Bilkent University, Computer Engineering Department, Fall 2016

CS533: Information Retrieval Systems

Assignment No. 1 - News Chain Annotations

Assignment Date: 06.10.2016 - Due Date: 17.10.2016, till 23:59

1. Background

News portals daily present lots of news obtained from various sources to news consumers. In our case, given a news article as input, **a news chain** is defined as a set of news articles that expose a story about the input news. Members of a news chain are related to each other directly or indirectly (i.e. explicit or implicit(hidden) relations between news articles can be seen).

A news article is defined as **relevant to the input**, in this annotation, if its members belong to the same topic with the input. A news topic is defined as a set of news articles strongly related to a real life event. For instance, "flood disaster of İstanbul in 2009" is a news topic.

A transition between two adjacent news articles is meaningful or coherent if they both are about the same topic or otherwise, the topic transition between them can be interpreted as logical. For instance, the transition between two news articles that are about "flood disaster of 2009" and "economical progress of Istanbul in 2009" can be interpreted as logical.

2. Tasks

In this assignment, you are required to complete total of 12 tasks. In each task, you need to;

(i)   read all news articles in the given chain in order; for instance, you have to read 3rd news article after you read 2nd news article, in other words you cannot read 5th news article in the chain after reading 2nd news article (news content can be viewed by double-clicking),

(ii)   answer all questions given at the bottom of the chain. Note that each question must be answered independently from other tasks/chains.

3. Details of the Annotation Program

You are going to complete your tasks via the annotation program that can be downloaded from (**http://cs.bilkent.edu.tr/~ctoraman/annotation.rar**). You need Internet connection to login into the annotation program. **You must connect to Internet inside of Bilkent Campus or via Bilkent VPN.**

3.1 Login Screen

Each annotator has a username and password to login. Username and passwords will be sent to your e-mail.

3.2 Familiarity Screen

In this window, you are asked to answer about your pre-knowledge on 3 news topics: "Ukrainian riots", "Truck pulled over in Hatay while going to Syria", and "Match-fixing case of Fenerbahçe". Figure 1 shows a sample familiarity screen. Once you finish answering these questions, you will not see this screen again.

3.3 Tasks Screen

In this screen, you have 12 tasks to complete, regarding 3 news topics that are given in Section 3.2. Each task has a news chain that includes several news articles.

Annotation status is given as "completed"/"not completed". Start and end of annotation process are given in date format. The time spent during annotation process is calculated as well. Note that you can quit your annotation process with the "close without saving" button. You can also change your "completed" annotation whenever you want. Figure 2 displays a sample tasks screen.
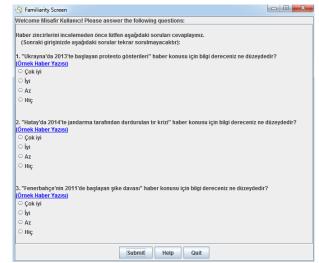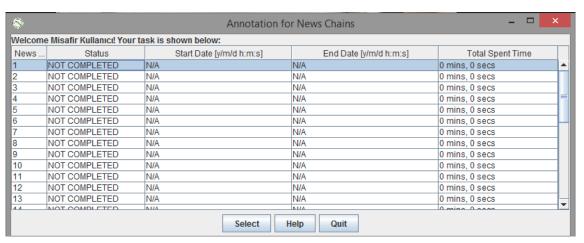

Figure 1. A sample familiarity screen.

Figure 2. A sample tasks screen.

3.4 Annotation Screen

A sample annotation screen is given in Figure 3. This window consists of two sub-panels:

(i)   *Top- panel: News Chain*
        News articles in the chain are listed in the top of window. News snippets (first 200 characters or less if length is less than 200) are given with the publication date in this list. If you double-click on a news snippet, then full news content will be displayed.

(ii)   *Bottom- panel: Questions*
        Your task, news chain annotation, will be accomplished at the bottom panel. Here, you will see several questions regarding the given news chain. **Note that you have to first read all news articles of the chain in order starting from first news article.** At the bottom of this panel, the "Save and Complete" button can be used to save the given answers and finish the task. The "Close without Saving" button quits the task regardless of saving any given answer.

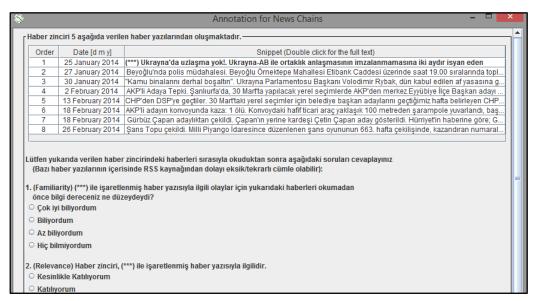   **Note that each question must be answered independently from other tasks/chains.**

Figure 3. A sample annotation screen.

4. Grading

Your assignment will be finished when status of 12 tasks become "COMPLETED". **Your assignment will be graded based on the reliability of your answers.** Please contact *ctoraman@cs.bilkent.edu.tr* for any assistance and questions.