A deep web data extraction model for web mining: a review

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ABSTRACT
The world wide web has become a large pool of information. Extracting structured data from a published webpage has drawn attention in the last decade. The process of web data extraction (WDE) has many challenges, due to variety of web data and the unstructured data from hypertext markup language (HTML) files. The aim of this paper is to provide a comprehensive overview of current web data extraction techniques, in terms of extracted quality data. This paper focuses on study for data extraction using wrapper approaches and compares each other to identify the best approach to extract data from online sites. To observe the efficiency of the proposed model, we compare the performance of data extraction by single web page extraction with different models such as document object model (DOM), wrapper using hybrid dom and json (WHDJ), wrapper extraction of image using DOM and JSON (WEIDJ) and WEIDJ (no-rules). Finally, the experimentations proved that WEIDJ can extract data fastest and low time consuming compared to other proposed method.

1. INTRODUCTION
The World Wide Web has become a large pool of information which contains web pages, including images, audio, video clips, product information. Web traffic is among the important issue due to the extraction process [1]. The process of extracting data from web pages is a concern for people that lead to other purpose and give huge benefit. Commonly, websites are mainly design for human to glance certain information. The structure of websites are different each other and they are semi-structured. People need to select certain images manually that they are interested to save. It is time consuming. One of the technologies that can be applied for web data extraction (WDE) is called as a wrapper. The main goal of this wrapper or tool is to transform the semi-structured data into structured data. There are a lot of researches that discuss about wrappers. Most researches discuss about automatic data extraction includes noise information. A post-processing may be required in web data extraction to deal with beneficial extraction. It is important to extract the data with high precision and recall and also in fastest way for users. In this paper, a wrapper has been proposed to extract data based on different rules and models such as document object model (DOM), wrapper using hybrid DOM and JSON (WHDJ), wrapper extraction of image using DOM and JSON (WEIDJ) and WEIDJ (no-rules). This research works not only focus on how to extract data but also focus on providing user friendly platform for developers to treat the extracted data. This can be achieved completely through the user friendly browser for GUI.
Over the past new decades, numerous studies have been carried out on mining data from website or web pages and numerous techniques have been applied [2]. Many recent works tried to extract the structured information from web pages using variety of techniques such as DOM, visual segmentations or other techniques [3], [4]. Kamanwar et al., [5] agreed that WDE is a way of mining user’s requisite figures from web pages. Nowadays, the extractor is used to extract information because web page is an ocean of data which makes browsing information as a very complex task. Normally the contents of web documents are unstructured. Web data extraction is defined as a process which use tool and wrappers as mediums to extract information from web documents in hypertext markup language (HTML) format. The noisy information such as tags, advertisements, and banners will be removed by wrapper.

STEM has been proposed by Fang [6] to extract structures of identifiers from the tag path of web pages. Then a suffix tree is built on top of these sequences and four refining filters are proposed to view the sections which contain unnecessary information. Pouramini et al., [7] proposed handle-based wrapper by using DOM tree approach. This research worked on text features. It acts as handles to mine data records from web pages. The extraction consists of textual delimiters, keywords, constants or text patterns. Polynomial algorithm has been designed to form against the page elements in two situations; mixed bottom up and top-down traverse DOM-tree. The limitation of this application is the extraction process can only be performed on the visible parts. It can not extract from the whole web pages.

TANGO was proposed by Jiménez et al., [8], designed to learn rules for a detailed and recallability extraction of information from semi-structured web documents. The high precision and recallability are prerequisites in the context of enterprise systems integration. It depends on on an open catalogue of types that helps to map the contents of documents into a knowledge base. Each component of web documents in DOM node is denoted by HTML, DOM, CSS, relational, and user-defined features. Research done by et al., [9] has proposed the deep web data extraction (DWDE) framework to provide accurate results to users based on their URLs or domains searched.

