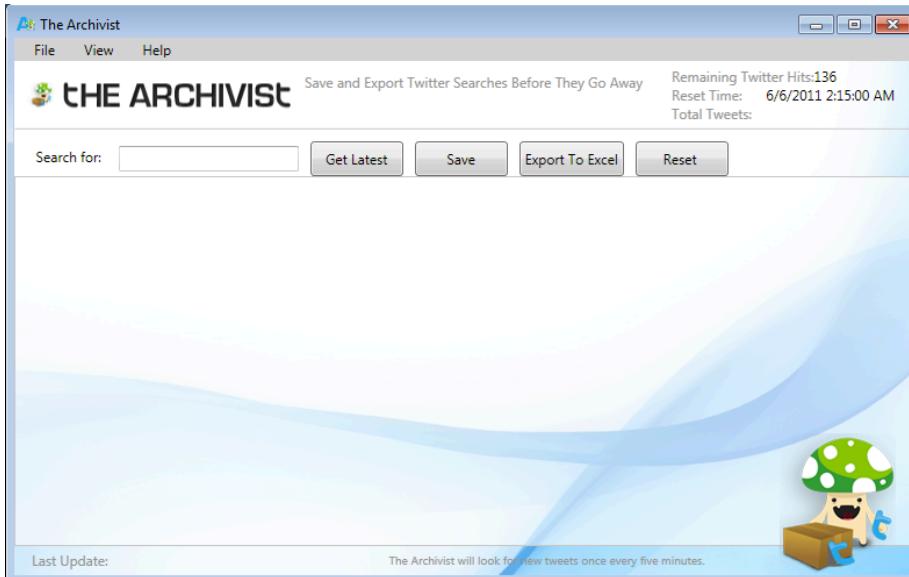
Stand-alone version (Windows PC only)

*The Archivist Desktop*³ can run on a user's own **Windows** machine and continuously collect tweets. Tweets can be exported into an XML file or tab-delimited text file for later processing using Excel. Its pie chart visualization shows tweet volumes per Twitter ID. Tweet volume is visualized as a line graph. *The Archivist Desktop* runs continuously in the background and takes up much computing resources so it might result in performance degradation when multiple archives are created in a single machine.

Step 1. Installing the tool

The software can be downloaded from <http://visitmix.com/labs/archivist-desktop/>. Once installed by saving and double-clicking the setup.exe file, run the tool. You should see its user interface that looks like the image below:

³ <http://visitmix.com/labs/archivist-desktop/>



Step 2. Collecting tweets

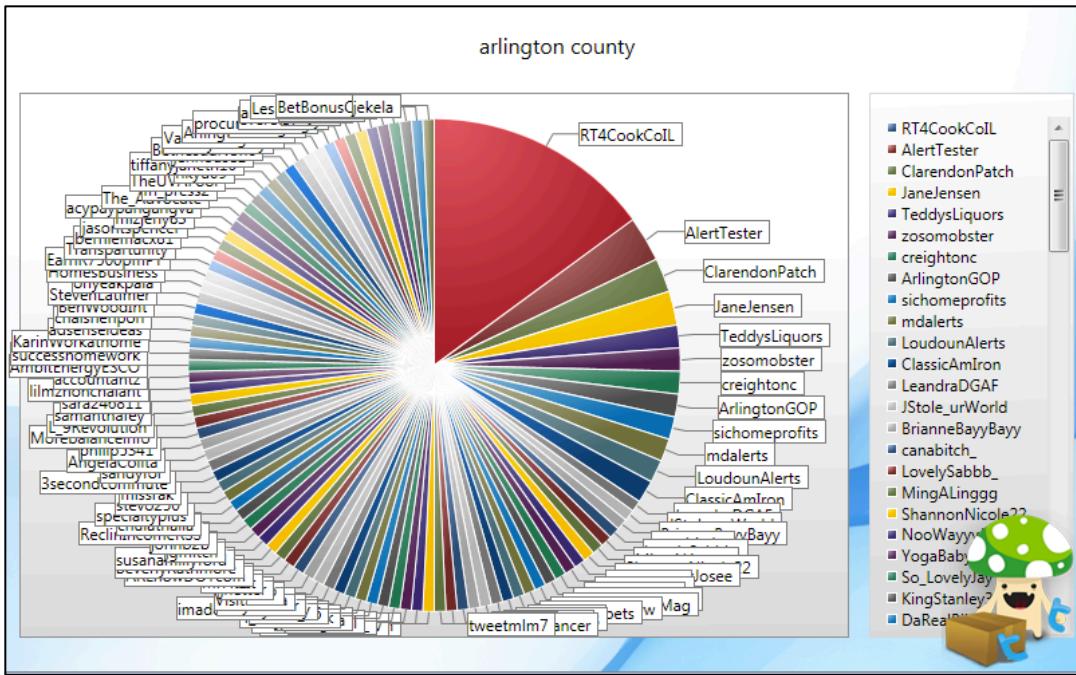
Type a key phrase or a hashtag into the box, which is located next to ‘Search for’. Then click ‘Get Latest’ button (the left-most one among control buttons) to begin archiving tweets.

User	Tweet Content	Date
RT4CookCoIL	Love #Cook county! 1032 S Douglas Ave http://goo.gl/zLdJQ #ArlingtonHeights #IL 60005 #realestate	6/6/2011 12:50:34 AM
RT4CookCoIL	Love #Cook county! 1016 S Highland Ave http://goo.gl/nTOFe #ArlingtonHeights #IL 60005 #realestate	6/5/2011 11:35:28 PM
LeandraDGAF	RT @KingStanley3: the V in DMV really means Alexandria, Arlington & the east side of Fairfax County	6/5/2011 11:27:23 PM
JStole_urWorld	RT @KingStanley3: the V in DMV really means Alexandria, Arlington & the east side of Fairfax County	

Step 3. Two visualizations.

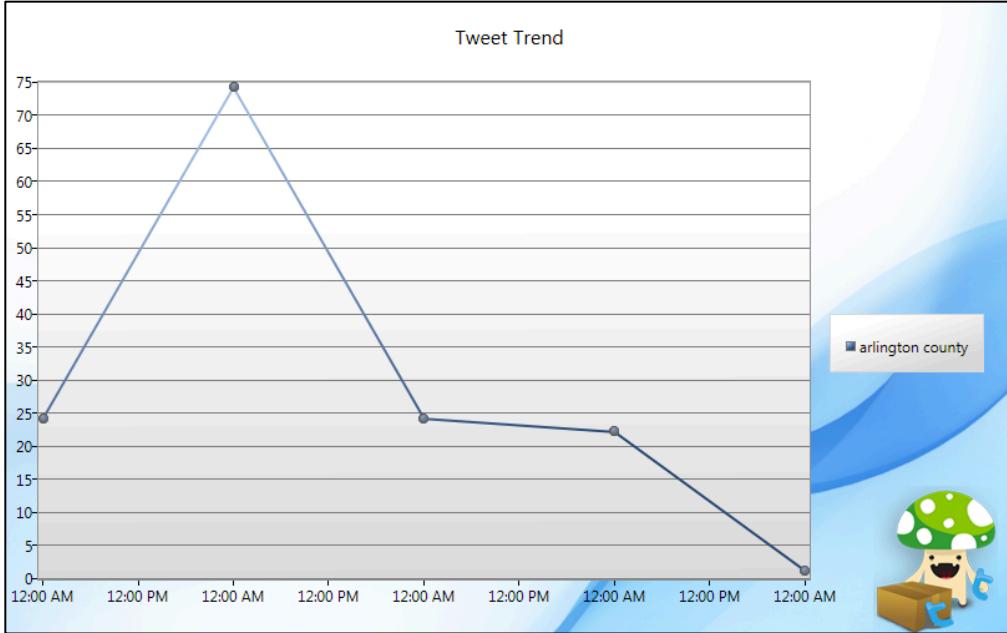
Pie chart visualization of tweets per tweet IDs:

Go to ‘View’ on the task bar and select ‘View Pie’. The pie chart shows the proportion of tweets from each person.



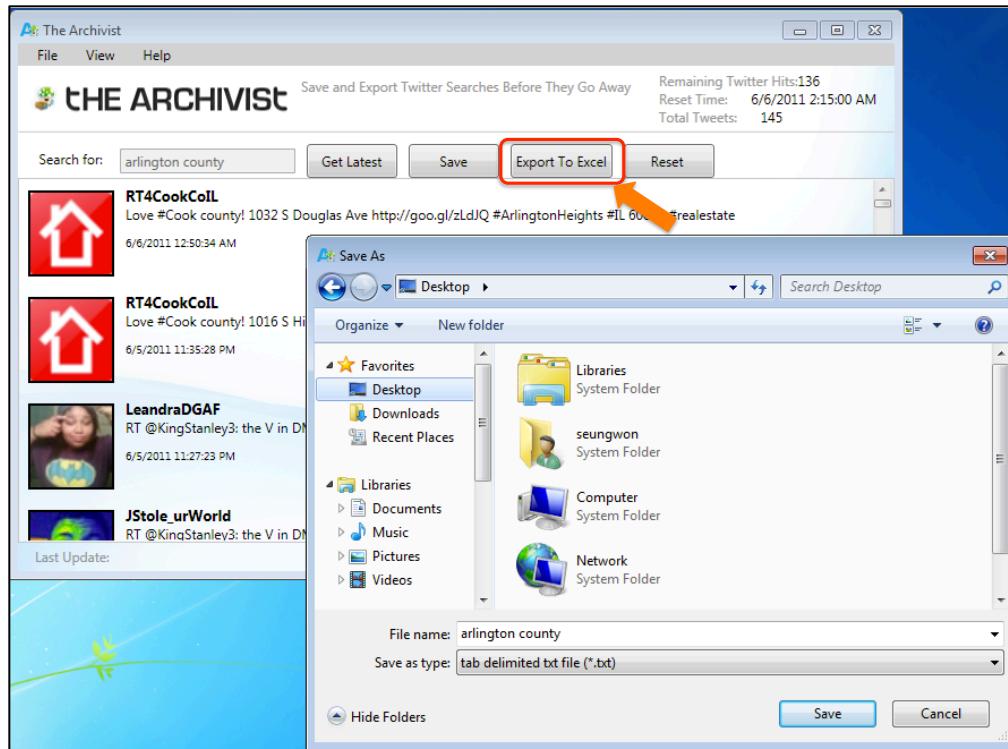
Tweet volume visualization overtime:

Go to ‘View’ on the task bar and select ‘View Chart’. The graph shows the number of tweets over a period of time.



Step 4. Exporting tweets.

There are two options for exporting collected tweets. First option is to export as a tab-delimited text file, which can be imported into Excel for analysis. For this, click ‘Export to Excel’ button on the software interface as shown in Figure 16. It will open a window, where you can select the folder to store the exported file.

