Information Retrieval from Legal Documents (IRLeD)

Track description:

In a Common Law System, great importance is given to prior cases. A prior case (also called a precedent) is an older court case related to the current case, which discusses similar issue(s) and which can be used as reference in the current case. A prior case is treated as important as any law written in the law book (called statutes). This is to ensure that a similar situation is treated similarly in every case. If an ongoing case has any related/relevant legal issue(s) that has already been decided, then the court is expected to follow the interpretations made in the prior case. For this purpose, it is critical for legal practitioners to find and study previous court cases, so as to examine how the ongoing issues were interpreted in the older cases.

With the recent developments in information technology, the number of digitally available legal documents has rapidly increased. It is, hence, imperative for legal practitioners to have an automatic precedent retrieval system. The task of precedence retrieval can be modelled as a task of information retrieval, where the current document (or a description of the current situation) will be used as the query, and the system should return relevant prior cases as results.

Generally, legal texts (e.g., court case descriptions) are long and have complex structures. This makes their thorough reading time-consuming and strenuous. So, apart from a precedence retrieval system, it is also essential for legal practitioners to have a concise representation of the core legal issues described in a legal text. One way to list the core legal issues is by keywords or key phrases, which are known as "catchphrases" in the legal domain.

Motivated by the requirements described above, we have the following two tasks:

1. **Catchphrase extraction**

FIRE-2017-IRLeD   Track Description   Dataset & Evaluation Plan   Important Dates   Co