Tripathy et al., [10] proposed VEDD wrapper to extract the relevant search results records (SRRs) from search engine by filtering out the noisy and redundant records. BFS was used in the beginning as it helped to re-structure the unstructured and semi-structured SSR pages which simplify the extraction process. SSR pages which in turn simplifies the extraction process. Derouiche et al., [11] proposed object runner technique called wrapper inference that processes the extraction and integration automatically of complex structured data. The extraction process was done in two stages; automatic annotations and extraction template constructions.

XWRAP, a wrapper based on DOM tree was developed by Liu et al., [12]. It consists of four components; syntactical structure normalization, information extraction was used for deriving rules, code generation was used for generating the wrappers programs, testing and packing used for validation. OLERA was developed by Chang et al., [13]. It produced extraction rules from semi-structured web pages without considering the training datas. It was designed with visualization supports. However, the technique was represented by its sensitivity to the ordering information. There were also probabilities in the failure of extraction process, if templates for each attribute were similar.

Liu et al., [14] proposed MDR. It was a fully automated system to identify data records in webpages. The application of this technique obliged all data to have same parents and multiple data records to have similar structures. The drawback of this approach was its disability to extract individual fields. VIPS was proposed by Cai Yu et al., [15] and Cai et al., [16]. It was a combination of two techniques; parsing of HTML in DOM tree and web page layout analysis using visual cues. The experiments clearly showed that vision-based web page content structure was very helpful in detecting and filtering out noisy and irrelevant information. Although this research proved good compliances to the multiple data regions of deep webs for web extraction, it still restricted by its incapability it completely removing noise.

Cresczenzi et al., [17] developed RoadRunner. This tool enabled data extraction through the use of automatically generated wrappers. It was based on the similarities and differences between the webpages. The advantage of Road Runner is that it had no prior knowledge about the schema of the webpages and its ability in handling nested structures of contents. The limitations were its disability in managing disjunction cases and errors in the input documents, thus affecting it’s effectiveness. IEPAD, a system that automatically discovered extraction rules from web pages [18]. This system can identify record boundaries from repeated pattern mining and multiple sequence alignments. The advantage of this technique is the extraction of information involves no human efforts and content dependent heuristics. The limitation of this tool was its poor ability in dealing with complex and nested structured data.

Hsu et al., [19] developed SoftMealy as web data extraction tool. This tool applied contextual rules and finite state transducers (FST) technique which comprised body transducers and tuple transducer. The body transducers extracted the parts of the web contents that contain tuple. Then, tuple transducers iteratively extracted the tuples. This technique however was not able to generalize overseen separators. TSIMMIS was
an extractor that extracts data using extractor from WWW contents then converted the extracted information into a structured format before storing it into database [20]. The relevant data is retrieved in object exchange model (OEM) format.

Web data extraction system is a software application that can retrieve relevant information such as text, images, audio and many others from web sources [21]. This application usually cooperates with web sources and mining the relevant information to be stored. The mining contents consist of origins in the HTML web pages and can be post-processed, transformed to the most suitable structured format and stored for advance purpose. DOM can be applied directly to discover the required information from HTML documents. Abidin et al., [22] constructed DOM tree structure on the preliminary step. Then, unnecessary nodes such as script, style need to be filtered. Classification process is vital to the search classes of multimedia data. Data for media will be recognized when the parser found word “src=” in the data structure. Finally multimedia data can be extracted. However, it has been found that large amount of processing times are required for the extraction of web pages which consists large size of HTML structures. Besides that, all images will be extracted without considering repetitive files. Thus WEIDJ model is proposed to overcome the limitations of DOM model in extracting images. Table 1 summarizes web data extraction tools.

