



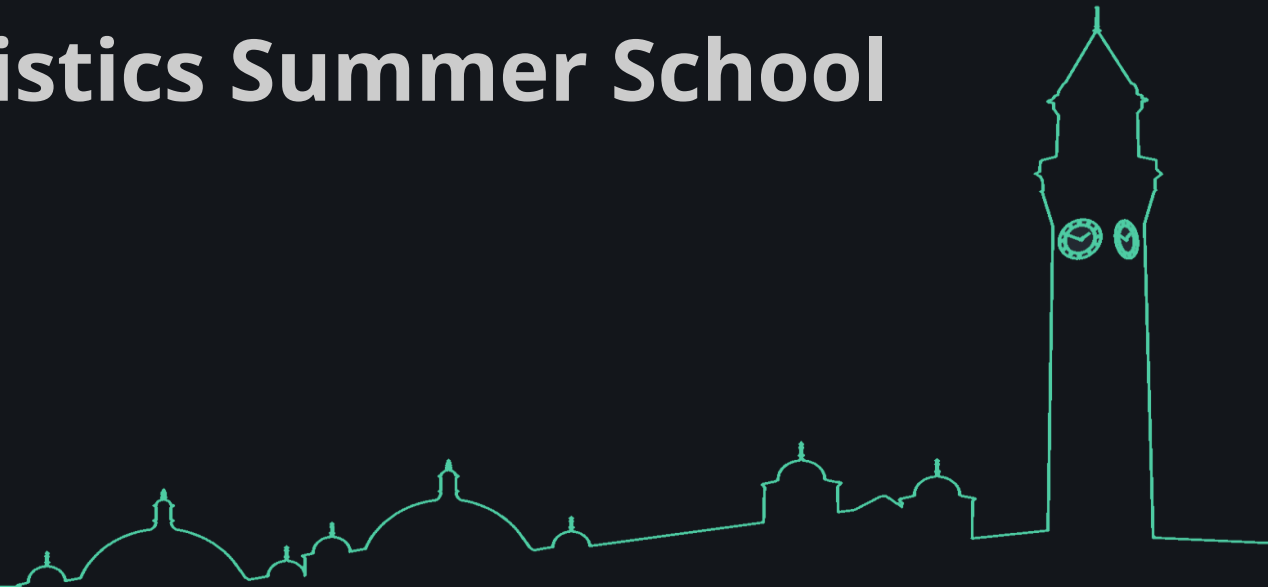
UNIVERSITY OF
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Web scraping with R