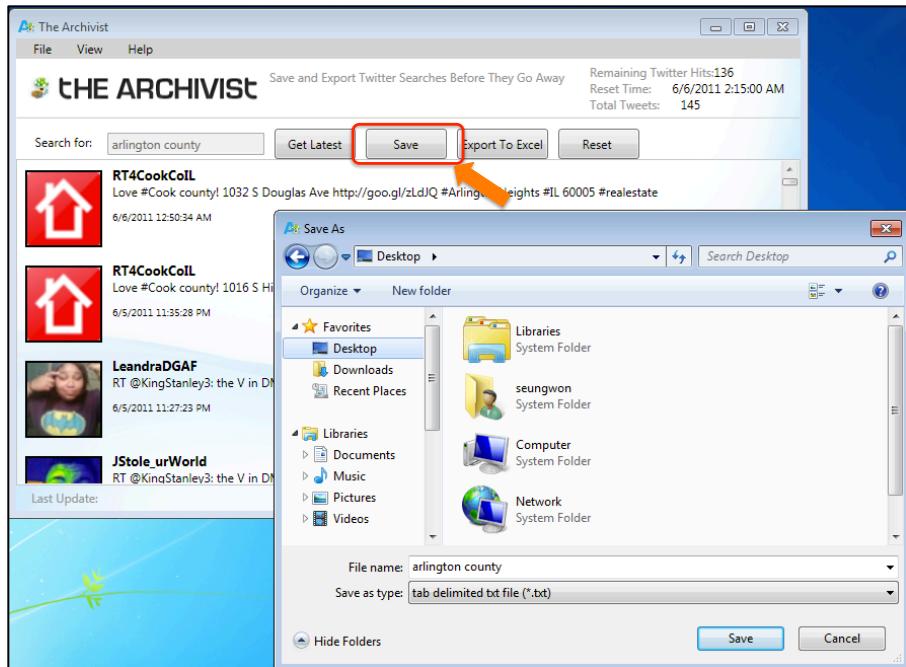


(Tab-delimited text file example)

<u>id</u>	<u>username</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>status</u>
77598231810416640	RT4CookCoIL	6/6/2011	12:50 AM	Love #Cook county! 1032 S Douglas Ave http://goo.gl/zLdJQ #ArlingtonHeights #IL #realestate
7759931110572032	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	11:35 PM	Love #Cook county! 1016 S
7757295523562048	LeandradGAF	6/5/2011	11:27 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77577243479638016	JStole_urWorld	6/5/2011	11:27 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
7757707257531329	BrianneBaybayy	6/5/2011	11:26 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77576997102039040	canabitch_	6/5/2011	11:26 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
7757680198720168	Lovelysabb_	6/5/2011	11:25 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77576486407778304	MingALinggg	6/5/2011	11:24 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
775764640672196352	ShannonNicole22	6/5/2011	11:24 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77576243079426048	Noowayyyjosee	6/5/2011	11:23 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77575420039544833	YogaBabyy	6/5/2011	11:19 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77575037640646656	So_LovelyJay	6/5/2011	11:18 PM	RT @KingStanley3: the v
77572888852566016	Kingstanley3	6/5/2011	11:09 PM	the v in DMV really means
77571777651412992	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	11:05 PM	Love #Cook county! 1008 W
7750350015906560	DareRealBilalAman	6/5/2011	6:34 PM	Arlington County ranked number 1
77496135039725568	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	6:04 PM	Love #Cook county! 885 S Dwyer Av
77481002913628160	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	5:04 PM	Love #Cook county! 840 N Chicago
77446955424428032	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	2:49 PM	Love #Cook county! 810 E Shady W
77424274998173696	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	1:19 PM	Love #Cook county! 755 S Dwyer Av
77381646990573569	AmericanIronMag	6/5/2011	10:29 AM	MOTORCYCLE NEWS American
77267982371405824	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	2:58 AM	Love #Cook county! 706 E Clarendon
77267928449417216	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	2:58 AM	Love #Cook county! 636 W Happyfie
77264147561193473	RT4CookCoIL	6/5/2011	2:43 AM	Love #Cook county! 617 N Highland
77211232473579520	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	11:12 PM	Love #Cook county! 506 W
77180987011895298	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	9:12 PM	Love #Cook county! 502 E Burning
77165868362117120	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	8:12 PM	Love #Cook county! 5 S Waterman
77162090875465728	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	7:57 PM	Love #Cook county! 450 W Happyfie
77122576920485888	BanzouPinoyw	6/4/2011	5:20 PM	Murder out of the Ballpark: An Ar
77112353832976384	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	4:39 PM	Love #Cook county! 420 N Hickory
77095377106510017	Teddy's Liquors	6/4/2011	3:32 PM	@EviltwinCP @GooseIsland Bourbon
77094250763911168	Teddy's Liquors	6/4/2011	3:27 PM	@GooseIsland Bourbon County Rare
7709323282286497	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	3:23 PM	Love #Cook county! 415 E Hackberry
77089421370982400	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	3:08 PM	Love #Cook county! 4145 N Yale Av
77081868926857216	RT4CookCoIL	6/4/2011	2:38 PM	Love #Cook county! 413 E Valley L
77064828916736000	amandaspetz	6/4/2011	1:31 PM	Arlington County Now Offers Work-

Note: After exporting tweets as a tab-delimited text file, please change the filename to avoid the file content becoming an XML file.

The other option is to export as an XML file that can be parsed with scripts written in Python or PHP. For this, click the 'Save' button.

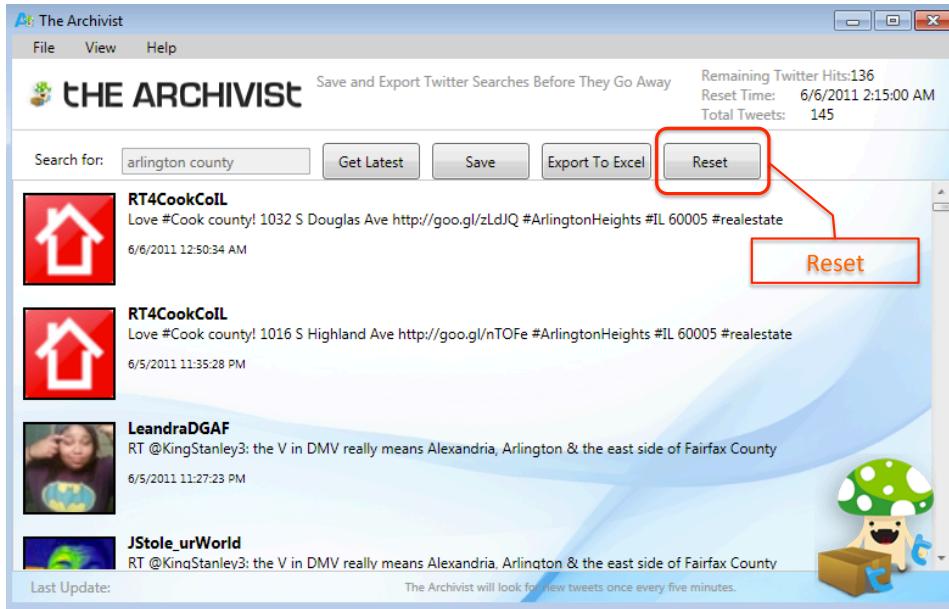


(XML export file example)

A screenshot of a Windows Internet Explorer window. The title bar reads "C:\Users\seungwon\Desktop\arlington county.xml - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the same URL. Below the address bar is a navigation toolbar with icons for Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, and Home. A search bar is also present. The main content area displays a list of tweets from a Twitter data model. The first tweet is from "RTCookCoIL" (@RT_CookCounty) and includes the text "#Love #Cook county! 1032 S Douglas Ave http://goo.gl/zLdJQ #ArlingtonHeights #IL 60005". Subsequent tweets are from the same user, each with a different timestamp and a link to a profile image.

Step 5. Stop collecting tweets.

After running the tool for a period of time to archive tweets, you may want to stop archiving. Clicking the ‘Reset’ button or closing the tool’s interface by clicking ‘X’ on the top right corner will stop archiving the tweets. Please don’t forget to save your tweets.



Note: Since *The Archivist Desktop* instances are running in the computer's main memory and not storing the collected tweets into a database. Therefore, all the tweets will be lost if the tool stops running (e.g., due to automatic rebooting of the computer, or by the user's decision to stop archiving tweets.). If the computer turns into a sleep mode, the collection process stops, and starts again once the computer returns to a normal mode.

1.2. yourTwapperKeeper

To avoid violation of Twitter's API Terms of Service, *TwapperKeeper*⁴, the public web service for archiving tweets, had discontinued its export and download features, which are essential for researchers to analyze tweet content.

*YourTwapperKeeper*⁵, the open source version of *TwapperKeeper*, can run on a user's own machine to archive tweets with certain hashtags (e.g., #libya) and key words (e.g., japan earthquake). Users can export and download archived tweets into various formats such as an Excel file, RSS, JSON and HTML. Because *YourTwapperKeeper* resides on a non-public machine, exporting tweets is not a violation of any terms of service.

Instructions to develop an archive and export its content

Creating an archive

Step 1. Click the blue button on top of the user interface.

⁴ <http://twapperkeeper.com/index.php>

⁵ <http://your.twapperkeeper.com/>

Archive ID	Keyword / Hashtag	Description	Tags	Screen Name	Count	Create Time
1	#egypt	tweets about Egypt revolution		seungwonvt	2802123	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:03:37 - 0500
2	#libya	tweets about Libya		seungwonvt	3066770	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:04:14 - 0500
3	#blacksburg	tweets about Blacksburg		seungwonvt	2707	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:25:39 - 0500
6	#tunisia	tweets about tunisia		seungwonvt	208792	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 02:56:56 - 0500
5	#jan25	another Egypt revolution tweets		ctrnet	1531838	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 02:53:43 - 0500
7	#sidibouzid	another tunisia related tweets		seungwonvt	117259	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 02:57:23 - 0500

Step 2. You let *yourTwapperKeeper* access your Twitter account info. Then the control is passed back to the application.

You can use your Twitter account to sign in to other sites and services.
By signing in here, you can use ctrTwapperKeeper without sharing your Twitter password.

Authorize ctrTwapperKeeper to use your account?

This application **will be able to**:

- Read Tweets from your timeline.
- See who you follow, and follow new people.
- Update your profile.
- Post Tweets on your behalf.

seungwonvt
.....

[Forgot your password?](#)

Sign In **Cancel**

ctrTwapperKeeper
By CTRnet
mule.dlib.vt.edu/

This application is an opensource version of TwapperKeeper. It will be used to collect tweets related to disasters.

Step 3. Type in a key phrase/hashtag, description of your archive and optional tags. Then, click 'Create Archive' button.

The screenshot shows a web application titled "YourTwapperKeeper" with the subtitle "archive your own tweets". At the top, there's a login message "Hi seungwonvt, are you ready to archive?" and a "logout" link. Below the title, there's a search bar with fields for "Keyword or Hashtag", "Description", "Tags", and a "Create Archive" button. A red arrow points from the right towards the search bar area. The main content is a table listing four archives:

Archive ID	Keyword / Hashtag	Description	Tags	Screen Name	Count	Create Time	Actions
1	#egypt	tweets about Egypt revolution		seungwonvt	2812652	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:03:37 - 0500	
2	#libya	tweets about Libya		seungwonvt	3072241	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:04:14 - 0500	
3	#blackburg	tweets about Blacksburg		seungwonvt	2726	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 01:25:39 - 0500	
6	#tunisia	tweets about tunisia		seungwonvt	209581	Fri, 25 Feb 2011 02:56:56 - 0500	

Step 4. Once the archive is successfully created, it is displayed on the list of archives as shown below. Only the creator of an archive can remove the archive or edit its description. Users have access to all archives. They can view and export tweets from archives that were created by anyone.

This screenshot shows the archive list with several annotations:

- A red box labeled "Created archive" highlights the first row (Archive ID 257).
- A red box labeled "View / export tweets" highlights the binoculars icon in the Actions column for the second archive (Archive ID 286).
- A red box labeled "Edit archive description" highlights the pencil icon in the Actions column for the third archive (Archive ID 258).
- A red box labeled "Remove archive" highlights the trash bin icon in the Actions column for the fourth archive (Archive ID 10329).

257	#nasatweetup	sts 134 launch	sts134,nasa,nasatweetup	swapniltamse	15698	Thu, 28 Apr 2011 15:55:34 +0000	
286	missouri tornado	A massive tornado hit Joplin, Missouri in early June, 2011.		seungwonvt	0	Tue, 07 Jun 2011 05:21:53 +0000	
258	#wiunion			legaleagle	10329	Tue, 03 May 2011 02:27:23 +0000	

Clicking a binocular icon on the right side of an archive opens a tab on a browser, where the raw tweets can be exported in various formats such as HTML, RSS, Excel, Simple Table, or JSON API.

Exporting an archive as an Excel file

Step 5. Select settings for tweet export. Users can select tweets within a certain time period, the maximum number of tweets to export, tweets from a certain user, tweets that has a certain text, and whether to include retweets or not.

After selecting and typing in all the settings, click 'Query' button to generate download links for various export formats.

The screenshot shows the TwapperKeeper interface for exporting tweets. At the top, there are three red boxes with arrows pointing to specific controls:

- Time period to export tweets**: Points to the "START DATE" and "END DATE" fields, which are set to May 22, 2011, and May 30, 2011, respectively.
- Number of tweets to export**: Points to the "VIEW LIMIT" dropdown menu, which is set to "descending" and "250".
- Include/Remove retweets**: Points to the "remove RTs" checkbox, which is checked.