The motivation for this research originates from previous works on techniques and methodologies of locating and extracting data from various web pages of different sites. These data can be very beneficial and useful for managerial information. The extracted information is merged into the multimedia database and can be used to fulfill new queries in the next stage of data mining. The main contribution of this research work is the development of the web data extraction model using hybrid approaches for images extraction and details revelation of its information. This model is expected to enables an effective image’s extraction by specifically disclose only related parts, simultaneously results in a reduced extraction’s times. This paper is structured as follows: In the following Section 2, this paper presents the research method to address the extraction issues. Then, we will show the performance of proposed tool in Section 3 which presents result and analysis and finally in Section 4, the conclusion is discussed.

| Tools                     | Model               |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| STEM                      | Suffix Tree Based Method |
| Handle-based Wrapper      | DOM Tree            |
| TANGO                     | DOM                 |
| DWDE                      | Tag based Feature   |
| VEDD                      | - DOM Tree          |
| ObjectRunner              | - Breadth First Search (BFS) |
| XWRAP                     | DOM Tree            |
| OLERA                     | - DOM Tree          |
| MDR                       | - Visual Cues       |
| VIPS                      |                    |
| Road Runner               | Pattern Discovery   |
| IEPAD                     |                    |
| SoftMealy                 |                    |
| TSIMMIS                   | Object Exchange Model (OEM) |

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The basic concepts of data extraction process must consist of data, selection, transformation and knowledge. In the preliminary step, users need to know the types of data that they are extracting either texts, images, videos or others. This selection of data must be done earlier because each data has their own sources and extracting models. After the selection of the type of data has been done, the following process are abstracting and transforming the selected data into tabular format using specific approaches which need to be fully understood prior to develop a wrapper.

Wrappers are tools that have been developed using specific techniques or models. This tool can be used to extract images automatically. The wrapper can be categorized into two main components. The first component involves the insertion of web address,”URL” of web page. It comprises the parsing of the HTML web page and converting them to DOM tree structure. This conversion is significant to understand the structure of HTML pages in tree environment. This method is useful in handling the structure of data, whether it is structured, semi-structured or unstructured. The second part is related to the knowledge based
construction. The extraction techniques that are been applied in this research work are DOM, hybrid model of DOM and JSON (WHDJ) and hybrid model of DOM, JSON and visual segmentation (WEIDJ). Figure 1 shows general models for three web data extraction models; DOM [23], WHDJ[24] and WEIDJ [25].

Figure 1. General model

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

For experimental works, several samples of WWF web pages were taken and the extraction of contents was performed on the sampled data using HTML source files. This file contains the information of the images which are going to be extracted. Figure 2 shows sample extractor specification of file. List of commands consist of images and image’s URL can be seen in the brackets ‘{‘ and ‘}’. Most of the images are in .jpg format file. WEIDJ is capable in extracting images of various formats such as .jpg, .gif, .bmp and others.

JavaScript Object Notation, also known as JSON is syntax for saving and swapping data. JSON has more benefit that can impress the user. This technology enables users easy to understand and get the the important text in order transmitting data objects. It is the best choice for storage and it also enabled a speedy response to information queries. The output can be ranged from simple to complex structure and highly nested. $json_url_path is used as constructor to inform the JSON data set to include the nested structures of JSON object. In first step, URL needs to be declared as json path. Then, 'src' value needs to be specified as path. This is very important in order to find the information of images from the image nested structure. Figure 3 show the structure of extracted information, which has been organized in structured ways and displayed in table formats [26]. The extraction process in this example was performed by table definitions. The initial command $json_URL gets the contents of the source file or web address whose URL is given in ['URL']. After the file has been fetched, the contents will be detailed into specific criteria such as $no, $img_URL, image, $size_in_bytes and $total_time_load_page. The extraction information will be denoted in table representation.
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In addition to the basic capabilities of WEIDJ, our extractor also provides several other useful and user’s friendly features. One of them is the queries to the saved images are provided. Figure 4 shows collection of images that have been saved in single multimedia database. These images can be queried from database for beneficial purpose. Thus, it can be used for further purpose such as generation of reports, analysis.

