Final Project

June 1, 2024

1 Final Project

1.1 Description

This program is intended to check the author info of posts in a specific subreddit and make a list containing all of the author info. Users have the option to pick a specific subreddit and decide the number of submissions they want to generate.

1.2 Code

```python
[1]: # Log into Reddit (PRAW)

import praw
```

```python
[2]: # Set up Reddit connection

%run reddit_keys.py

reddit = praw.Reddit(
    username=username, password=password,
    client_id=client_id, client_secret=client_secret,
    user_agent="a custom python script"
)
```

```python
[3]: # Create a function called "check_author_info"

def check_author_info(subreddit_name, N):

    # Look up the subreddit from the function input, then find the "hot" list,
    →getting up to N submission
    submissions = reddit.subreddit(subreddit_name).hot(limit=N)

    # Turn the submission results into a Python List
    submissions_list = list(submissions)

    for submission in submissions_list:
        print("Info for submission: " + str(submission.title))
        print("  author: " + str(submission.author))
```

```
        print("  author's Link Karma: " + str(submission.author.link_karma))
        print("  author's Comment Karma: " + str(submission.author.
    ↪comment_karma))
        print("  author has a verified email address? " + str(submission.author.
    ↪has_verified_email))
        print("  author is a moderator of a subreddit? " + str(submission.
    ↪author.is_mod))
        print("  author has active Reddit Premium status? " + str(submission.
    ↪author.is_gold))
        print()
```

```
[4]: # Call the function (Ex. checking info from "cats" subreddit and getting 20␣
     ↪submissions)

     check_author_info("cats", 20)
```

```
Info for submission: Rule overhaul
  author: Merari01
  author's Link Karma: 177315
  author's Comment Karma: 504242
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? True
  author has active Reddit Premium status? True

Info for submission: My cat hates litter getting on her paws so this is how she
poops
  author: lmsprsnl
  author's Link Karma: 16865
  author's Comment Karma: 5072
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: What's a random food your cats like?
  author: LionExcellent
  author's Link Karma: 2459
  author's Comment Karma: 40
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: I lost a foster kitten today. Please share kind words.
Thank you.
  author: MikoGianni
  author's Link Karma: 14842
  author's Comment Karma: 29755
  author has a verified email address? True
```

author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: One year ago today we brought home our toasty boy, Arlo
    author: Peatrick33
    author's Link Karma: 42605
    author's Comment Karma: 64923
    author has a verified email address? True
    author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: My in-law's cat is a puddle.
    author: seandamn
    author's Link Karma: 11823
    author's Comment Karma: 10477
    author has a verified email address? True
    author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: This good boy found and alerted me to a brown recluse
spider in my bed last night. Send him praises please
    author: hufflepuff-is-best
    author's Link Karma: 27784
    author's Comment Karma: 10596
    author has a verified email address? True
    author is a moderator of a subreddit? True
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: What's a cute but annoying thing that your cat does? Mine
insists I work from my bed so she can be there with me. It's her favorite place.
    author: Ivana-Ema
    author's Link Karma: 3908
    author's Comment Karma: 679
    author has a verified email address? True
    author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Recommend names!
    author: chloecgp
    author's Link Karma: 1781
    author's Comment Karma: 379
    author has a verified email address? True
    author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
    author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Been told my Oven has no neck, and I argued with my friend.
Anyone sees Oven's neck though?
    author: Low_Ostrich_7263

```
  author's Link Karma: 3661
  author's Comment Karma: 1279
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: guess how much she weighs (i'm just curious how big/small
she looks to other people)
  author: gothhrat
  author's Link Karma: 8330
  author's Comment Karma: 43046
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Show me your cat's eyes
  author: BatCute6722
  author's Link Karma: 4165
  author's Comment Karma: 17
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Y'all I think I just got adopted by a cat.
  author: killer_icognito
  author's Link Karma: 38398
  author's Comment Karma: 95619
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Why does she react like this to the smell of toothpaste?
  author: snoobular
  author's Link Karma: 12198
  author's Comment Karma: 1033
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Those damn kids are on my lawn again!
  author: MeanCat4
  author's Link Karma: 91626
  author's Comment Karma: 21818
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Show me your cat's blep!
```

```
  author: mooseoreander
  author's Link Karma: 532
  author's Comment Karma: 735
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: She wasn't supposed to make it this far but today is her
first birthday and she is in full health
  author: guitar_up_my_ass
  author's Link Karma: 5205
  author's Comment Karma: 4151
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Is my boy fat?
  author: Budget-Series-7209
  author's Link Karma: 344
  author's Comment Karma: 1129
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: Saw this my neighborhood, broke my heart. RIP Sweet Bo,
gone but not forgotten
  author: InfluencedMarker
  author's Link Karma: 35290
  author's Comment Karma: 22672
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? True
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False

Info for submission: we know nothing about cats
  author: hedge_hobbit
  author's Link Karma: 2334
  author's Comment Karma: 149
  author has a verified email address? True
  author is a moderator of a subreddit? False
  author has active Reddit Premium status? False
```

1.3 Ethics Questions & Reflections

1.3.1 Question 1: Is it ethical to collect and store author information without their explicit consent?

Deontology focuses on adherence to rules and duties. From this standpoint, it would be unethical to collect and store author information without explicit consent because it violates the duty to respect individuals' privacy and autonomy. Authors have the right to control their personal information, and collecting data without consent breaches this right. Ignoring requirements for explicit consent can result in negative consequences. Additionally, collecting information without consent can damage the trust and reputation of the collecting entity, undermining future cooperation with authors. Utilitarianism assesses the morality of actions based on their outcomes. Collecting and storing author information without consent could be justified if it leads to significant benefits, such as advancing research or improving educational resources. However, if the potential harm outweighs the benefits, the action would be considered unethical. The balance of overall happiness and harm determines the ethicality.

1.3.2 Question 2: What are the ethical implications of potential inaccuracies in the collected author information?

Deontologists would stress the importance of accuracy and reliability in data collection. Providing inaccurate author information is unethical because it fails to uphold the duty of truthfulness and can lead to misinformation. This can harm the authors' reputations and mislead users of the data, violating ethical obligations to all parties involved. Utilitarianism would evaluate the impact of inaccuracies on overall well-being. If the inaccuracies are minor and do not significantly affect users or authors, the practice might still be acceptable if the overall benefit of providing the information outweighs the harm. However, if the inaccuracies lead to substantial negative consequences, such as damaging authors' reputations or leading to poor decision-making based on faulty data, then the practice would be considered unethical. The net effect on well-being guides the ethical assessment. From a virtue ethics perspective, inaccuracies in collected author information reflect poorly on the character of data collectors or authors, suggesting a lack of diligence, honesty, and integrity. Virtue ethics emphasizes cultivating these virtues, which are essential for maintaining trust and respect in the academic community. Ensuring accurate information demonstrates a commitment to ethical excellence and professional responsibility.

1.3.3 Question 3: Is it ethical to share the collected author information with third parties for purposes such as marketing or data analysis?

Deontology would argue that sharing collected author information with third parties for purposes like marketing or data analysis is unethical if done without explicit consent from the authors. This practice violates the duty to respect individuals' privacy and control over their personal information. Ethical behavior requires obtaining explicit permission before sharing data with third parties. Utilitarians would weigh the consequences of sharing the information. If sharing the data leads to significant benefits, such as improved services or products, and the potential harm to the authors is minimal or mitigated, it might be considered ethical. However, if the sharing results in privacy violations, misuse of data, or significant harm to the authors, the practice would be unethical. The overall outcome of the action determines its ethicality.