On Data: Collection & Creation

CS 485, Fall 2023
Applications of Natural Language Processing
https://people.cs.umass.edu/~brenocon/cs485_f23/

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[Slides by Laure Thompson]

Upcoming

- This week - no required readings
  - Today: datasets
  - Thursday: overview of final project & NLP applications broadly
- This week: starting HW2
- Next Tuesday: no class (Monday schedule day)
- Upcoming in Oct & Nov
  - First assignment for final project, the project proposal, will be due AFTER HW2
  - HW3 then Midterm (early Nov) after that

HW2: group annotations

- Form groups of 2-4 (group formation **due this Friday**)
- We will distribute data: tweets
- As a group:
  - Look at the data (reference set)
  - Formulate an annotation task
- Then individually:
  - Annotate a dataset
  - Upload your annotations **(due next week)**
- Finally, individually with your group's data:
  - Analyze agreement rates
  - Try out logistic regression for classification
  - (Final individual HW submission, in ~2 weeks)

General NLP problem

Input: some text x (e.g. sentence, document)

Output: a label y (from some finite label set)

Goal: learn a mapping function f from x to y

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What is a dataset?

A collection of texts and metadata

Text sources can be used in many ways

Text Unit

· Full Volume

Metadata / Label Examples

· Author, Translator

· Genre, Literariness

· Publication Year

Text sources can be used in many ways

Text Unit

· Full Volume

· Passage

Metadata / Label Examples

· Author, Translator

· Genre, Literariness

· Publication Year

· Elapsed Narrative Time

· Event Depiction

· Sarcasm, Irony, Suspense

· Memorability

Text sources can be used in many ways

Text Unit

· Post

Metadata / Label Examples

· Popularity, Controversy

· Topic / Post Type

· Shared News Source

Text sources can be used in many ways

Text Unit

· Post

· Interaction
  (Post + Replies)

Metadata / Label Examples

· Popularity, Controversy

· Topic / Post Type

· Shared News Source

· Agreement / Disagreement

· Moderator Intervention

· Condescending Language Use

Where to get datasets?

Off the shelf ⟵———————————⟶ Build from scratch

Where to get datasets?

Off the shelf ←————————————→ Build from scratch

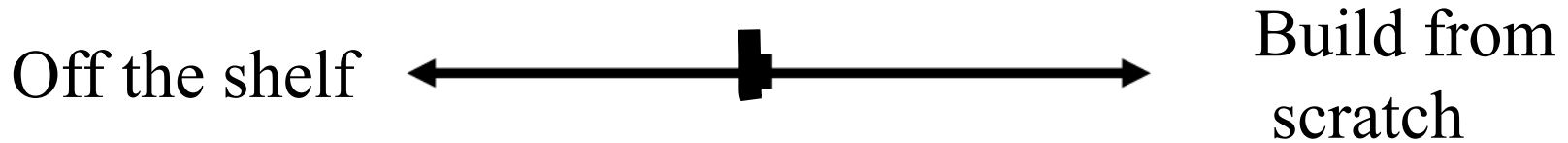## Q: What are the pros & cons of each strategy?

Off - the - Shelf Datasets

There are many publicly available datasets.

· https://huggingface.co/datasets

· https://nlpprogress.com/

· https://index.quantumstat.com/#dataset

Middle ground: Augmentation & Curation

Off the shelf ⟷ Build from scratch

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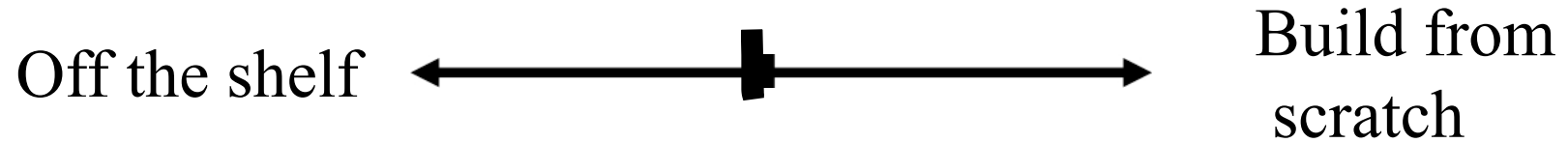
· Use a subset of the texts based on metadata, content, etc.

