Review Paper

Machine Learning Approach upon Text from Varied Publishing Formats

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Abstract

The paper aims toward reporting the approach to challenges for conversion of documents from varied publishing formats to machine readable formats. This research objective falls in the field of information retrieval. In order to represent the documents available in machine readable format from different publishing format, there is a need to identify, access, process and finally represent the information in such a manner which makes it ready for easy machine access. The above mentioned task involves different types of challenges as discussed in detail below. These challenges are mentioned with approach as proposed to solve information retrieval task in huge text corpora.

Keywords: Document Section Extraction, Machine Readable Document, Text Extraction.

Introduction

In order to publish a document, every publisher follows one or the other publishing format for structured representation and easy access of information available in the document. There is no limit to the formats used by publishers while publishing a document. Some of which are described below:

Different level of sections: The front index of two different documents as shown in Figure-1 and Figure-2, have different level of sections. Also, Figure-1 has different level of sections within the document as the section 1.3 has no sub-sections but 1.4 has two sub-levels.

Incomplete Front Index: As shown in Figure-2 the front index is incomplete, it only shows highest level section in front index.

Varied way of section indexing: The section indexing is done in different ways as shown in Figure-1, top section is X.Y, its sub-section is X.Y.Z and its sub-sections are not indexed.

State-of-Art in Text Pre-Processing

In the field of text pre-processing, the efforts are put forward in series of research. There are proposed methodologies existing for conversion of publishing document (PDF) into editable machine readable format.

As explained by Dr. Arpana Rawal, a methodology for conversion of PDF document into machine readable format with proper tagging to each separate block of information in the corpus. This tagging process, tags the paragraphs of the corpus in a format described below:

<chapter_number.section_number / paragraph_number. page_ numbers>

Also, it extracts the front index, grown front index and back index are stores it in a file for narrowing the search space for accessing the information for search query.

Tamir Hassan explained about converting a PDF document into the HTML along with figures and images in their original style as present in the PDF, but is working only to the PDF version 1.4¹.

Pre-Processing Methodology (Proposed)

There are a series of steps involved in pre-processing the text of the publishing documents available in Portable Document Format (PDF). In order to execute this task, a series of process are required to be performed:

Content Extraction from PDF: In order to represent document into editable machine readable format, there is a need for extraction of content available in PDF format for processing. For the above mentioned purpose PDF text extracting tools like iText, PDF Box are utilized. The Figure-4 shows the entire text extracted from PDF, losing its original style and generating .html file of the extracting information as paragraphs.

Extracting the document Structure: Since there are numerous formats for the publishing documents, it is required to extract the sections hierarchy of the document and creation of section structure of .xml of the sections and storing them in .xml format before the creation of machine readable format for entire document, which is shown in Figure-5.

Generation of complete .xml document: After creation of .xml document containing the sections hierarchy of the document, it is required to add the content in each section and creation of final editable machine readable format document. In this the

extracted text content, shown in Figure-4 is associated with the sections of document as shown in Figure-5. The Figure-6 gives the .xml with the text associated in appropriate section through inevitable human intervention.

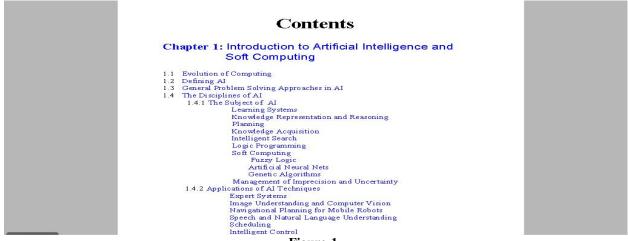
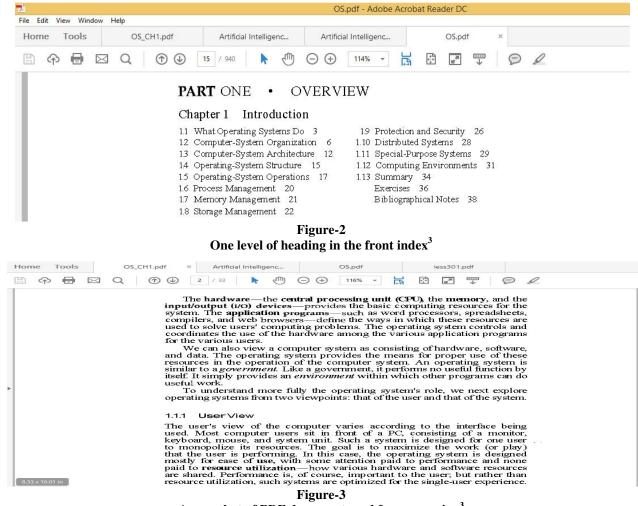