Below these settings is a green box containing several export links:

- HTML Permalink = http://mule.lib.vt.edu/archive.php?id=28&sm=5&sd=22&sy=2011&em=5&ed=30&ey=2011&o=d&l=250&from_user=&text=&lang=en&nort=1
- RSS Permalink = http://mule.lib.vt.edu/rss.php?id=28&sm=5&sd=22&sy=2011&em=5&ed=30&ey=2011&o=d&l=250&from_user=&text=&lang=en&nort=1
- Excel Permalink = http://mule.lib.vt.edu/excel.php?id=28&sm=5&sd=22&sy=2011&em=5&ed=30&ey=2011&o=d&l=250&from_user=&text=&lang=en&nort=1
- Simple Table Permalink = http://mule.lib.vt.edu/table.php?id=28&sm=5&sd=22&sy=2011&em=5&ed=30&ey=2011&o=d&l=250&from_user=&text=&lang=en&nort=1
- JSON API = http://mule.lib.vt.edu/api/GetTweets.php?id=28&sm=5&sd=22&sy=2011&em=5&ed=30&ey=2011&o=d&l=250&from_user=&text=&lang=en&nort=1

At the bottom of the interface, two red boxes point to the "query" button and the download links:

- Download links for exported tweets**: Points to the "query" button and the "query" link below it.
- 'Query' button to export tweets as specified**: Points to the "query" link.

Step 6. Exported tweets in an Excel file.
Columns include the tweet text, to-user ID, from-user, tweet ID, language setting, geo location coordinates, tweet time, etc.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "Workbook3" with the following data:

ARCHIVESOURCE	TEXT	TO_USER_ID	FROM_USER	ID	FROM_USER_ID	ISO_LANGUAGE_CODE	SOURCE
twitter-search	http://bit.ly/lKI6f Live Blog: Tornado kills 116 in Joplin, Missouri – This Just In ...	SimHanZipp	7.50E+16	274663800	en	web	http://1_norm
twitter-search	#BELIEVE that Missouri will recover from the tornado.	IsabellaAnaya	7.50E+16	273247053	en	Twitter for iPhone	http://m_norm
twitter-search	I wanna go to Alabama or Missouri to help them with clean up after this tornado	QLC919	7.50E+16	152359637	en	Twitter for Android	http://a_norm
twitter-search	Memorial Service for Missouri Tornado Victims: Memorial Service for Missouri Tornado Victims After touring th...	WhiteHouseNews	7.50E+16	2562704	en	TwitterFeed	http://a_White
twitter-search	http://bit.ly/KQg3V Eric Cantor says he won't OK aid money for Missouri tornado victims unless Democrats agree to equal amount of spending cuts. #ImpeachCantor	shannon_e	7.50E+16	1752322	en	web	http://a_0408_1
twitter-search	Relentless Leader Action @BarackObama: In Joplin, Missouri, today to visit with those who lost so much in last week's devastating tornado."	adewole101	7.50E+16	260579951	en	Twitter for BlackBerry	http://a_OLE_no
twitter-search	Remarks by the President after Touring Tornado Damage in Joplin, Missouri Before It's News: http://t.co/TdjeB0H via @addthis	cancents	7.50E+16	30565053	en	Twitter Button	http://a_tweet

Exercise

1. Create an archive using your TwapperKeeper tool at <http://virginia.cc.vt.edu/>
2. Use your keyword or key phrase as the search term. You may add a hash '#' to make your keyword a hashtag (Search Twitter or The Archivist Web version with your hashtag and see if it returns a reasonable result).
3. Refresh the browser to update the number of tweets archived.
4. Open a tweet export page by clicking the binocular icon in one of the archives.
5. Adjust the export setting and export the tweets following the instructions above.
6. Download the excel file and examine its content.

1.3. 140kit

140kit⁶ is online services to collect, analyze, and visualize tweets. Collection of tweets can continue for a maximum of seven days, and then potentially be extended for further archiving. Once the collection is completed, the tool provides basic analyses and graph visualizations of tweets. CSV files of the basic analyses can be downloaded from the site.

Users can search existing collections and visualize the tweets by using the features provided. 140kit used to allow exporting of the raw tweet archives, but this feature is no longer available due to the updated Twitter API Terms of Service at http://dev.twitter.com/pages/api_terms

Especially, under 4.A:

"You may export or extract non-programmatic, GUI-driven Twitter Content as a PDF or spreadsheet by using "save as" or similar functionality. Exporting Twitter Content to a data store as a service or other cloud based service, however, is not permitted."

Instructions on creating a new tweet archive and viewing the pie charts of the basic analysis

Step 1. After creating an account at the sign up page, please login by typing in your User Name and Password and then click the 'Log In' button.

The screenshot shows the 140kit login interface. At the top, there's a blue header bar with the 140kit logo and links for Log in, Researchers, Collections, Datasets, and News. Below the header is a 'Login' section. It includes a 'User Name' field containing 'Seungwonvt', a 'Password' field (redacted), a 'Remember me:' checkbox, and a 'Log in' button. Below the login form is a link 'Forgot your password?'. At the bottom of the page, there's a footer with the text 'HEY: we're just getting started with this site. If you see anything wrong here: TICKETS' and links for 'cc-by-nc-sa' license, 'Web Ecology Project 2011', 'Contact', and 'TOS'.

Step 2. Click the 'Add a new collection' link on your main page.

⁶ <http://140kit.com/>

Logged in successfully

Seungwon



Role: User
Hailing from: United States
Joined: about 11 months ago

Add a new collection

Currently Running
You have no datasets currently running.

Finished

Name	Tweets	Users	Last updated
iPhone4	12,961	10,255	11 months ago (Jul 09, 2010, at 02:39:26 EDT)
#earthquake	407	106	10 months ago (Jul 22, 2010, at 12:16:29 EDT)

Step 3. Click ‘Search/Term scrape’ link to collect tweets using a hashtag or terms.

140kit [Add Collection](#) [Log out](#) [My Page](#) [Settings](#) [Researchers](#) [Collections](#) [Datasets](#) [News](#)

Make a new Collection

You can either...

- [Curate a Collection](#) from existing datasets.
- **Search/Term scrape** (collect Tweets and Users where the Tweets contain some term)
- [User group scrape](#) (input usernames via CSV/Textbox, then collect all Tweets for those users)

Step 4. Enter a search term or a hashtag (e.g., “#japanearthquake”) to start archiving tweets, which contain them. Click ‘Create’ button on the bottom of the page to begin archiving tweets.

New stream scrape

Search Term ([Twitter's rules for search terms](#))

 Keywords or a hashtag

Run this scrape until

[For half a day](#) | [For one day](#) | [For one week](#)

Also search for terms we think might be related to your term?

Step 5. Once archiving the tweet is completed, users can view pie charts of basic analysis results by clicking links under ‘Histograms’ and ‘Word Frequencies’. Also the retweet network graph is provided. Please see the sections enclosed by rounded rectangles in the image below.

The screenshot shows the 'Analytics' section of the 140kit tool. It is divided into three main sections: 'Histograms', 'Networks', and 'Word Frequencies'. The 'Histograms' section contains a link to 'Download the CSV of Basic Histogram Data' and a list of metrics: Tweet Language, Tweet Created At, Tweet Source, Tweet Location, User Followers Count, User Friends Count, User Favourites Count, User Geo Enabled, User Statuses Count, User Lang, User Time Zone, and User Created At. The 'Networks' section contains a link to 'Retweets (2746 re-tweets)' which is highlighted with a red rectangle. The 'Word Frequencies' section contains a link to 'Download the CSV of Word Frequency Data' and a list of metrics: Hashtags, Mentions, Significant Words, and URLs, which are also highlighted with a red rectangle.

Note: it usually takes some time to see the results from the 140kit tool.

(You need to make an account at 140kit.com to do this exercise.)

Exercise

1. Create an archive using 140kit tool. Use your keyword or key phrase as the search term. You may add a hash ‘#’ to make your keyword a hashtag (Search Twitter or The Archivist Web version with your hashtag and see if it returns a reasonable result).
2. Leave the tool to archive tweets.
3. Select ‘Collections’ link on top of the 140kit homepage.
4. Select one of the collections and click the name.
5. Examine various histograms and word frequency graphs, as well as the retweet graph.

2. Visualizing Tweets

Word cloud visualizations show frequently appearing words from input text. More frequent words appear as bigger fonts. Colors are used to visually distinguish words and make word clouds visually appealing.

2.1. Wordle.net



The image above shows a word cloud created by the Wordle⁷ Web service using 100 tweets about the Japan earthquake disaster that occurred in March, 2011. Users can create word clouds and refine them by using the features:

- Remove uninteresting and common words directly in the GUI
- Limit the maximum words
- Change font, upper/lower cases, color schemes, layouts
- Assign weights on words, change background color

Instructions to create a word cloud

Step 1. Click the ‘Create’ button on the task bar to start the process.

Wordle™ [Home](#) **Create** [Gallery](#) [Credits](#) [News](#) [Forum](#) [FAQ](#) [Advanced](#)

Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

Create your own.

View some examples created by others...

[English notebook cover](#)
by Ace Academic!
1 year, 9 months ago

[Period G](#)
by Meredith
1 year, 9 months ago

[US Constitution](#)
by Jonathan
1 year, 6 months ago

[Most Common Crossword Answers](#)
by Jonathan
2 years, 6 months ago

[More...](#)

⁷ <http://www.wordle.net/>

Step 2. Copy and paste tweet texts from an excel file into the text box. Or type in a URL of the data file or a Web page. You can make multiple word clouds by each date or each hour of a specific date to see the different topical words emerge.

The screenshot shows the Wordle website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Create, Gallery, Credits, News, and Forum. Below these, a red box highlights a text input area with the placeholder "Paste in a bunch of text:". Inside this box, several tweets are pasted, including one about a tornado in Joplin, Missouri. A "Go" button is located to the left of the input area. To the right, a red box highlights a URL input field with the placeholder "Enter the URL of any blog, blog feed, or any other web page that has an Atom or RSS feed.". Below this field is a "Submit" button. The text "Copy and paste tweet texts in the box" and "Enter a URL in the box" are overlaid in orange text on their respective red boxes.

Step 3. Adjust layout and remove commonly repeated words.

Usually, 'Horizontal' layout is comfortable to read words in the cloud. To change the organization of the words, select 'Re-layout with current settings' under 'Layout'.

The screenshot shows the Wordle website with a word cloud centered on the screen. Overlaid on the word cloud is a context menu with the "Layout" option highlighted in blue. The menu options include: Re-layout with current settings, Maximum words..., Prefer Alphabetical Order, Rounder Edges (with "Straighter Edges" as a submenu), Any Which Way, Horizontal (selected), Mostly Horizontal, Half and Half, Mostly Vertical, and Vertical. The word cloud itself consists of various words in green and yellow, such as "victims", "city", "fundraiser", "relief", "mowx", "upgrad", "ad", "Official", "tco", "insura", "obama", "sirens", "blog", "sunday", "busy", "Half", "and", "Half", "Mostly", "Vertical", "Straighter", "Edges", "Any", "Which", "Way", "Prefer", "Alphabetical", "Order", "Maximum", "words...", and "re-layout".

The key phrase that was used to collect tweets can be removed since we know that the tweets are about that key phrase. For example, if a keyword ‘victims’ was used to collect tweets, it is shown with a bigger font size due to its frequency. By removing this dominating word, we can examine other interesting words closely.

Right click on the word to remove and select ‘Remove “<word>”’ option to delete it from the visualization canvas.



Step 4. Adjust the number of words to visualize. If there are too many words to visualize, the font of the less frequent words becomes too small to read. For this, please select ‘Maximum words’ under ‘Layout’ menu in the tool bar.

Step 5. Change fonts. Teen and Coolvetica fonts usually make a nice word cloud. For this, select ‘Font’ menu in the tool bar.