· Combine texts from multiple data sources

· Align text and metadata from different sources

· Add new labels to an existing dataset

Example: CMU Movie Summary Corpus

Dataset: 42,306 movie plot summaries extracted from Wikipedia +aligned metadata extracted from Freebase
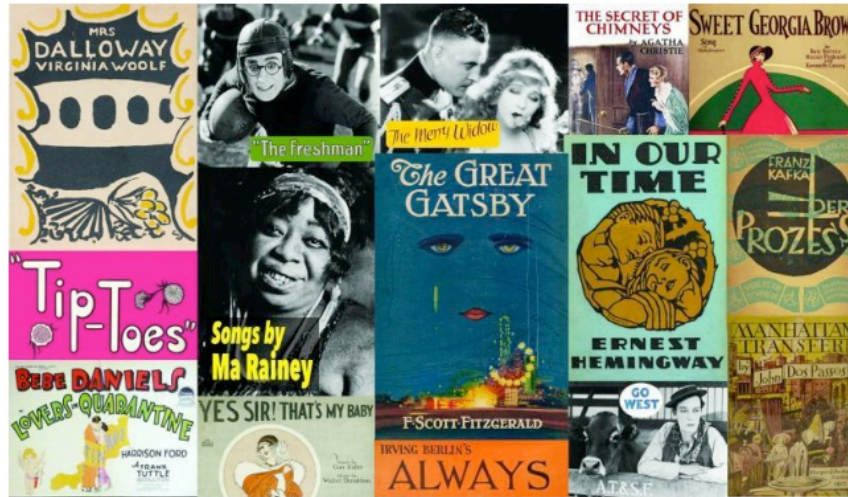
 http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~ark/personas/

So you want to collect some data

1. Is it ethical to collect this data?
2. Is this data publicly available?
3. Is this data protected by copyright?

U.S. Public Domain

Published works enter the public domain **95 years** after their first publication date (in the U.S.)

As of this year, works published in **1925** entered the US public domain!

How to collect data?

· Digitization & Transcription

· APIs

· Bulk downloads / database dumps

· Web scraping

Digitization

Watch out for OCR errors!

THE WALWORTH MURDER.

The Story of a Member of the Bereaved Family.

Scenes Beside Chancellor Walworth's Coffin.

A Letter Written in Blood and Sanded with Powder.

A Wife's Silent Agony—Another Life To Be Saved at the Expense of the Memory of the Dead—Sad and Stern Facts which Must Come Out.

The Walworth tragedy, which a few days ago startled the community to its depths, has not yet lost any of its morbid interest for the public. Every little detail and surrounding of the horrible murder, the antecedents of the victim and his slayer, even everything that remotely concerns the bereaved family, is discussed with that unhealthy gout which only a satiety of crime can produce. The demeanor of the wretched prisoner, the characteristics of the father and the sufferings of the unfortunate mother are still subjects of all-absorbing interest in gossiping circles.

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APIs

Some examples:

· (now mostly closed) Twitter: twitter- api

· (now mostly closed?) Reddit: pushshift.io

Big problem: value of data and questions about tech company scrutiny

Q: What are the incentives for maintaining APIs?

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LibraryThing APIs

Notice: LibraryThing APIs currently disabled

The LibraryThing APIs are disabled until further notice (last updated on 1/28/2021). If you would like to be notified when they are re-enabled, please email info(AT)librarything.com.

Does Goodreads support the use of APIs?

🕐 Dec 17, 2020 · Knowledge

As part of our overall commitment to continually improve our data management, Goodreads no longer issues new developer keys for our public developer API and plans to retire the current version of these tools. While we assess the value of APIs to determine how to support in the future, we continue to support active API users who meet our terms of service. You are welcome to give your feedback on Goodreads APIs by completing the developer API survey.

Bulk Downloads

Wikipedia: dumps.wikimedia.org/

Court Listener: courtlistener.com/api/bulk - info/

Web Scraping Responsibly

Be considerate

· Check Terms of Service

· Check for robots.txt

· Use low request rates

Web Scraping Demo

- For fetching webpages from the command line: wget, curl
- For parsing .html source files: BeautifulSoup (bs4)

Books

Wikipedia derived datasets

Wikitext : High quality subset of Wikipedia pages.

WikiMatrix : Parallel sentences (across languages) of Wikipedia

SQUAD: Question - answer dataset that relies on Wikipedia text

There's no such thing as raw data.