Part 3: Finding CSS selectors

Birmingham Corpus Linguistics Summer School

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Finding selectors

1. Use **Selector Gadget**
2. Use the **developer console** in your browser

<https://selectorgadget.com/>

SelectorGadget: point and click CSS selectors



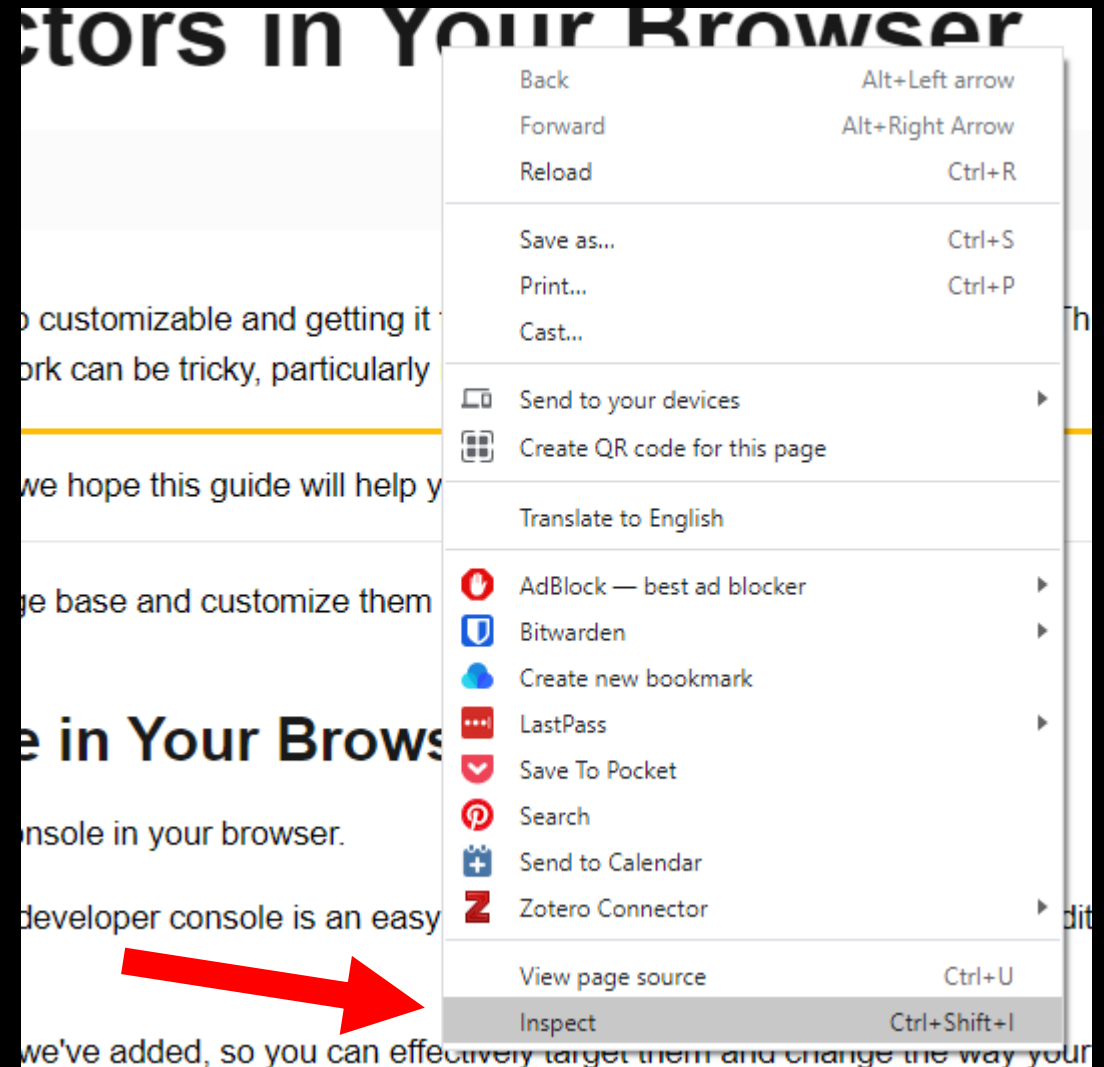
A screenshot of the SelectorGadget web application. The interface features a header with the title "SelectorGadget Screencast" and the name "from Andrew Cantino". Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "Hacker News", "new", "comments", "ask", "jobs", "submit", and a "login" button. The main content area displays a list of news items, each with a title, source, and points. The items are: 1. AnandTech: Microsoft Surface Review (anandtech.com) with 77 points; 2. Wired's Review of the Microsoft Surface (wired.com) with 42 points; 3. Zynga May Have Just Laid Off 100+ Employees From Its Austin Office (techcrunch.com) with 384 points; 4. The Hardware Renaissance (thehardwarerenaissance.com) with 366 points; 5. Don't Call The New Microsoft Surface RT A Tablet, This Is A PC (techcrunch.com) with 23 points; and 6. Why we buy into ideas: how to convince others of our thoughts (bufferapp.com). A red box highlights the "171 comments" link for the fourth item. On the right side of the interface, there are three icons: a heart, a clock, and a paper plane.