(Teen font)



(Coolvetica font)



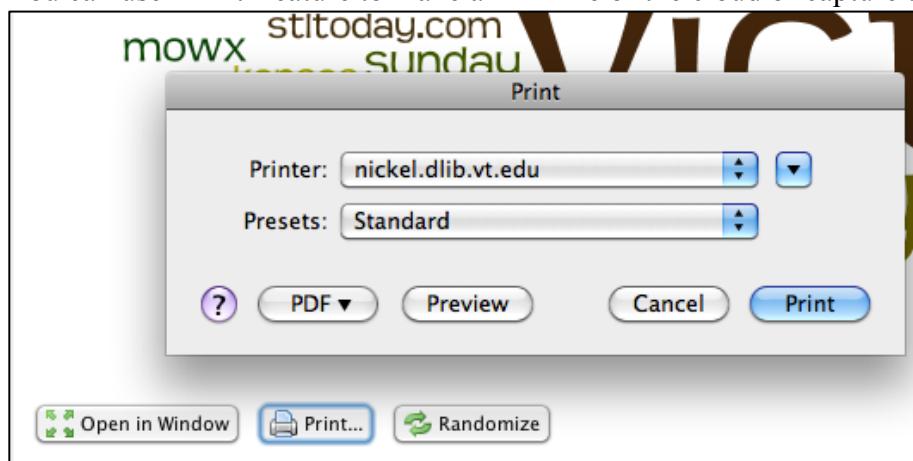
Step 6. Change color settings.

Try different color settings to find the one you like. Sometimes dark backgrounds make the words in the cloud more visible.



Step 7. Capturing the created word cloud.

You can use 'Print' feature to make a PDF file of the cloud or capture the screen.



Step 8. Sharing the cloud with others.

You can make your word cloud public so that others can view it, too. Please click 'Save to public gallery...' on the bottom right corner of the interface. Then, enter the title, username and comments, and hit 'OK' button.



Step 9. Word counts.

To get a list of word frequency, please go to ‘Language’ and select ‘Show word counts...’. You can reorder the words in either ascending or descending order by clicking ‘Frequency’ on the Word Counts pop up window.

Word	Frequency
Missouri	162
Joplin	155
tornado	146
to	112
of	86
a	82
the	82
Tornado	80
in	67
victims	49
List	36
on	33
for	31
Relief	29
from	29
and	27

(You can use your own tweet archive developed using yourTwapperKeeper at <http://virginia.cc.vt.edu/> or any archives at <http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/>)

Exercise

1. Export tweets in the archive as an excel file (You can either include or exclude retweets when exporting).

2. Group tweets in the excel file by dates (if you use an existing archive with lots of tweets collected for many days), by the hour, or by 10 minutes.
3. Create at least 4 word clouds using the grouped tweet data in the previous step.
4. Be sure to remove the key phrase, which was used to archive tweets.
5. Compare the word clouds.
6. Do you see the differences? What do you think the word clouds as a visualization tool for tweets?

3. Analyzing Tweets Using Web-Based Tools

The basic algorithm for text analysis in word cloud creation is to count word frequencies in input texts. For more meaningful content analysis, terms and phrases can be extracted using web services and Natural Language Toolkit.

3.1. Terminology Extraction

Translated Labs

The terminology extraction web service from The Translated Labs⁸ identifies terms from texts. The basic idea is to compare the frequency of words in an input text with their frequency in the language. Their assumption is that the words, which appear very frequently in the document but rarely in the language, are probably terms. Extracted terms are Google-searched when they are clicked.

English | Italiano | Français

Labs | Translated | Contacts | Information about Labs

Terminology Extraction

Insert the text requiring terminology extraction.

For long texts, extraction could take up to a minute.

Examples: Chemistry | Computational Linguistics |

3.1. Terminology Extraction

Translated Labs
The terminology extraction web services from The Translated Labs identifies top 20 terms from texts. The basic idea is to compare the frequency of words in an input text with their frequency in the language. Their assumption is that the words, which appear very frequently in the document but rarely in the language, are probably terms.
Extracted terms are Google-searched when they are clicked.

AlchemyAPI
AlchemyAPI provides various services such as named entity extraction, concept tagging, keyword/term extraction, sentiment analysis, etc. through their application programming interface (API). Using an API requires some scripting knowledge. However, their demo site provides Web interface to accept raw texts and then process them.

Copy and paste tweet texts in the box

Languages: English | Terminology Extraction

Top 14 terms		
#	Extracted term	Score
1	wordcram library	65%
2	terminology extraction	61%
3	terminology extraction web	61%
4	translated labs	59%
5	demo site	59%
	outline cascade	59%

⁸ <http://labs.translated.net/terminology-extraction/>

AlchemyAPI

AlchemyAPI provides more detailed analyses of the input text such as named entity extraction, concept tagging, keyword/term extraction, sentiment analysis, etc. Its demo site provides Web interface to accept raw texts and then process them.

AlchemyAPI Interactive Demo

Enter text here

Analysis results appear here

AlchemyAPI utilizes machine learning and natural language parsing technology, analyzing web or text-based content to identify people, organizations, locations, and other information! Take advantage of [AlchemyAPI](#) to categorize and tag your content, perform website SEO, build semantic web applications, and more!

1. WordCram with Processing Language
Processing is an open source programming language and environment that is gaining wide acceptance from people in various fields. By using [the WordCram library](#), users can develop dynamic word clouds. For example, 100 new tweets in the database about the [Japan](#) earthquake disaster can be accessed every 10 minutes and then converted into a word cloud (<http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/japan.html>). The codes can be exported as an applet to be uploaded to a server for online access. Users might be able to monitor current events based on this dynamic topic cloud.

1.1. Installing Processing and [WordCram Library](#)

Processing Installation on a [Windows](#) PC

Step 1. Go to <http://processing.org/download>. Download and save a zipped file for your [operating system](#). For [Windows](#) version, file size is 85.77 MB. In most cases, you might want to download 'Windows' version and not the 'Windows (Without Java)' version unless you know that Jdk ([Java Development Kit](#)) is already

Tags (30)

- [terminology extraction](#)
- [word cloud](#)
- [wordcram library](#)
- [dynamic word clouds](#)
- [application programming interface](#)
- [Japan earthquake disaster](#)
- [dynamic topic cloud](#)
- [Java Development Kit](#)
- [entity extraction](#)
- [sentiment analysis](#)
- [Python scripts](#)
- [basic idea](#)
- [input text](#)
- [raw texts](#)
- [new tweets](#)
- [operating system](#)

(Please use the grouped tweet data, which was used in the previous exercise.)

Exercise

1. Enter each of the grouped data into the text box in AlchemyAPI demo site.
2. Copy and Paste the analysis results to a separate sheet in the tweet excel file.
3. You will have four groups of results for each tweet group.
4. Compare the terms and concepts extracted, with the corresponding word clouds you previously created.
5. Do they match well? Which one summarizes the group of tweets better for human understanding?

Part 2. Tools with Scripting

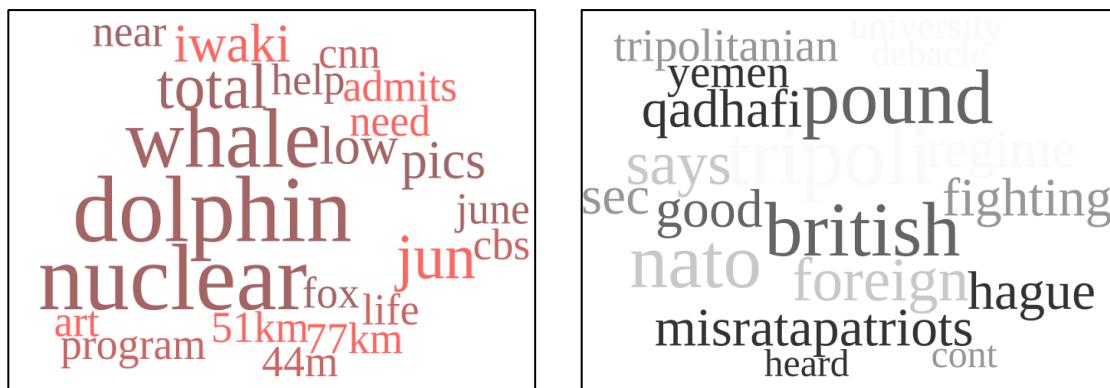
1. WordCram with Processing Language

Processing⁹ is an open source programming language and environment that is gaining wide acceptance from people in various fields. By using the WordCram library¹⁰ with Processing, users can develop dynamic word clouds. For example, new tweets for the last 10 minutes in the database about the Japan earthquake disaster can be accessed and then converted into a word cloud. The codes can be exported as an applet to be uploaded to a server for online access. Users might be able to monitor current events based on this dynamic word cloud.

Example dynamic word clouds can be accessed at:

(Left) Japan Earthquake Disaster: <http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/japan.html>

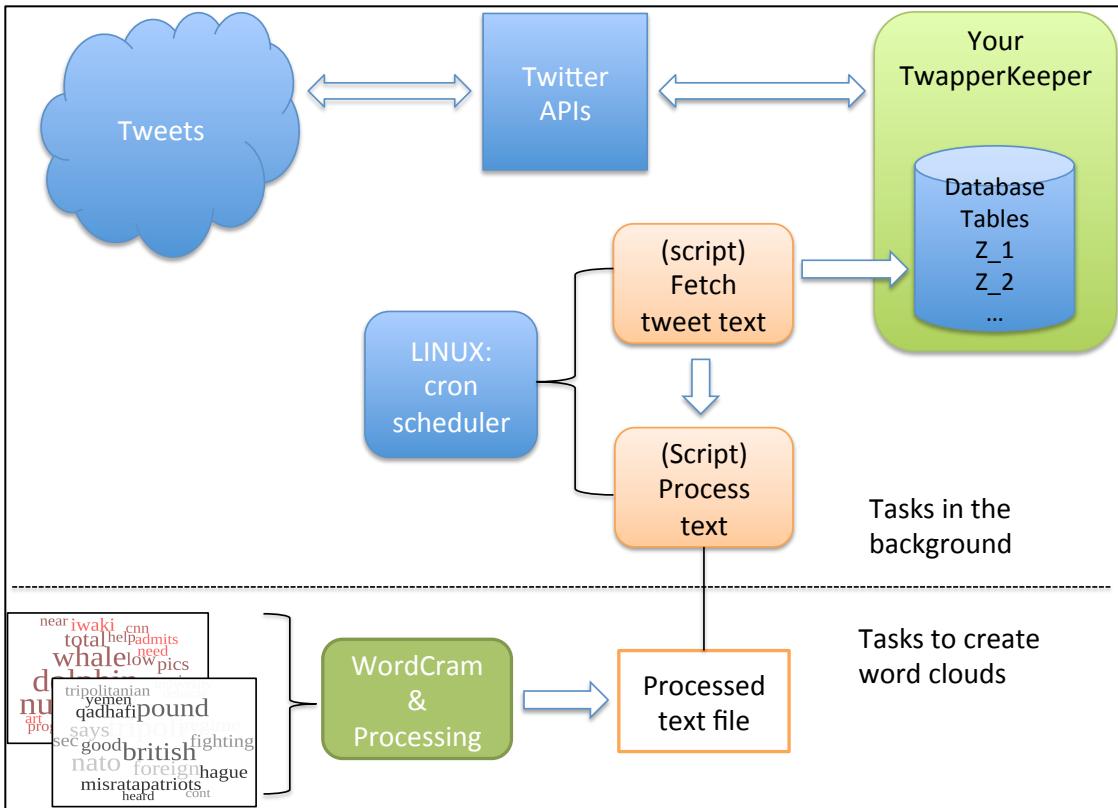
(Right) Libya Revolution: <http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/libya.html>



1.1. Procedure

⁹ Processing programming language and environment. <http://processing.org>

¹⁰ <http://code.google.com/p/wordcram/>



Tasks running in the background

1. YourTwapperKeeper archives tweets into MySQL database tables.
2. For each time period (e.g., every 5 minutes), a script accesses one of database tables and fetches text in tweets. Then it writes the raw text into a file.
3. Following execution of the script at step 2, another script processes the raw text file to remove stop-words (e.g., 'the', 'a', 'about', 'it', etc.) and symbol characters (e.g., '\$', '!', '?', etc.), and creates a processed text file.

Tasks for creating word clouds

4. Processing sketch (i.e., code) with WordCram library accesses the processed text file developed at step 3.
5. Methods to change the layouts, color settings, canvas size, maximum and minimum font sizes, etc. are applied to make the words on the canvas comfortable to read and visually appealing.
6. Export Processing sketch to an applet, which can be inserted in a Web site.

