

Proposal for Project - Citation Format Generator for CUHK(SZ)ers

Background & Problem

Every time we write a paper, how to do citation is always a big headache. Since there are different types of citation sources and format styles, it is hard for us to remember them all and follow the corresponding regulations.

There indeed exist many online citation machines to meet our demand, but they have many disadvantages. First, citation machines in our own country tends to be simple and incomplete, which may not include the majority of citation sources and format styles. Second, as for foreign citation machines, it is hard for us to open their sites due to low broadband or a lack of VPN. Besides, we may do Chinese and English citations simultaneously when dealing with our papers, which is not achievable for a single citation machine in our country or the others. Furthermore, as current citation machines are set online, it can be easily influenced by other incidental factors. If we design our citation machine to be offline, then we can easily utilize them whenever and wherever we want, regardless of the condition of Internet.

Solution

We want to design an offline version of Citation Format Converter to help CUHK(SZ) students who struggle in the citation work. In our widget, we serve the choice of APA/MLA format, and Book/ Article/ Website source as well as the corresponding citation guidance. Then we provide the specific blocks for user to enter the source's information. Our widget will generate the "reference" and "citation within paper" for users.

Benefit

1. The offline version could save students' time while using it since it is independent with the network speed.
2. We combine APA and MLA converter in the same widget, which fulfils the whole demand of CUHK(SZ) students.
3. We distinguish different format styles between Chinese and English, which meets the demand of CUHK(SZ) students who cite both Chinese and English quotations.
4. The widget will provide simple citation example after user choose the format and source. Thus, the widget could also be used as "reference handbook".
5. We divide each source into detail. For example, when user choose APA format and Article source, we provide them further choices – Journal\ Magazine\ newspaper. Therefore, the result will be more accurate.

Functionalities

End Product: Paper

Pick Your Style Guide:

1. APA

Pick Your Source Type:

- Book
chapter, encyclopedia, online, print
- Article
journal, magazine, newspaper, online, print
- Website

2. MLA

Pick Your Source Type:

- Book
chapter, encyclopedia, online, print
- Article
journal, magazine, newspaper, online, print
- Website

We provides the general formats(within Paper and within References) and matching examples, which corresponds to the type of user's demands. Meanwhile, we generate the specific format and citation according to user's specific demnad/input, if there is any.

implementation

Due to the time limitation, we have not studied deep into the implementation part. Briefly, we divide our project into two parts: back-end design and GUI. We will use QT-Creator to establish a GUI project, and use some libraries(if necessary) to operate string stuffs. If the situation permits, we would try to do something else to make user experience more friendly. For instance, we try to operate Office Word directly in our final program.

Assignment of responsibility

Two of us are responsible for GUI and the other one is responsible for back-end design.

Members of Project Team

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