AutoCite: Citation Made Simple

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Abstract

Finding and maintaining a comprehensive bibliography is a challenging task - AutoCite takes care of the grunt-work so that you don't have to. We evaluate the performance of AutoCite on a variety of different papers and find that it does an excellent job of finding relevant references from a large candidate corpus.

1 Introduction

The bibliography section of every paper is of great importance, but simultaneously it is an almost universal annoyance. Even when an author has a good idea of the set of papers most related to their work, they still have to go through the effort of hunting down the proper citations, playing an awkward game of guess-the-conference with Google Scholar. Some authors solve this problem by constructing vast personal BIBTEX repositories and maintaining a rigid naming convention to avoid conflicts. While this scheme can be effective if one tends to work in a narrow area and re-uses most references multiple times, it breaks down if one writes about a variety of topics, and of course, it must be replicated by each new academic at the beginning of their career.

Academic search engines such as [3], [1], [2] have greatly simplified both the preliminary work of investigating an area of study, as well the hunting down of bibliography entries once a paper has been written. Unfortunately, these services fall down when it comes to identifying a set of papers most related to a reference document – it is left up to user to identify "interesting" keywords and to manually search for relevant papers, find or create the needed reference entry and to update their BIBTEX file.

AutoCite relieves most of the burden associated with citations, by automatically generating an appropriate BIBTEX file based on the content similarity against a large document corpus. While determining the exact set of references an author desires is an almost impossible goal, in our testing AutoCite consistently finds almost all the desired references for a paper and yields few false positives.

References

[1] Google Scholar, 2007.

[2] Microsoft Academic Search, 2009.

[3] GILES, C. L., BOLLACKER, K. D., AND LAWRENCE, S. Citeseer: An automatic citation indexing system. In *ACM DL* (1998), pp. 89–98.