1.2. Installing Processing and WordCram Library

Processing Installation on a Windows PC

Step 1. Go to <http://processing.org/download>. Download and save a zipped file for your operating system. For Windows version, file size is 85.77 MB. In most cases, you might want to download 'Windows' version and not the 'Windows (Without Java)' version unless you know that JDK (Java Development Kit) is already installed on your computer.

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By downloading the software from this page, you agree to the specified terms.

1.5.1 | 15 May 2011

↓ Linux ↓ Windows ↓ Mac OSX ↓ Windows (Without Java) *

The [list of revisions](#) covers the differences between releases in detail. Please read the [changes](#) if you're new to the 1.0 series. Also check the [known problems](#) for this release.

* The Windows version without Java is for users who can take care of installing a JDK (not JRE) themselves. It should only be downloaded by advanced users who are familiar with Java.

Resources

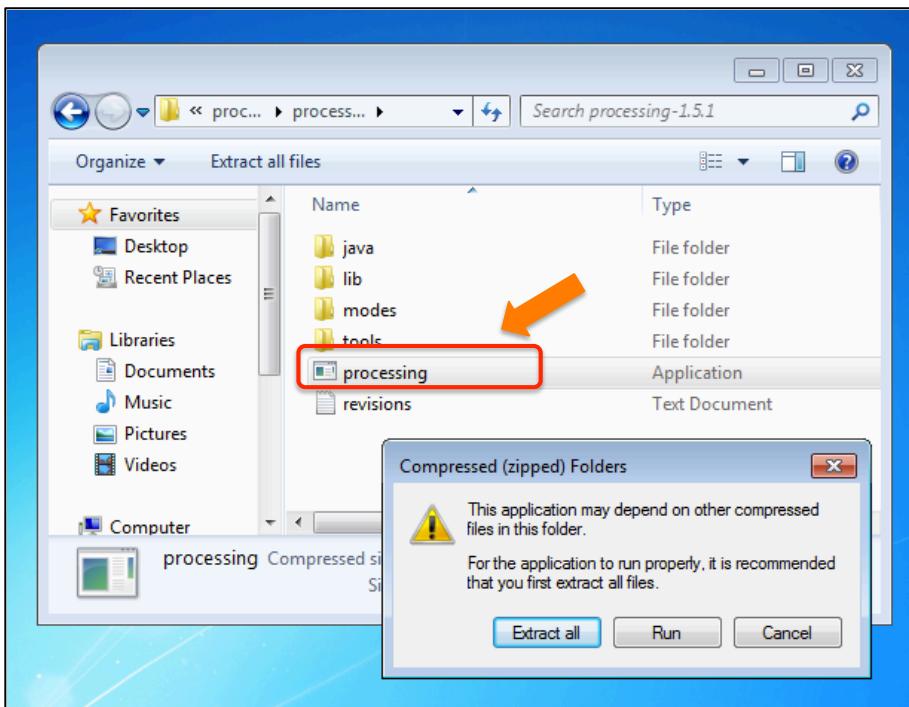
- » [Tutorials](#)
- » [Examples](#)
- » [FAQ](#)
- » [Troubleshooting](#)
- » [Supported Platforms](#)
- » [Processing Wiki](#)
- » [Processing Forum](#)
- » [Report a bug](#)
- » [Download Source](#)

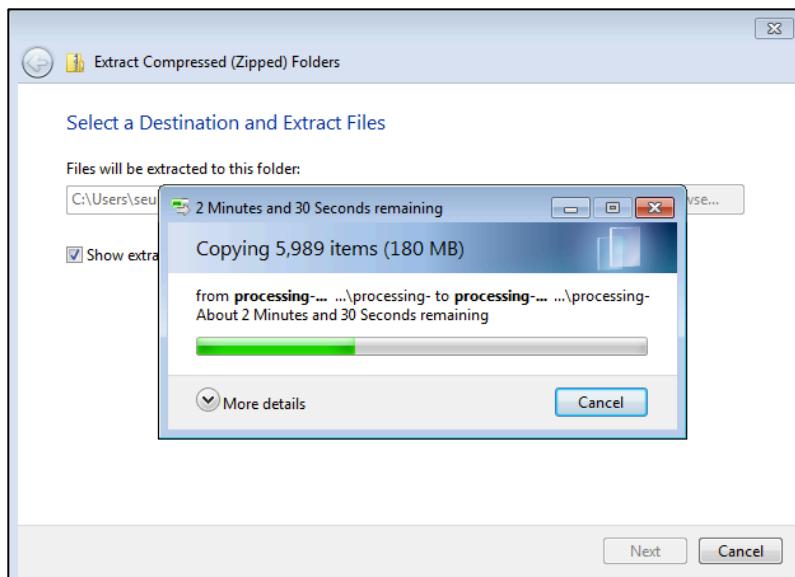
Announcements

Email address

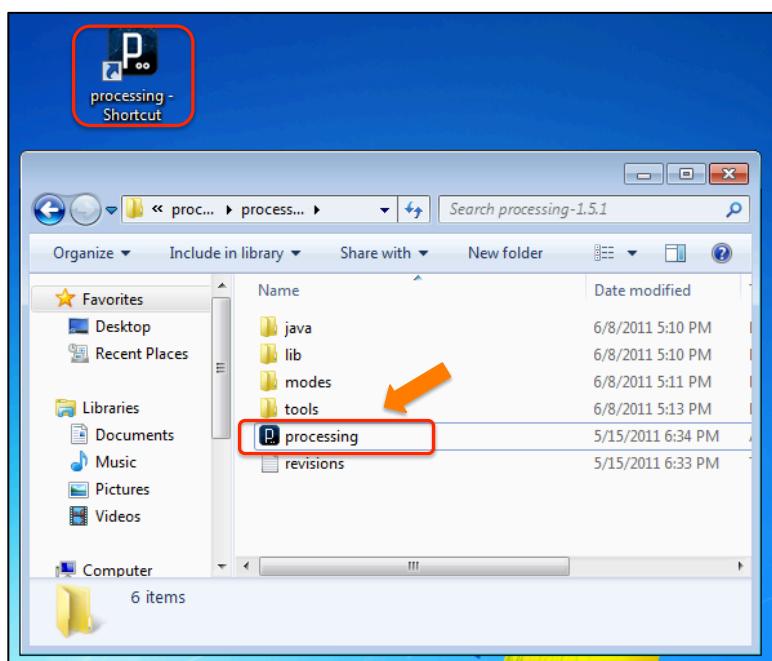
If you are interested in receiving updates about Processing, submit your email through this form. Your email will only be used to send infrequent updates about Processing. It will not be sold or shared.

Step 2. Double-click (total twice) the zipped file to see its content. You will see folders such as 'java', 'lib', 'modes', and 'tools' as well as files such as 'processing' and 'revisions'. Double-click 'processing' and follow the instruction to extract the content onto your computer.

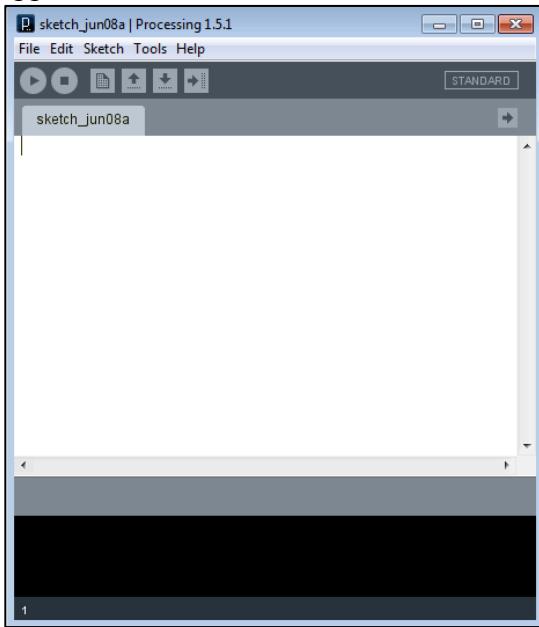




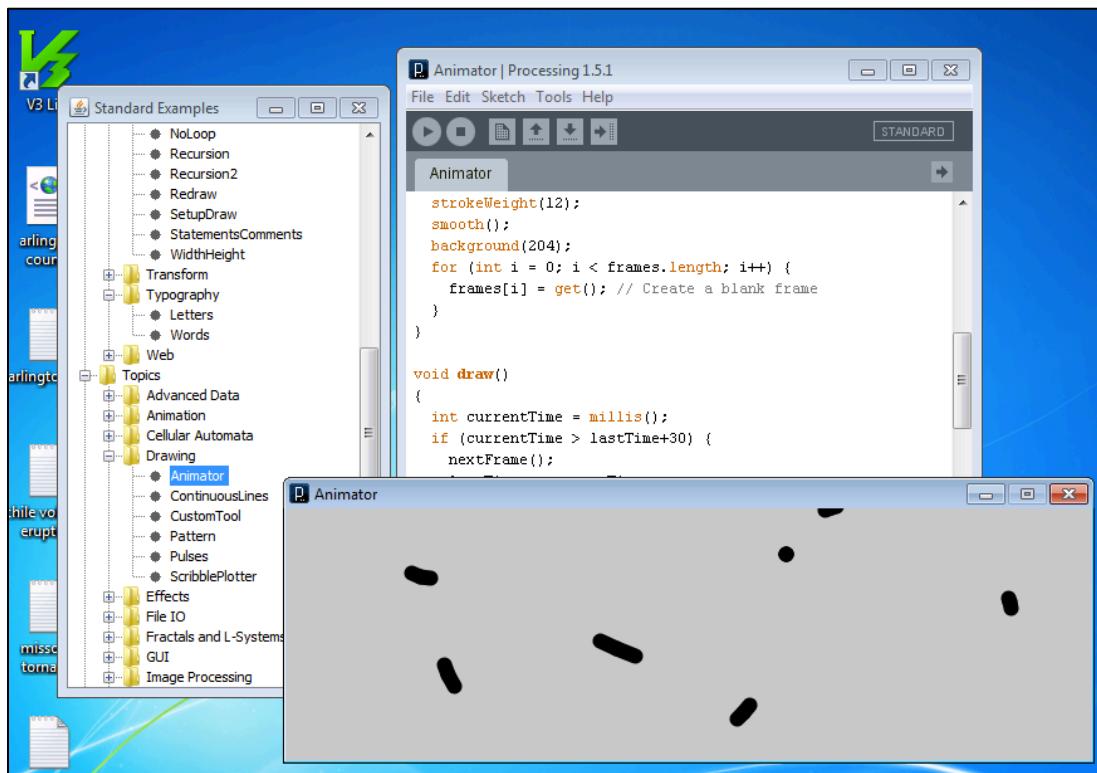
Step 3. After extraction is done, make a shortcut icon in the Desktop screen for easy access.



Step 4. Run Processing by double-clicking the shortcut icon. Its interface window appears.



Step 5. Test with an example sketch. Go to ‘File’ → ‘Examples’. It will open a ‘Standard Examples’ window. Select an example sketch by double-clicking one, and then run it by clicking the play button below the task bar, or by going to ‘Sketch’ → ‘Run’. The image below shows an example sketch, ‘Animator’.



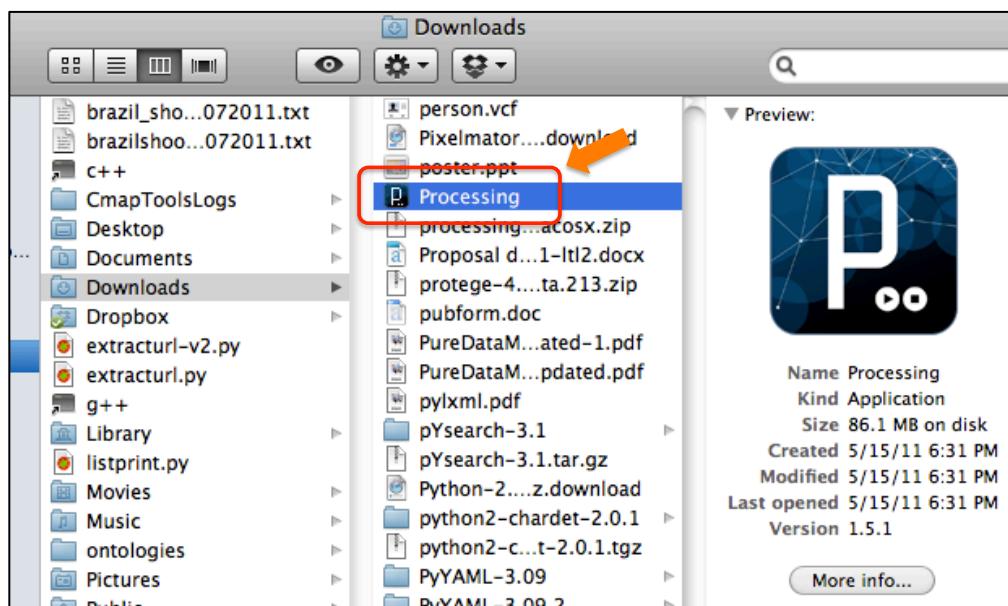
This completes an installation of Processing on a Windows PC.