Using Selector Gadget

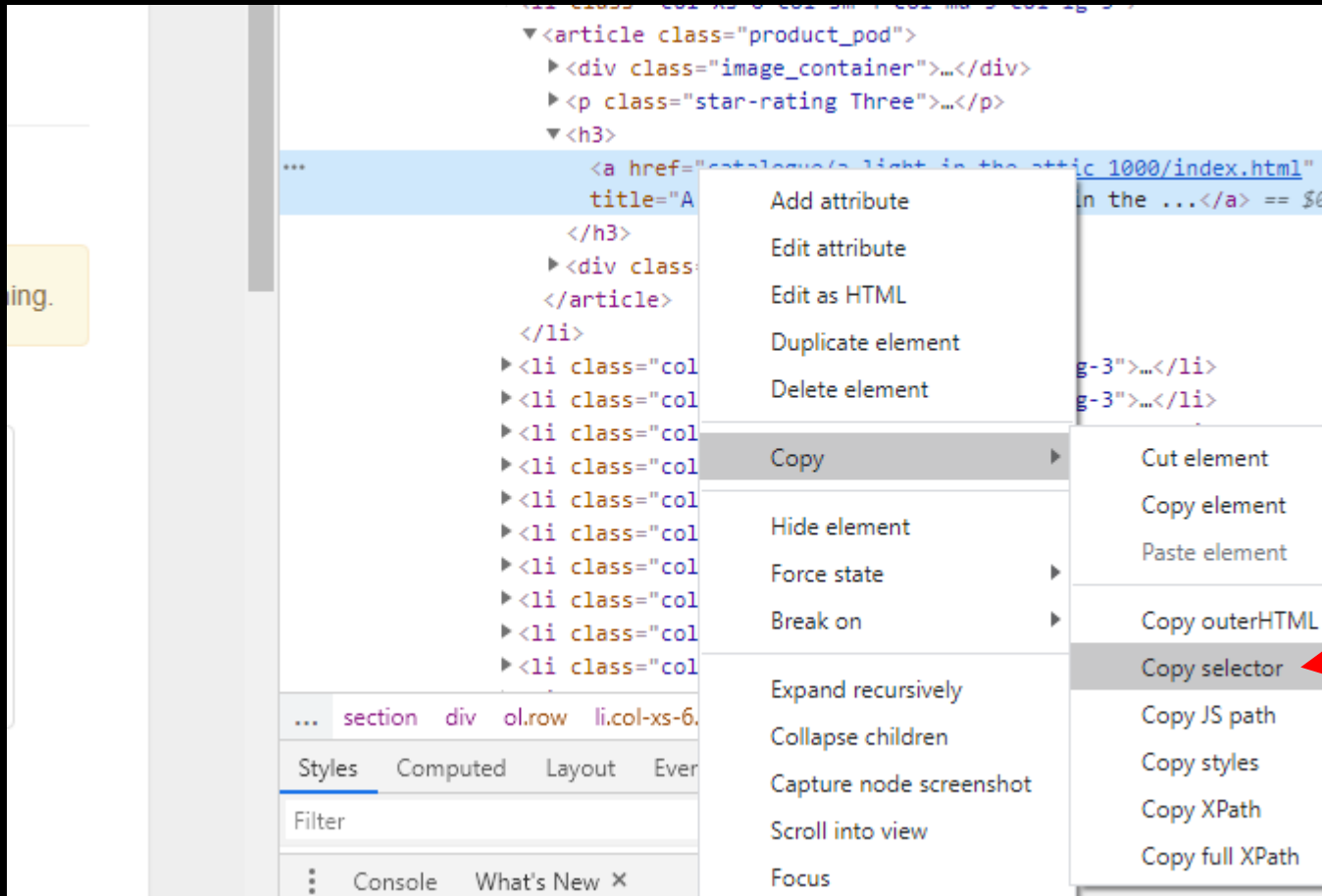
1. Click on the Selector Gadget extension in your browser
2. Click on one of the elements that you want to extract
 - This element should turn **green**, and *all the other elements on the page that share that element's selector* should be highlighted in **yellow**.
3. Click on one of these unwanted elements. It should turn **red**
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until only the elements you want are highlighted.

Using the developer console

In Google Chrome, you can right click on an element and select **“Inspect”**



Using the developer console



In the developer pane,
find the element you
want and right click,
go to

Copy > Copy selector

Using the developer console

You can find information about how to do this in different browsers here:

<https://support.helpdocs.io/article/eh3pzxNwYf-grabbing-css-selectors-from-your-browser>