

Automatic Sampling and Analysis of YouTube Data

Excursus: Retrieving Video Subtitles

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Retrieving Video Subtitles (1)

- Instead of transcribing a video, you can retrieve its subtitles.
- What research would you conduct with video subtitles?

Retrieving Video Subtitles (2)

- Retrieve a list of subtitles with
 - `tuber::list_caption_tracks` (costs around 52 quota)
- Videos with automatically created subtitle (*ASR*)
 - Always in English, even if video language is non-English
 - Can be downloaded, but text quality can be bad (especially if translated)
- Videos without any subtitles
 - Not sure if even possible because there always seems to be an *ASR*
- Videos with more than one set of subtitles
 - Examples: *ASR* and regular subtitle, more than one language, more than one subtitle for the same language
 - Can be downloaded, but subtitle for analysis must be selected
- Videos with **deactivated 3rd party contribution** return Error 403

Retrieving Video Subtitles (3)

- First, we need to get the list of subtitles for a video

```
caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet",  
video_id = "nI_OfkQOG6Q")
```

- Next, we need to get the ID of the subtitle and convert it to a string

```
ID <- toString(caption_list[1,"id"])
```

- Adapt the number to select the subtitle that you want (ASR = automatic sub)
- After that, we need to retrieve the subtitles and convert them from raw to char

```
text <- rawToChar(get_captions(id = ID, format = "sbv"))
```

- Now we can save the subtitles to a subtitle file

```
write(Text, file = "Captions.sbv", sep="\n")
```

Converting Subtitles

- Subtitles come in a special format called SBV
- The format contains time stamps etc. that we do not need for text analysis
- We can read the format with the package `subtools`

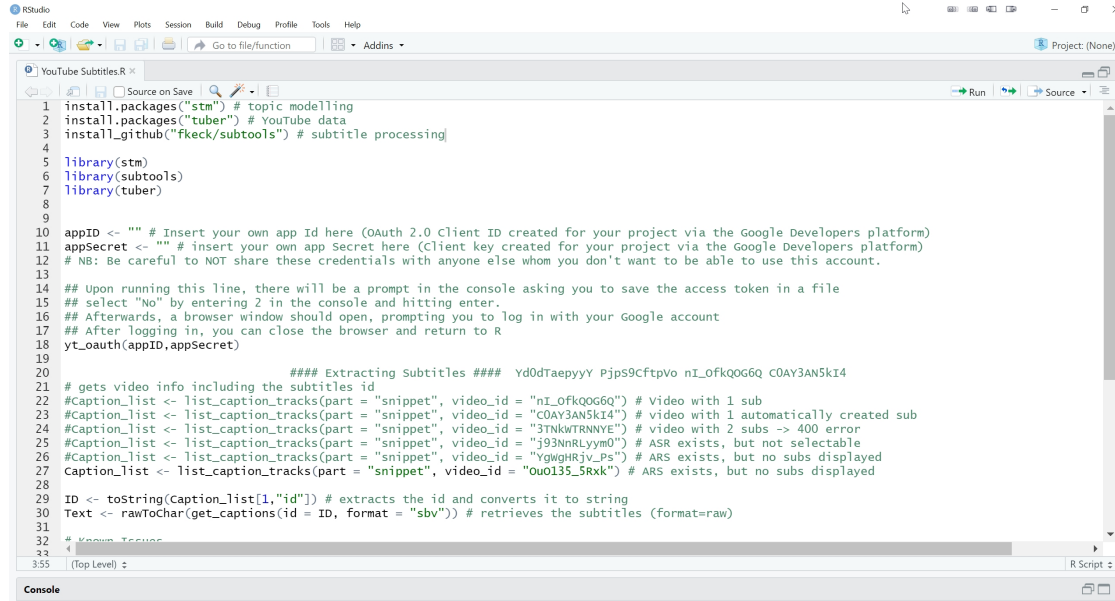
```
subs <- read_subtitles("Captions.sbv", format =  
"subviewer")
```

- With `subtools`, we can also retrieve the text from the subtitles

```
subtext <- get_raw_text(Subs)
```

- Now the text is ready for text analysis

Time for a Live Demonstration



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with a script editor open. The script is titled 'YouTube Subtitles.R' and contains R code for installing packages, setting up OAuth, and extracting subtitles from YouTube videos. The console at the bottom is empty.

```

1 install.packages("stm") # topic modelling
2 install.packages("tuber") # YouTube data
3 install_github("fkeck/subtools") # subtitle processing
4
5 library(stm)
6 library(subtools)
7 library(tuber)
8
9
10 appID <- "" # Insert your own app Id here (OAuth 2.0 client ID created for your project via the Google Developers platform)
11 appSecret <- "" # insert your own app secret here (Client key created for your project via the Google Developers platform)
12 # NB: Be careful to NOT share these credentials with anyone else whom you don't want to be able to use this account.
13
14 ## Upon running this line, there will be a prompt in the console asking you to save the access token in a file
15 ## select "No" by entering 2 in the console and hitting enter.
16 ## Afterwards, a browser window should open, prompting you to log in with your Google account
17 ## After logging in, you can close the browser and return to R
18 yt_oauth(appID, appSecret)
19
20 ##### Extracting Subtitles ##### Yd0dTaepyy PjpS9CftpVo nI_ofkQOG6Q C0AY3AN5kI4
21 # gets video info including the subtitles id
22 #Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "nI_ofkQOG6Q") # Video with 1 sub
23 #Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "C0AY3AN5kI4") # video with 1 automatically created sub
24 #Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "3TNkWTRNNYE") # video with 2 subs -> 400 error
25 #Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "j93NnRLyym0") # ASR exists, but not selectable
26 #Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "YgWgHRjv_Ps") # ASR exists, but no subs displayed
27 Caption_list <- list_caption_tracks(part = "snippet", video_id = "Ou0l35_5Rxk") # ASR exists, but no subs displayed
28
29 ID <- toString(Caption_list[1, "id"]) # extracts the id and converts it to string
30 Text <- rawToChar(get_captions(id = ID, format = "sbv")) # retrieves the subtitles (format=raw)
31
32 # Known Issues
33
34
35

```

Any questions?