Figure-1 Three level of heading in the front index²



A snapshot of PDF document used for conversion³

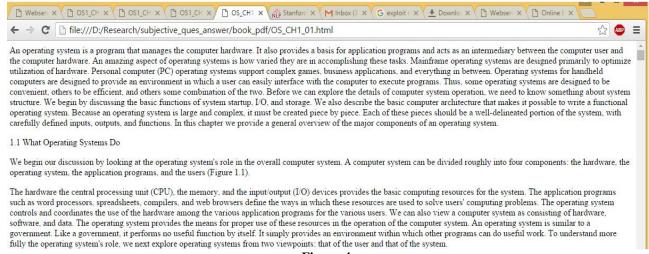


Figure-4 html document of text extracted from PDF shown in Figure-3



Figure-5
The .xml for all levels of section/ sub-sections of document shown in Figure-3

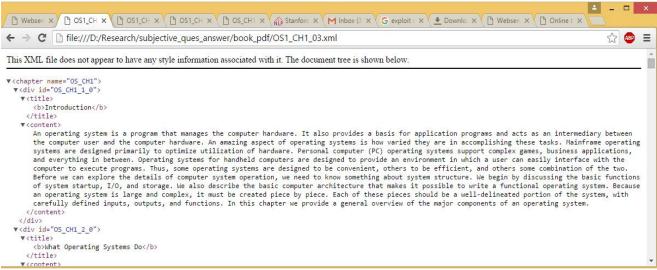


Figure-6 .xml with text associated with contents of document shown in Figure-3



Figure-7
The front index having all levels of section / sub-section hierarchy for front index shown in Figure-2

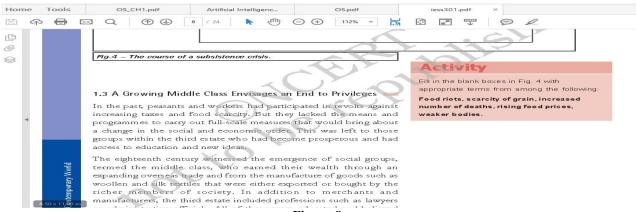


Figure-8
A snapshot of a PDF document having watermark⁴

Considerable Issues

After performing the above mentioned methodology over numerous documents, it was observed that there are few challanges which seem barrier for converting the PDF document into a machine readable format. These barriers with the approach used to tackle them are mentioned below: i. The presence of watermark in the document. Figure-8 shows a document with the watermark present in it, is required to be removed for getting the desired .xml file, which is done through human intervention over the text extracted by PDFBox and the desired .xml for the PDF is generated is shown in Figure-9. ii. The difficulty in recognizing the chapter demarcations is resolved by separating PDF file of the whole text corpus (for current reference, and e-book) into respective number of PDF corpora for all the chapters of the e-book. This trimming step can be implemented as a ready-to-use tool by taking page range of each chapter. iii. The presence of different font text, lack of line separator between section title and content, page headers coming as part of text are dealt with overriding the methods of PDFBox library. iv. The different hierarchical levels of sections in document are dealt with creation of document section's machine readable document and then inserting the text to each

section by inevitable stages of human intervention. As described in Figure-5 which is all levels of section/ sub-section hierarchy in .xml format and the Figure-6, .xml after text associated with all section/ sub-section. v. With the baseline text corpus for all chapters which is now available in .xml format, the front index given at the beginning of document, now can be grown into front index covering all levels of section / sub-section hierarchies. This can be generated automatically by removing textual para-phrased content and tagging each section with its indexes. This is illustrated in Figure-7, where the all level of section / sub-section hierarchy is generated in .xml format for the front index shown in Figure-2.

Conclusion

The generation of machine readable document from the PDF can assist in variety of purposes related to text mining. It gives the utility to extract the searched information and application of processing tools over the content of a PDF document. The document converted in .xml format so it is also possible to make it portable over the network or access the information of the over the network.

Res. J. Computer and IT Sci.

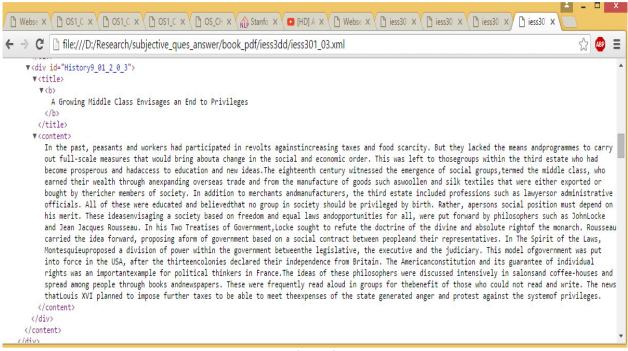


Figure-9
A snapshot of .xml document for document in Figure-7

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