

Coursera Capstone Project - The Battle of Neighborhoods

Introduction

Moving to a new place is a very exciting, time-consuming and stressing process. Among the reasons why people move to a new place are a new job, boring neighborhood, and etc. Finding an ideal place to live is very important for many people. When looking for a new place usually people pay attention the price and to the distance to workplace or to school. Since the searching process is very time-consuming, we rarely pay attention to amenities or places that are around the neighborhood we are planning to move. Time is a very expensive commodity, and unless one has a car then moving around a new city or neighborhood is hard. Hence, sometimes people end up feeling bored in a new neighborhood. An app or website showing which of the neighborhoods in a new city are ideal for us based on our preferences and hobbies and also are close to the workplace or school would be a good solution.

Data

The main data source will be Foursquare API, a social location service that allows users to explore the world around them. Using it we will access the data about the places around the neighborhoods in a city. The data will include name, category, latitude, longitude, rating, tips count, and etc. To do this we will need some information about the neighborhoods in a particular city such as name, latitude, longitude. This data can be scraped from Wikipedia.

First, if the person is moving from another city due to for example change of workplace and actually likes the current neighborhood, then he can enter the current neighborhood and we will find similar neighborhoods in a new city. Second, the person will be required to add information about their hobbies and the app will filter neighborhoods based on the requirements. Third, the address of the workplace or school can be entered, and the results will be sorted based on the distance.

The final result will be a map showing the filtered neighborhoods, as well as recommendations about the places the person should check out. These places will be sorted based on ratings.

Note: For capstone project we will assume that the person is moving to Toronto from New York and the workplace is IBM.