Images that have been selected will be stored in multimedia database. The images are successfully saved in database. There are two options that can be selected by users for saving images into multimedia database either in automatic or manual. JSON as a standard module could accept any data structure and turn them into a representation of string. Figure 5 shows images that successfully extracted and represent in JSON format. The advantages using JSON is faster and it is very easy to use.
The experimentation for deep web, the web data extraction is performed by considering the size and different level of images [27]. This experiment has been conducted with regards to former works done by [16] to compare the performances of extraction process. The image extraction has been extracted in three ways:

a) The extraction of images in general way
b) The extraction of images by considering the size of images in two parts; 50*50 pixels and 128*128 pixels.
c) The extraction of images is tested randomly at different levels; 5 pages, 10 pages, 15 pages, 20 pages, 25 pages and 30 pages.
In this paper, we discuss the result of deep web data extraction by extraction of images that has been tested randomly for 30 pages as shown in Tables 2 and 3 and by considering two parts of extraction pixels; 50*50 pixels and 128*128 pixels. Table 4 shows the percentage of time extraction regarding to Table 4(a) and (b). From this table, we can see that the percentage of time extraction for WEIDJ and WEIDJ-no rules is lower compared to image extraction using DOM and WHDJ. This performance can prove that the extraction semi-structured data using WEIDJ is fastest compared to others.

Table 2. Performance of image extraction by web pages (30 URL) for DOM and WHDJ

| Benchmark                  | Image found | Image retrieved | Image filtered | Time | Image found | Image retrieved | Image filtered | Time |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------|
| amnh.org                   | 1662        | 611             | 1051           | 3845.7278 | 1077        | 578             | 499            | 2487.5042 |
| ocean.si.edu               | 687         | 610             | 17            | 77   | 751.5967    | 62              | 715.2595       |      |
| iucn.org                   | 289         | 251             | 38             | 683.3783 | 227         | 191             | 36             | 509.2624 |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org | 77          | 43              | 34             | 158.5747 | 59          | 43              | 16             | 116.4149 |
| wwf.org.my                 | 492         | 375             | 117            | 503.206 | 460         | 371             | 89             | 462.0894 |

Table 3. Performance of image extraction by web pages (30 URL) for WEIDJ and WEIDJ (no-rules)

| Benchmark                  | Image found | Image retrieved | Image filtered | Time | Image found | Image retrieved | Image filtered | Time |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------|
| amnh.org                   | 249         | 204             | 45             | 100.272 | 5430/1691   | 510.6992        |      |
| ocean.si.edu               | 379         | 366             | 13             | 82.7162 | 691/676     | 254.8985        |      |
| iucn.org                   | 118         | 101             | 17             | 108.7956 | 819/274     | 208.7372        |      |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org | 277       | 105             | 172            | 47.4335 | 427/401     | 38.9521         |      |
| wwf.org.my                 | 371         | 276             | 94             | 94.9288 | 495/461     | 77.9276         |      |

Table 4. Performance of Image extraction by percentage for 30 URL

| Web address    | DOM Time | WHDJ Time | WEIDJ Time | WEIDJ-no rules Time | DOM Percenta ge % | WHDJ Percenta ge % | WEIDJ Percenta ge % | WEIDJ-no rules Percenta ge % |
|----------------|----------|-----------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| amnh.org       | 3845.7278| 2457.5042 | 5430/1691  | 510.6992            | 55.6              | 35.5              | 3.5                 | 7.4                      |
| ocean.si.edu   | 751.5967 | 38.9521   | 254.8985   | 14                  | 42                | 40                | 4                  | 10.8                     |
| iucn.org       | 683.3783 | 254.8985  | 254.8985   | 14                  | 45                | 40                | 4                  | 10.8                     |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org | 158.5747 | 38.9521   | 38.9521    | 10.8                | 43.9              | 32.2              | 13.1                | 6                        |
| wwf.org.my     | 503.206  | 462.0894  | 77.9276    | 6.85                | 44.2              | 40.6              | 8.35                | 6.85                     |