Processing Installation on a Mac Machine

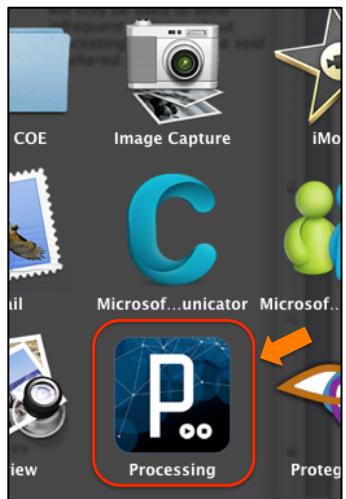
Step 1. Go to <http://processing.org/download>. Click ‘Mac OSX’ link to download a zipped file. Processing-1.5.1-macosx.zip is 50.5 MB in size.

The screenshot shows the 'Download' section of the Processing website. It includes a legal notice about liability, a 'Resources' sidebar with links like Tutorials, Examples, and Troubleshooting, and an 'Announcements' section with an email sign-up form. The main content area shows download links for various platforms: Linux, Windows, Mac OSX (highlighted with a red box and an orange arrow), and Windows (Without Java). A note below the links provides details about revisions and changes. The date '1.5.1 | 15 May 2011' is also present.

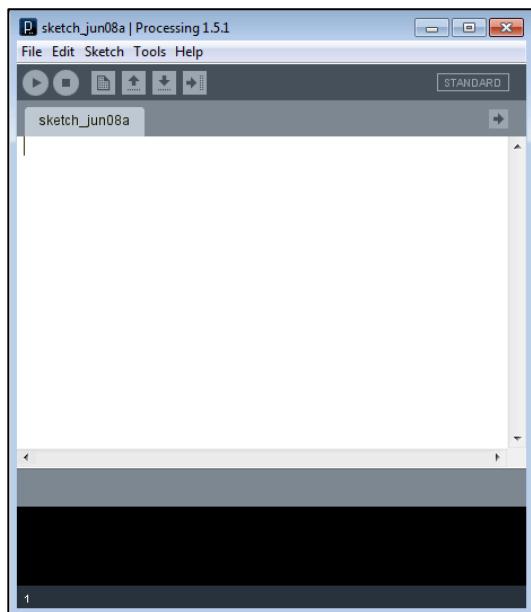
Step 2. Double-click the file to unzip it. Then an application with the Processing logo appears in Downloads folder.



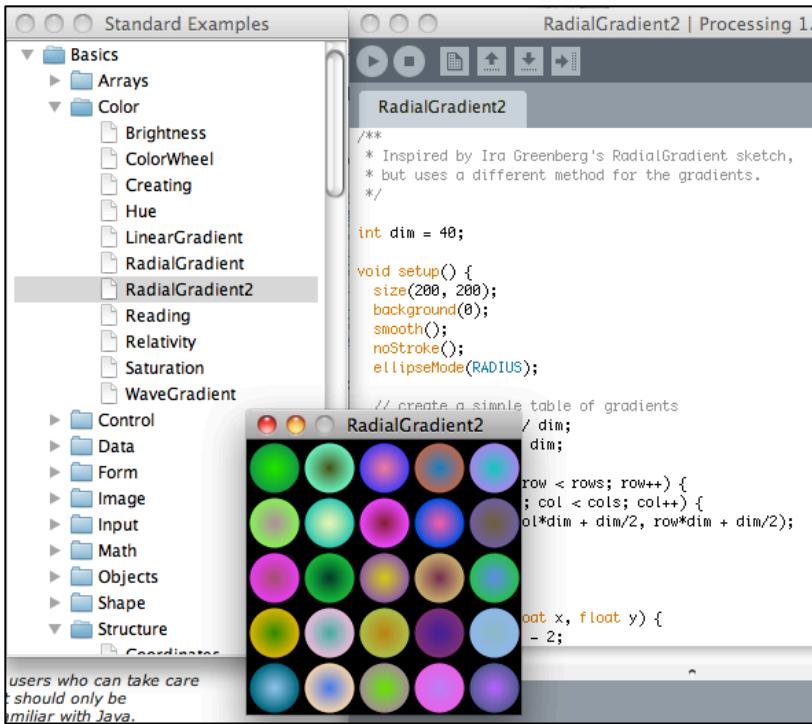
Step 3. Move the Processing application from Downloads folder to Applications folder using drag-and-drop.



Step 4. Click the Processing icon in Applications folder to run it. The processing interface window appears.



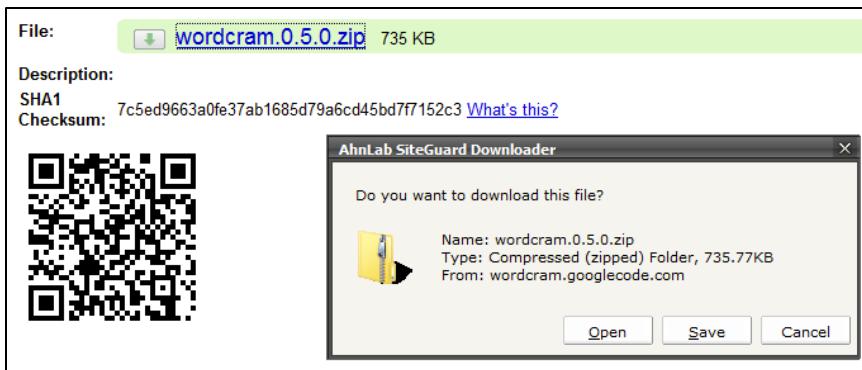
Step 5. Test with an example sketch. Go to ‘File’ → ‘Examples’. It will open a ‘Standard Examples’ window. Select an example sketch by double-clicking one, and then run it by clicking the play button below the task bar, or by going to ‘Sketch’ → ‘Run’. The image below shows an example sketch, ‘RadialGradient2’ in ‘Color’ folder.



This completes an installation of Processing on a Mac machine.

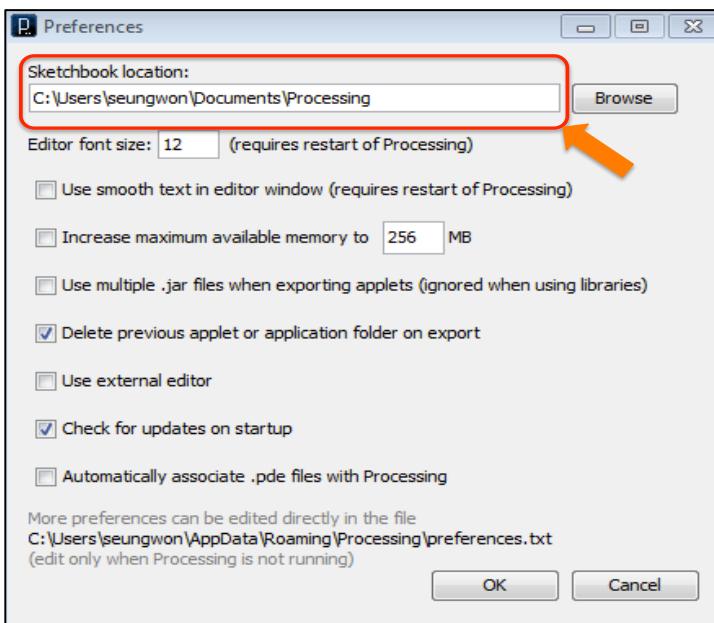
WordCram Installation (after installing Processing)

Step 1. Go to WordCram installation page at <http://code.google.com/p/wordcram/wiki/Installing>. Download a zipped file ‘wordcram.0.5.0.zip’ by following the ‘Download’ link under ‘Details’. Once downloaded, double-click it to unzip it. The unzipped folder name is ‘wordcram.0.5.0’.

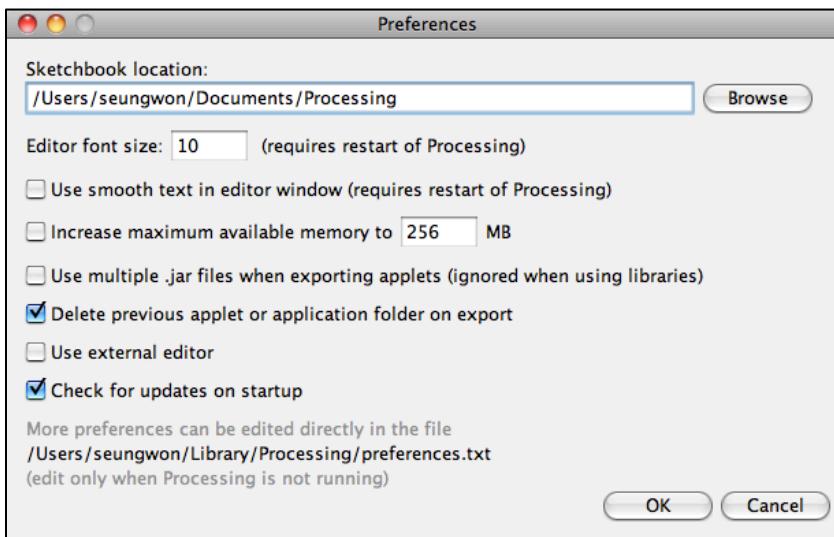


Step 2. Find out your Processing Sketchbook folder.

Go to ‘File’ → ‘Preferences’. It will open a window. Processing Sketchbook folder location is specified below ‘Sketchbook location’. The location of the Sketchbook folder in the example below is at ‘C:\Users\seungwon\Documents\Processing’.

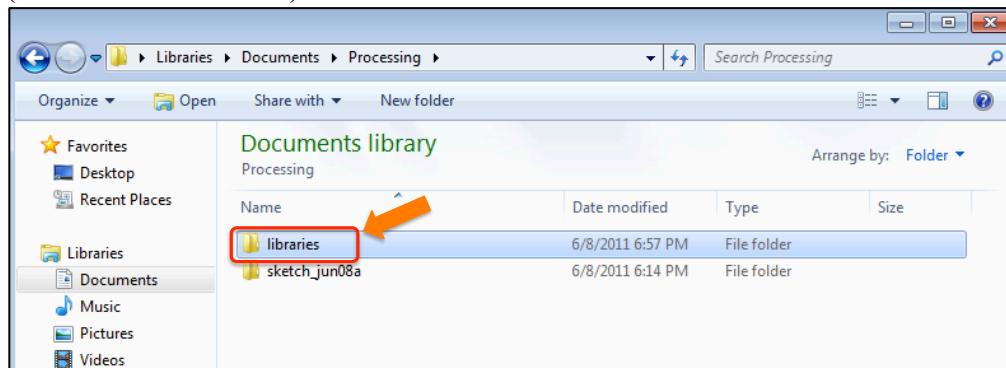


For a Mac machine, the Sketchbook location looks, for example, “/Users/seungwon/Documents/Processing”.

