Outline

Part 3: Existing Resources and Benchmark Data

3.1 Existing Corpora

3.2 Debate Portals and Community Platforms

Debate Portals and Community Platforms – Overview

Slides by Henning Wachsmuth and Benno Stein

Debate portals and more

- The web as a corpus
- Relevant web resources
- Leveraging iDebate

Community platforms

- Towards a web of arguments
- Existing community platforms
- The Argument Web

The Web as a Corpus of Argumentation

Manual annotation of argumentation is particularly expensive

- Extensive training needed, crowdsourcing problematic   (Habernal 2014)

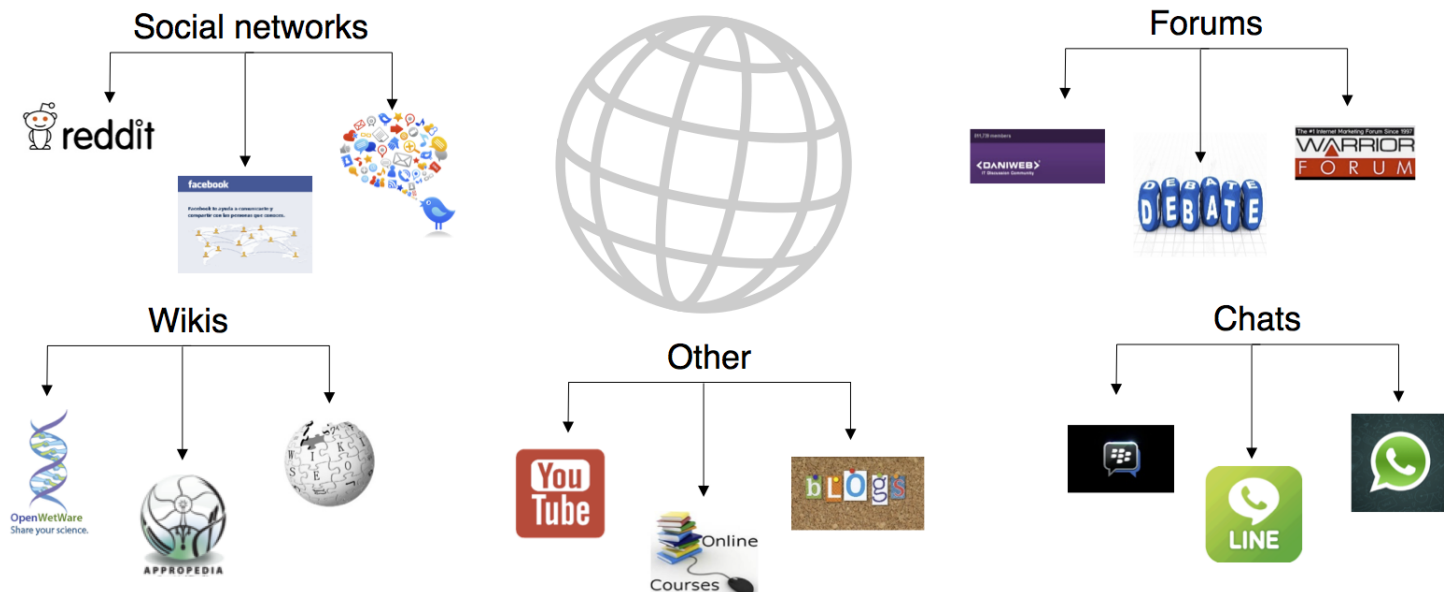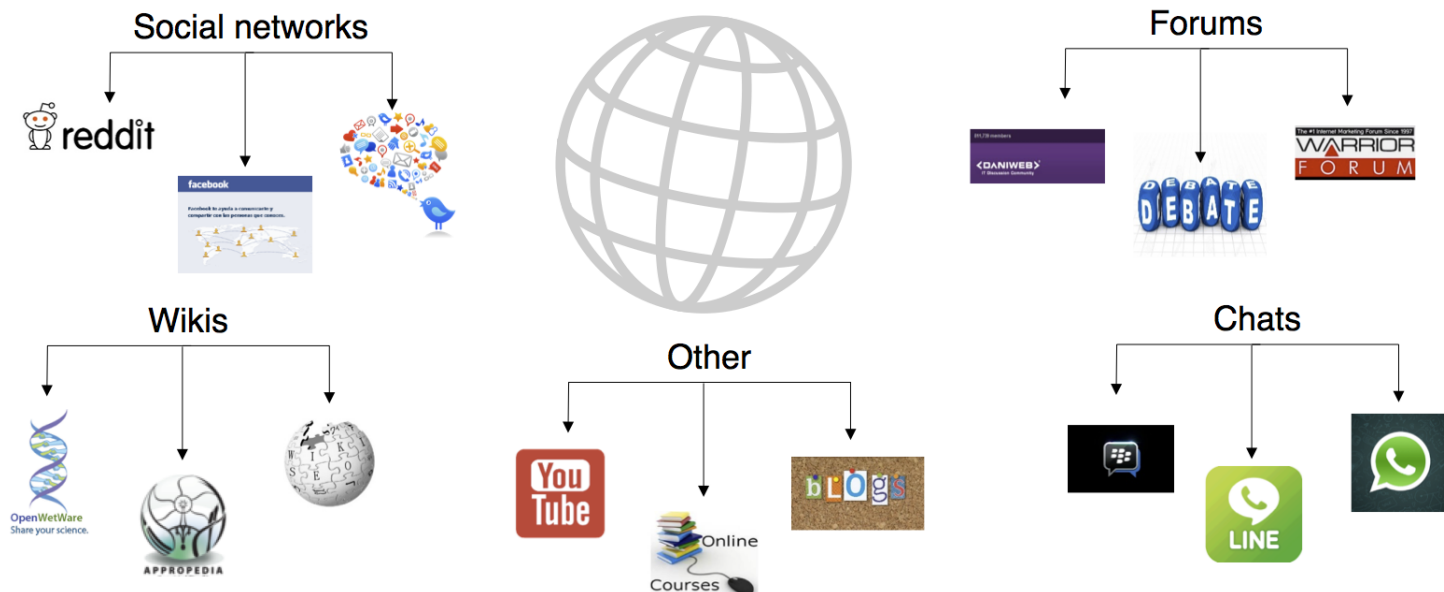# The Web as a Corpus of Argumentation

