

Touché @ CLEF 2020

1st Shared Task on Argument Retrieval



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Argument Retrieval

Argument and Argumentation

Argument:

- ❑ A conclusion (claim) supported by premises (reasons). [Walton et al. 2008]
- ❑ Conveys a stance on a controversial topic. [Freeley and Steinberg, 2009]

Conclusion *Argumentation will be a key element of conversational agents.*

Premise 1 *Superficial conversation (“gossip”) is not enough.*

Premise 2 *Users want to know the “Why” to make informed decisions.*

Argumentation:

- ❑ Usage of arguments to achieve persuasion, agreement, ...
- ❑ Includes rhetorical and dialectical aspects.

Argument Retrieval

Shared Tasks

Task 1: Supporting argumentative conversations

- ❑ Scenario: Users search for arguments on controversial topics
- ❑ Task: Retrieve “strong” pro/con arguments on the topic
- ❑ Data: 300,000 “arguments” (short text passages)

Task 2: Answering comparative questions with arguments

- ❑ Scenario: Users face personal decisions from everyday life
 - ❑ Task: Retrieve arguments for “Is X better than Y for Z?”
 - ❑ Data: ClueWeb12 or ChatNoir [\[chatnoir.eu\]](http://chatnoir.eu)
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- ❑ Run submissions similar to “classical” TREC tracks
 - ❑ Software submissions via TIRA [\[tira.io\]](http://tira.io)

Lab Project

Milestones

- ❑ **Data Analysis** Descriptive statistics, highlighting variables of interest.
- ❑ **Technology Stack** Decide upon the software libraries you are going to use.
- ❑ **Vertical Prototype** Working prototype with a basic retrieval model.
- ❑ **Refined Prototype** Prototype that uses an advanced/refined retrieval model.
- ❑ **Deployment on Tira** We will give a tutorial on Tira during the semester
- ❑ **Evaluation** Evaluate the results of your retrieval models.
- ❑ **Documentation** Write a README; incl. all commands for deployment.
- ❑ **Report** Write the final report of up to max. 10 pages.