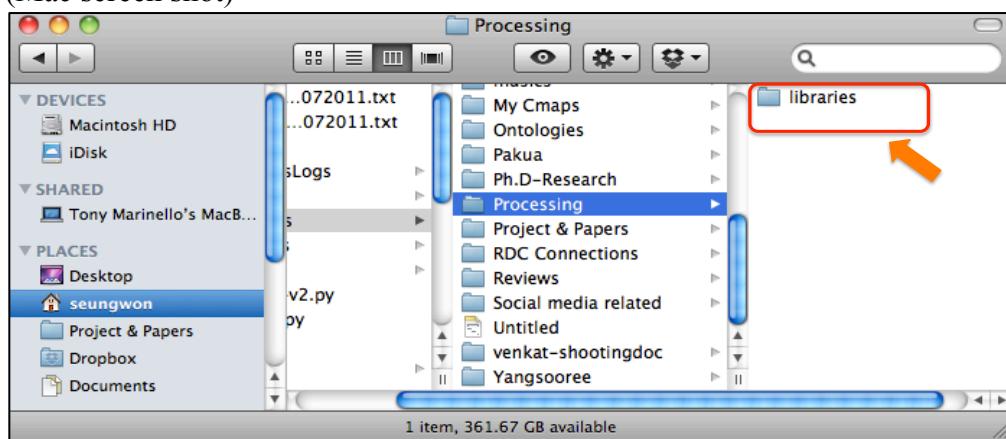


Step 3. Open a file browser and go to that Sketchbook folder. Then, create a folder named, ‘libraries’ if it does not exist there.

(Windows screen shot)



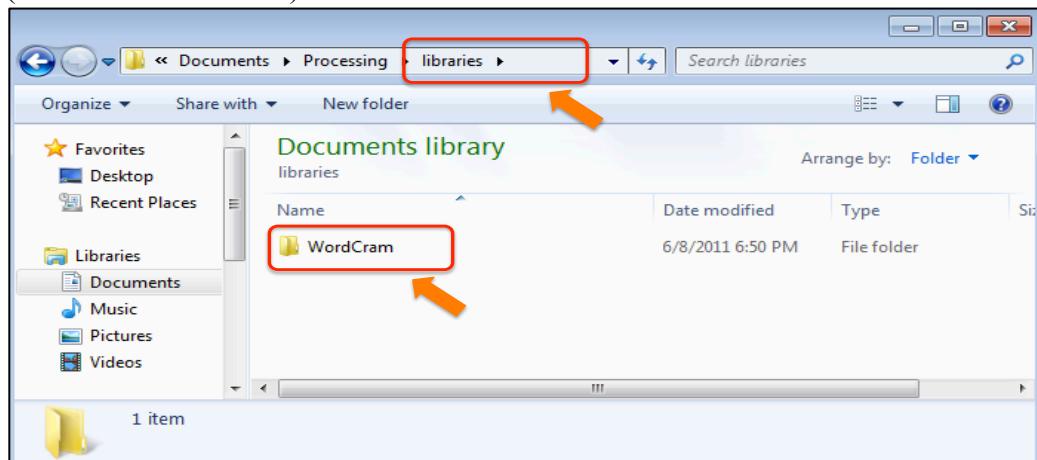
(Mac screen shot)



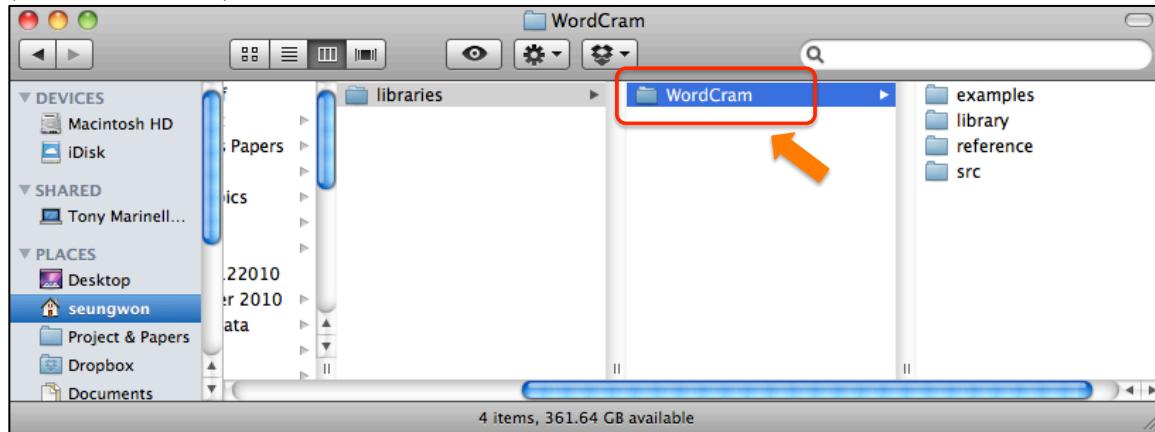
Step 4. Copy the folder named 'WordCram', which is located inside the unzipped folder, 'wordcram.0.5.0'. (For a Mac machine, 'WordCram' folder is created in the same folder, where wordcram.0.5.0.zip is located, once this zip file is unzipped.)

Then paste the entire content of the 'WordCram' directory into the 'libraries' folder that you created in Step 3. Restart Processing to make changes to be effective.

(Windows screen shot)

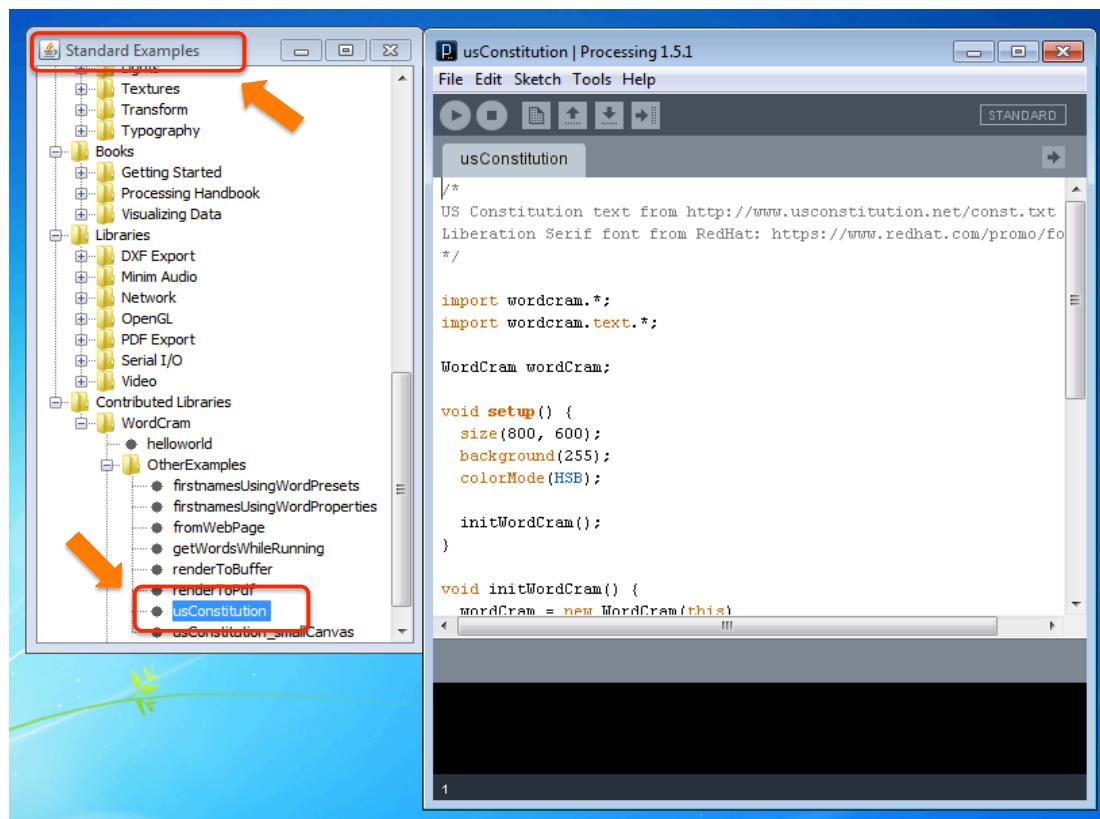


(Mac screen shot)

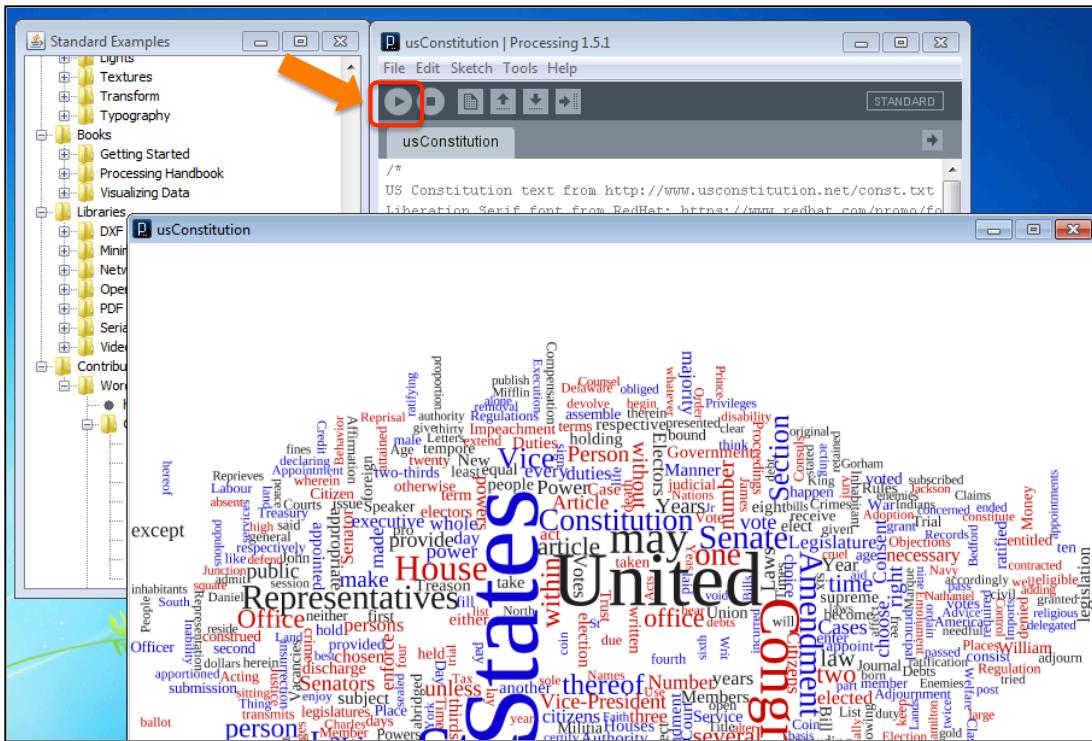


Step 5. Testing an example of the WordCram library.

Go to 'File' and select 'Examples'. 'Standard Examples' window will open. Expand 'WordCram' folder under 'Contributed Libraries' folder on the bottom of the window. Expand 'Other Examples' folder and double-click 'usConstitution' sketch to open.



Step 6. Click the play button under the task bar to visualize a word cloud of the US constitution. If you see a beautiful word cloud opened up in a window, then your WordCram library is successfully installed.

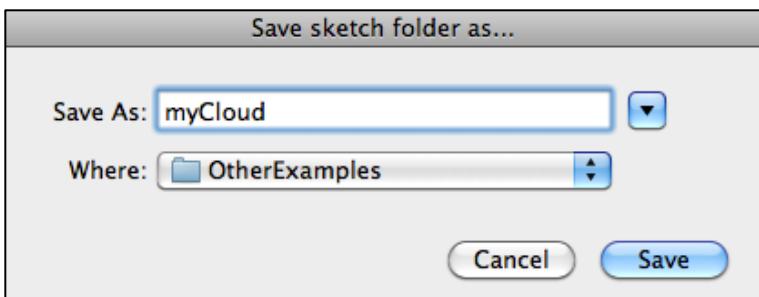


At this point, both Processing and WordCram have been installed successfully. The next is to connect them to a dynamically updated tweet text file on a server.