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Ground-truth labels can be acquired automatically from the web

- Controversial topics
- Argumentative texts
- Argument units and relations
- Quality assessments

Overview of Relevant Web Resources

Several debate platforms on the web

- Some give references for arguments: debatepedia.org
- Some score the current debate state: createdebate.com, forandagainst.com

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Other accessible web resources relevant for argumentation

- Reddit generally has controversy labels   (Anifowose 2016)
- Subreddit "change my view" has persuasiveness labels   (Tan et al. 2016)
- Wikipedia talk pages have support and oppose labels
- ...

Leveraging iDebate with Distant Supervision

Debatabase at www.idebate.org

- 1k+ discussions on controversies
- Discussion: Introduction, up to 6 pro and 6 con points with counterpoints
- 14 themes: Politics, education, ...

Corpus creation with distant supervision
(Al-Khatib et al. 2016)

- Introductory sentences mapped to class "non-argumentative"
- Each (counter-) point: "argumentative"
- Premise/conclusion mapping tested but turned out complex

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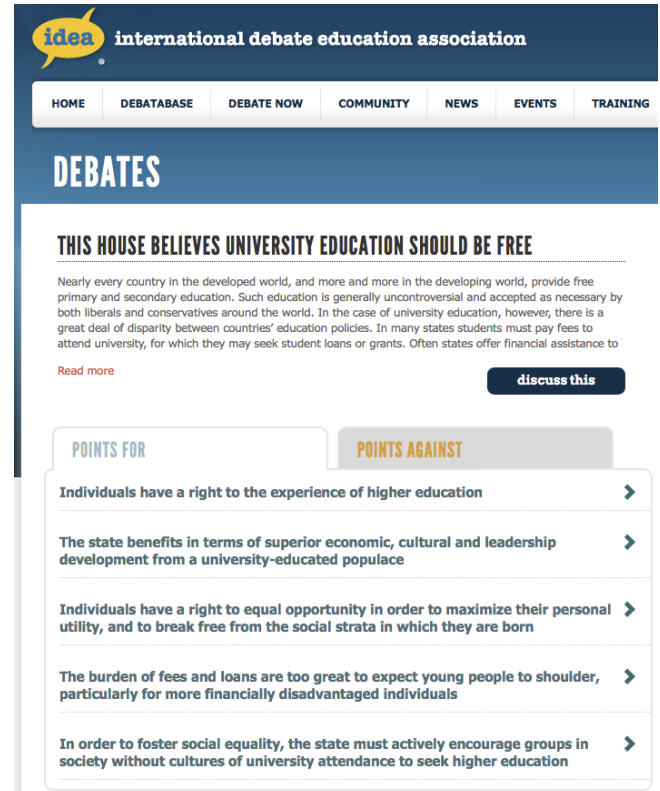- 14 themes: Politics, education, ...

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Corpus size and diversity beneficial for training robust classifiers

- 23,880 argumentative + 4800 non-argumentative labels for all themes
- Accessible at www.uni-weimar.de/medien/webis/corpora

Towards a Web of Arguments

Community platforms around argumentation

- Tools to create, combine, and explore structured argument data
- Facilitate critical thinking, good arguments, rational debates, ...
- Connect the "web of arguments"

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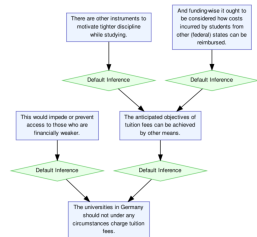- Connect the "web of arguments"

Coverage of existing platforms

- Textual + visual argument browsers
- Argument search
- Annotation tools
- Editors for argument graphs

- Argument visualizations
- Structured discussion forums
- Corpus repositories
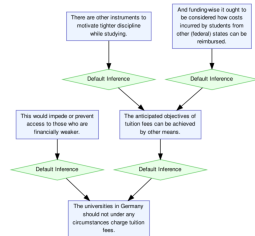- Blogs on argumentation

The Argument Web

AIFdb Corpora

Structured argument
data in uniform format

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AIFdb Search

Search interface for
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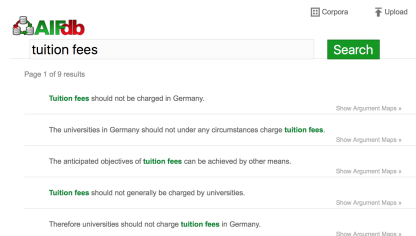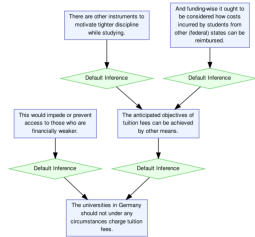### Argublogging

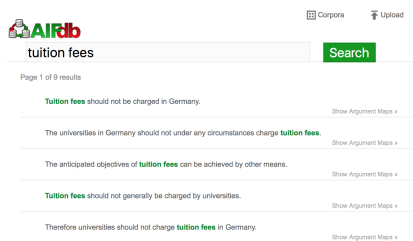Widget for argument annotation in blogs
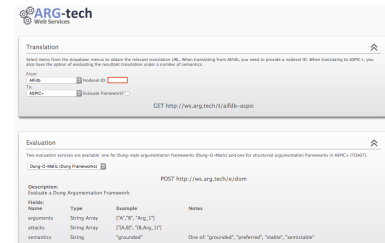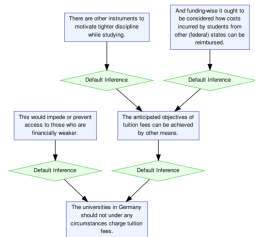
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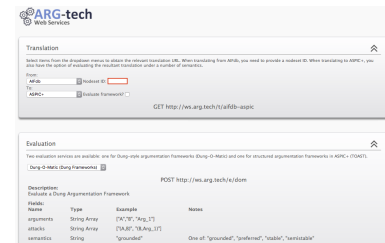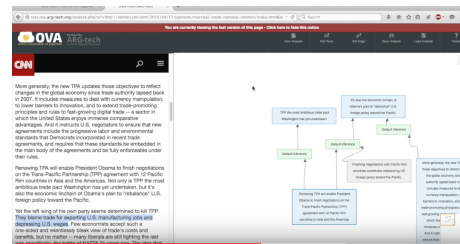
Online visualization and analysis of arguments

