

Web corpora

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Traditional corpora vs Web

- Brown or BNC: large infrastructural projects
- Texts of different kinds available on the Web
- deWac, ukWac, itWac, ruWac...
2 million Web pages, 2 billion words each
- deTenTen, enTenTen, itTenTen, ruTenTen...
8 million Web pages, 10 billion words each
- Common Crawl: 3 billion pages in all languages

Specialised domains

BNC arts,medical,natsci,socsci,techeng

Domains not well represented:

24 texts, 1.4 mln words for medicine

15 texts, 0.6 mln words for linguistics

4 texts, 0.1 mln words for chemistry

Example of corpus collection

- Keywords from Wikipedia's Renewable Energy category

fossil fuel	化石燃料	R{ископаемое топливо}
power station	发电厂	электростанция
hydroelectricity	水力发电	гидроэнергетика
photovoltaics	太阳能光伏	фотоэлектричество

- Queries to Yahoo: "photovoltaics "power station"
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	En	Ru	Zh(CN)	Zh(TR)
URLs:	5762	5991	674	870
Words (MW):	6.5	5.8	1.9	1.68

Assessing the composition by keywords

7467 renewable energy
4352 wind turbine
3973 fossil fuel
3127 greenhouse gas
3049 natural gas
2539 wind farm
2320 solar energy
2265 energy efficiency
1994 carbon dioxide
1920 solar cell
1782 wind energy
1722 generate electricity
1559 solar patch
1533 electricity generation

5629 источник энергия 'energy source'
4550 окружающий среда 'environment'
2754 электрический энергия 'electricity'
2710 солнечный батарея 'solar cell'
2274 солнечный энергия 'solar energy'
2106 природный газ 'natural gas'
1994 тепловой энергия 'thermal energy'
1870 возобновлять источник 'renewable energy'
1561 производство электроэнергии 'electricity generation'
1508 возобновлять источник энергия 'renewable energy source'
1439 изменение климат 'climate change'
1401 парниковый газ 'greenhouse gas'
1315 альтернативный источник 'alternative source'
1289 энергия ветер 'wind energy'

Crawling

- Parallel and near-parallel websites:
`https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine_digital/en/`
- Simple crawling: `wget -m --no-parent`
- Focused crawling: selection of relevant pages
- Seed urls → links from those pages → urls
- Focus on what is relevant:
 - ① Language: `glotlid`, `langdetect`
 - ② Keywords: on-topic keywords as extracted from seed urls

- `https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/spatchcock-barbecue-chicken`

→ `https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp`

→ `https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/review/best-air-fryers`

Parameters of cleaning

- Relevance: technical or not
- Duplicates and near-duplicates
- Saving to TXT from PDF, PPT, DOCX
Encodings: not necessarily UTF8
- HTML boilerplate
- Trafilatura library in Python:
`text=extract(fetch_url(url), output_format="xml")`

Webpage boilerplate

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page for "Ontology (information science)". Several elements are circled to illustrate the "webpage boilerplate":

- Navigation and Interaction:** The left sidebar contains links like "Main page", "Contents", "Featured content", "Current events", "Random article", "Search", "Interaction" (with links to "About Wikipedia", "Community portal", "Recent changes", "Contact Wikipedia", "Donate to Wikipedia", "Help"), "What links here", "Related changes", "Upload file", "Special pages", "Printable version", "Permanent link", "Cite this page", and "Languages" (with links to "العربية", "Cesky", "Dansk", "Deutsch").
- Article Title and Summary:** The main heading "Ontology (information science)" and the subtext "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" are circled.
- Article Content:** The introductory paragraph and the bulleted list of ontology components are circled. The list includes:
 - Individuals: instances or objects (the basic or "ground level" objects)
 - Classes: sets, collections, concepts, types of objects, or kinds of things^[1]
 - Attributes: aspects, properties, features, characteristics, or parameters that objects (and classes) can have
 - Relations: ways in which classes and individuals can be related to one another
 - Function terms: complex structures formed from certain relations that can be used in place of an individual term in a statement
 - Restrictions: formally stated descriptions of what must be true in order for some assertion to be accepted as input
 - Rules: statements in the form of an if-then (antecedent-consequent) sentence that describe the logical inferences that can be drawn from an assertion in a particular form
 - Axioms: assertions (including rules) in a logical form that together comprise the overall theory that the ontology describes in its domain of application. This definition differs from that of "axioms" in generative grammar and formal logic. In these disciplines, axioms include only statements asserted as *a priori* knowledge. As used here, "axioms" also include the theory derived from axiomatic statements.
 - Events: the changing of attributes or relations
- Related Topics:** The right sidebar, titled "Part of a series on Semantic Web", lists related topics such as "Background", "The World Wide Web", "The Internet", "Databases", "Semantic networks", "Knowledge bases", "Ontologies", "Sub-topics", "Linked Data", "Data Web", "Heterodata", "Distributed Data", "Ontologies", "Role bases", "Data Spaces", "Related Topics", "Web 2.0", "Web 3.0", "Plain Old Semantic HTML", "Search engine optimization", "Open Database Connectivity", "References", "Informal logic", "Knowledge management", "Topic Maps", "XML", "Description logic", "Standards", and "W3C Semantics".

Basic points for preparing your corpora

- Web corpora are easy to create
- Comparable queries usually lead to comparable corpora
- Use specialised keywords to control their domains
- Clean your data: Trafilatura library