1.3. Connecting WordCram/Processing Sketch with Processed Tweet Text File

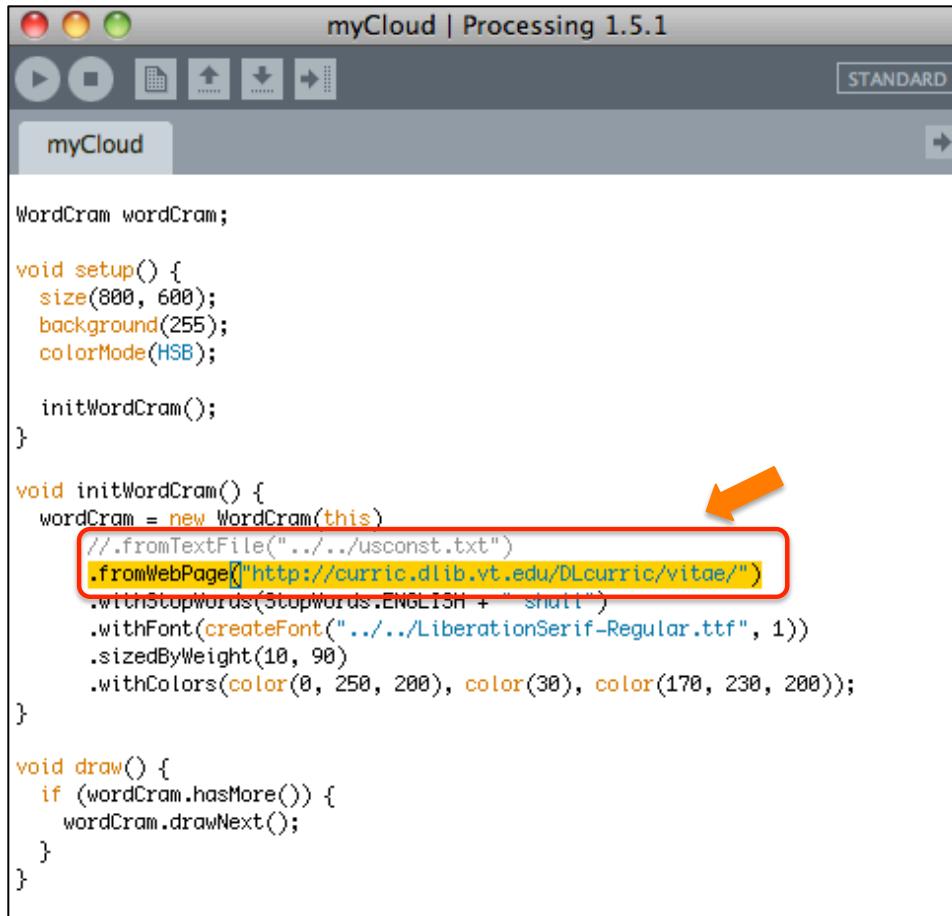
Step 1. Using usConstitution example as a template.

Go to ‘File’ and select ‘Save as’ to save the ‘usConstitution’ example as another name, for example, ‘myCloud’. You can save it under the folder, where usConstitution is saved.



Step 2. Accessing a text file in a server.

Comment out ‘.fromTextFile("../usconst.txt")’ line by adding two slashes in front of it, and add ‘.fromWebPage("<URL to the text file>")’ below the commented line. It allows the Processing sketch to use the text file in a server as an input. You can experiment with a URL to your homepage and see how it looks.



```

myCloud | Processing 1.5.1
STANDARD
myCloud
WordCram wordCram;

void setup() {
  size(800, 600);
  background(255);
  colorMode(HSB);

  initWordCram();
}

void initWordCram() {
  wordCram = new WordCram(this)
  // .fromTextFile("../usconst.txt")
  .fromWebPage("http://curric.dlib.vt.edu/DLcurric/vitae/")
  .withStopWords(StopWords.ENGLISH + "shut")
  .withFont(createFont("../LiberationSerif-Regular.ttf", 1))
  .sizedByWeight(10, 90)
  .withColors(color(0, 250, 200), color(30), color(170, 230, 200));
}

void draw() {
  if (wordCram.hasMore()) {
    wordCram.drawNext();
  }
}

```

Step 3. Changing to a horizontal layout.

Words that are placed vertically may not be comfortable to read. The default layout setting in WordCram is a mixed mode that places some words vertically and other words horizontally. To make all words horizontal:

- Add ‘Anglers ang;’ (including the semicolon after ‘ang’) following the ‘WordCram wordCram’ line.
- Add ‘.withAngler(ang.horiz())’ line following the ‘.fromWebPage(...’ line that we added in Step 2.
- Save the sketch and run it to see the changes

```

import wordcram.*;
import wordcram.text.*;

WordCram wordCram;
Anglers ang;

void setup() {
    size(700, 500);
    background(255);
    colorMode(RGB);

    initWordCram();
}

void initWordCram() {

    //int everytenmin = (minute() / 10) * 10;
    wordCram = new WordCram(this)
/*        .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/"+"libya-"+hour()+"-
        .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/tweettext/libya-current")
/*        .withStopWords(StopWords.ENGLISH + " RT Libya") */
        .withAngler(ang.horiz())
        .withFont(createFont("LiberationSerif-Regular.ttf", 1))
        .sizedByWeight(40, 110)
        .withColors(color(50), color(100), color(150), color(200), color(250))
}

```

Step 4. Changing the color setting.

You can make the words either color or gray scale. If you add a single number inside parentheses of ‘color(...)', it is interpreted as a gray scale. For RGB color mode, please add three numbers separated by commas (e.g., color(150, 255, 150) makes a bright green color). Numbers from 0-255 are allowed.

```

void initWordCram() {

    //int everytenmin = (minute() / 10) * 10;
    wordCram = new WordCram(this)
/*        .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/"+"libya-"+hour()+"-
        .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/tweettext/libya-current")
/*        .withStopWords(StopWords.ENGLISH + " RT Libya") */
        .withAngler(ang.horiz())
        .withFont(createFont("LiberationSerif-Regular.ttf", 1))
        .sizedByWeight(40, 110)
        .withColors(color(50), color(100), color(150), color(200), color(250))
}

```

Step 5. Adjusting the canvas size, minimum and maximum font sizes.

Canvas size can be adjusted with ‘size(width, height)’.

```
import wordcram.*;
import wordcram.text.*;

WordCram wordCram;
Anglers ang;

void setup() {
    size(700, 500);
    background(255);
    colorMode(RGB);

    initWordCram();
}
```



Try different numbers in ‘.sizedByWeight(minimum font size, maximum font size)’.

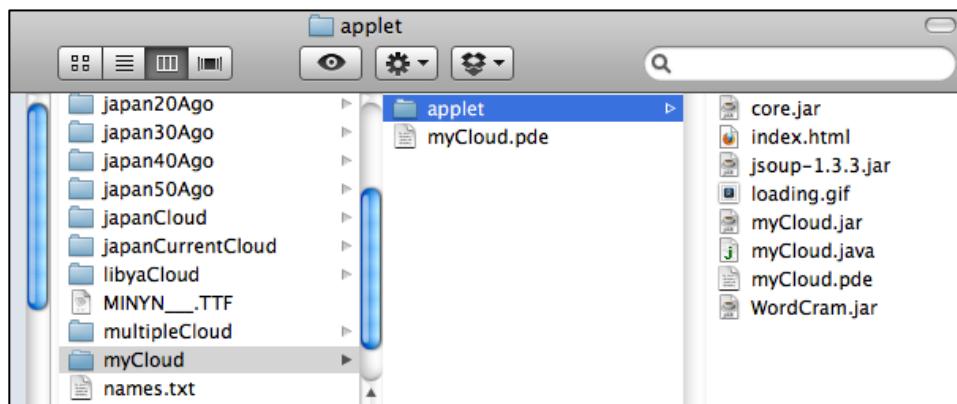
```
void initWordCram() {

    //int everytenmin = (minute() / 10) * 10;
    wordCram = new WordCram(this)
    /*    .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/" + "libya-" + hour() + "
        .fromWebPage("http://mule.dlib.vt.edu/~seungwon/tweettext/libya-current")
    /*    .withStopWords(StopWords.ENGLISH + " RT Libya") */
    .withAngler(ang.horiz())
    .withFont(createFont("LibertineSerif-Regular.ttf", 1))
    .sizedByWeight(40, 110)
    .withColors(color(50), color(100), color(150), color(200), color(250))
}
```



Step 6. Exporting to an applet.

Applet is a program written in the Java programming language. It can be included in an HTML page and run on the browser of a client’s machine. In Processing, go to ‘File’ and select ‘Export Applet’. Then a pop up window appears. Upload the files in the ‘applet’ folder to your server. Then, the ‘index.html’ file will display the word cloud that you created.



Exercise

1. Create a word cloud using the New York Times web site (<http://nytimes.com/>) or your personal homepage URL.
2. Adjust settings such as layout and color based on the given instructions.
3. Another URL is given to each participant, which links to a pre-processed tweet text fetched every five minutes from your archive.
4. Replace the URL in your New York Times (or your homepage) word cloud with the provided one.
5. Compare your dynamic word cloud with the actual tweets (by searching with your key phrase at Twitter.com).
6. Does your word cloud give a snapshot of what is happening in your issue/event?

2. Analyzing Tweets with Python Scripts and Term Extraction API

The basic algorithm for text analysis in word cloud creation is to count word frequencies from input texts. For more meaningful content analysis, terms and phrases can be extracted using the term extraction application programming interface (API) and Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK).

2.1. Useful Unix/Linux Commands

There are some useful commands to use when working with scripts and APIs in either Linux or Mac OS X systems.

- ssh: Linux Secure Shell
Provides access to a Linux system using password encryption in the login process.

Usage

shell> ssh seungwon@newyork.cc.vt.edu [hit enter key]

Then, you will be prompted to enter a password

- scp: Secure copy.
Scp allows to copy files across an ssh connection.

Usage

shell> scp [[user@]from-host:]source-file [[user@]to-host:][destination-file]

shell> scp dlrl@georgia.dlib.vt.edu:/home/dlrl/testfile.txt /home/tmp

You will be prompted to enter a password. Once verified, the file ‘testfile.txt’ is copied to the folder ‘/home/tmp’ in the user’s computer.

- ls: List directory contents
ls lists information about the content of the current directory. With ‘-al’ option, detailed information is displayed, too.

Usage

shell> ls → list content of the current directory

shell> ls -al /home/seungwon → list content details of /home/seungwon directory

- cd: Change directory

Usage

shell> cd /home/seungwon/tweettext → go to /home/seungwon/tweettext directory

- pwd: Print the current working directory

Usage

shell> pwd → this will show you the path to the directory that you are in.

- cat: Concatenate files and print on the standard output. It is often used to view the content of a file quickly.

Usage

shell> cat /home/seungwon/tweet.txt → it shows the content of ‘tweet.txt’ file on the standard output

- vi and vim editors: Command line-based Linux file editor

Usage

shell> vi <file name> → this will open the file specified in a vi interface.

Once the file is open, you can edit/write when it is in input mode.

Entering Input Mode

a Add text after the cursor.
i Insert text before the cursor.

After finishing edits, push ‘esc’ key to enter command mode.

Command Mode

:w Write the file to disk.
:q Quit vi.
dd Delete an entire line where the cursor is located
yy Copy an entire line where the cursor is located

- crontab: This utility creates, replace, or edit a user’s crontab entry. The entry lists when and how often each task should be executed. It is used to schedule periodic background work.

Usage

shell> crontab -e [-e option is to edit the invoking user’s crontab entry]

To run Python or PHP scripts:

- shell> python <script name>
- shell> php <script name>

2.2. Terminology Extraction

Yahoo! TermExtraction API¹¹

This API allows extracting terms and key phrases from a textual input. This service is limited to 5,000 API calls per IP address per day for non-commercial use. The result is returned in XML format.

AlchemyAPI

It provides various services such as named entity extraction, concept tagging, keyword/term extraction, sentiment analysis, etc. through their application programming interface (API). The rate limits for a registered account is 1,000 calls per day. It can increase to 30,000 if you get permission from the AlchemyAPI company.

Exercise

1. Login to server, virginia.cc.vt.edu, using the account provided.
2. Under your home directory, /home/<account name>/, you will create 4 data files named, input1.txt, input2.txt, input3.txt, and input4.txt. Each of them will include a group of tweets you used for previous exercises.
3. Run a Python script located in your home directory to extract terms from those four input files. For example, you may run the script:

```
Shell> python term_extractor.py input1.txt
```

2.3. Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)

NLTK¹² is a powerful language analysis toolkit for Python. Exercises include identifying bigrams and trigrams using the provided Python script developed using NLTK.

Exercise

1. Login to server, virginia.cc.vt.edu, using the account provided.
2. Under your home directory, /home/<account name>/, a Python script “nltk_collocations.py” is located.
3. Run this script to find bigrams and trigrams from the input files, which were used in the previous exercise.

¹¹ <http://developer.yahoo.com/search/content/V1/termExtraction.html>

¹² <http://www.nltk.org/>