The Argument Web
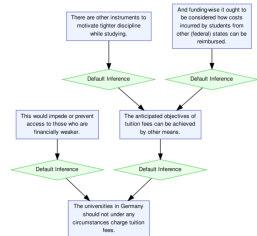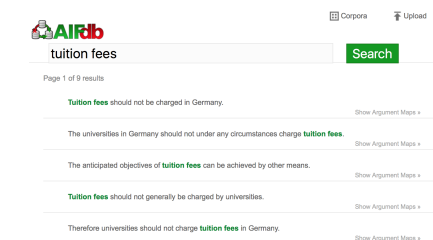
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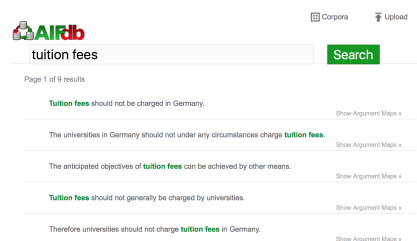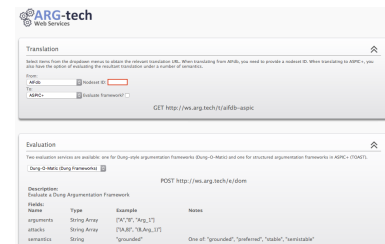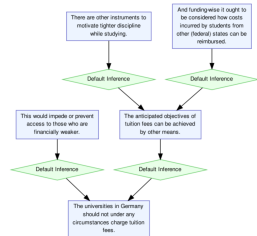
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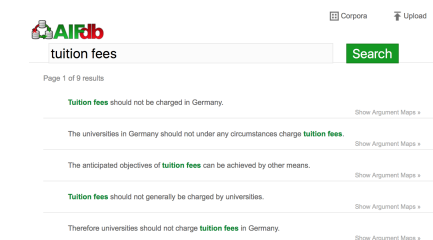### Argublogging

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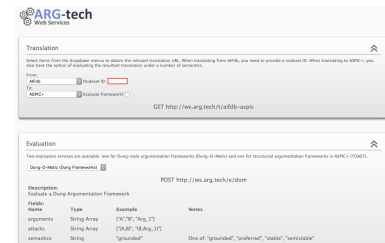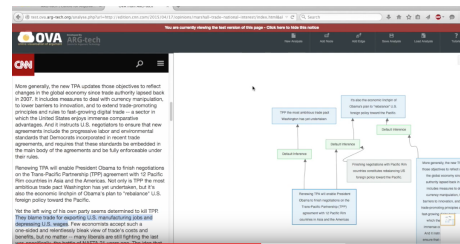
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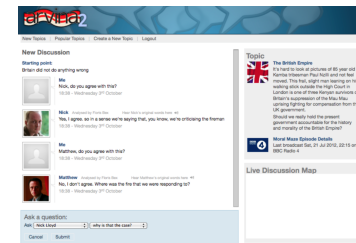
Dialogue platform
based on AIFdb

More at www.argumentinterchange.org

argument interchange
Home of the AIF: Infrastructure for the argument web

Conclusion

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Web resources provide extensive infrastructure

- Tools for creation, exploration, and analysis
- Standard representations such as AIF
- Literature and other references

References

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