To give better visualization for users, Figure 6 shows the performance of time for each model in extracting images for WWF website (refer to Table 4). From this figure, we can see that time performance of Document Object Model is 44% which is contributing longer than other models. This is because the model needs to check the images for each node one by one before extracting all images from this website. The wrapper hybrid DOM and JSON (WHDJ) has been proposed to overcome the limitation of DOM. The results show the hybrid model, combination of DOM and JSON (40%) is success. However, although the time has been reduced but there are certain images that can not been extracted. That is the weakness of WHDJ. So, in this research work we proposed a new hybrid model which is combination of the visual segmentation and handling noisy images can be detected to ensure that only beneficial images can be retrieved. The definition of noisy images is the images that may contains of logo, repetition of images and many more. This is because web, despite acts as large repositories of knowledge, it undeniably also contains noisy information. Noisy information can degrade the performances of data extractions. WEIDJ is proposed in order to overcome the limitation of extracting beneficial images and remove noisy images to ensure it can extract images in fastest way. From this figure, the percentage of WEIDJ in extracting images is quite fastest (8%). WEIDJ No-rules is implementing similar technique in WEID model but this model will retrieve all types of images including noisy images.

Table 5 and 6 shows image extraction for deep web that have sample size of image between 50x50 and 128x128. The reason the extraction has been experimented in between this two size is because the beneficial image size normally in rage 128x128 but the noisy images such as header, logo and so forth is in 50x50 pixels.
Table 5. Performance of image extraction for deep web (Size 50*50)

| Benchmark                              | DOM | Link Found | Img found | Img retrieved | Img filtered | Time     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| amnh.org                               | 132 | 4881       | 2125      | 2756          |              | 10556.22 |
| ocean.si.edu                           | 97  | 1966       | 1610      | 356           |              | 2319.424 |
| iucn.org                               | 96  | 999        | 811       | 188           |              | 1979.685 |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 394        | 288       | 96            |              | 865.8827 |
| wwf.org.my                             | 142 | 1803       | 1374      | 429           |              | 1900.9394|
| **WEIDJ**                              |     |            |           |               |              |          |
| amnh.org                               | 132 | 4013       | 2028      | 1985          |              | 8778.3747|
| ocean.si.edu                           | 97  | 1705       | 1505      | 200           |              | 2076.7548|
| iucn.org                               | 96  | 707        | 596       | 111           |              | 1625.4596|
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 300        | 269       | 31            |              | 534.6634 |
| wwf.org.my                             | 142 | 1626       | 1370      | 256           |              | 1385.7157|
| **WEIDJ (no Rules)**                   |     |            |           |               |              |          |
| amnh.org                               | 132 | 1521       | 1385      | 136           |              | 457.7495 |
| ocean.si.edu                           | 97  | 836        | 803       | 33            |              | 312.985  |
| iucn.org                               | 96  | 340        | 310       | 30            |              | 308.6347 |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 262        | 102       | 160           |              | 26.4048  |
| wwf.org.my                             | 143 | 1311       | 1059      | 251           |              | 318.2913 |

Table 6. Performance of image extraction for deep web (Size 128*128)

| Benchmark                              | DOM | Link Found | Img found | Img retrieved | Img filtered | Time     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| amnh.org                               | 133 | 4920       | 839       | 4081          |              | 13709.22 |
| ocean.si.edu                           | 97  | 2007       | 404       | 1603          |              | 3244.0467|
| iucn.org                               | 96  | 998        | 493       | 505           |              | 2980.6396|
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 394        | 78        | 316           |              | 808.1518 |
| wwf.org.my                             | 143 | 1818       | 307       | 1515          |              | 1621.6796|
| **WEIDJ**                              |     |            |           |               |              |          |
| amnh.org                               | 134 | 4124       | 822       | 3302          |              | 12223.65 |
| ocean.si.edu                           | 98  | 1681       | 404       | 1277          |              | 1888.9131|
| iucn.org                               | 97  | 790        | 523       | 267           |              | 1772.138 |
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 300        | 66        | 234           |              | 436.362  |
| wwf.org.my                             | 143 | 1175       | 164       | 1011          |              | 592.1318 |
| **WEIDJ (no Rules)**                   |     |            |           |               |              |          |
| amnh.org                               | 1593| 1420       | 173       | 1697.7931     |              | 1593     |
| ocean.si.edu                           | 98  | 846        | 807       | 39            |              | 1368.3641|
| iucn.org                               | 97  | 389        | 330       | 59            |              | 1253.8517|
| endangeredspeciesinternational.org     | 30  | 277        | 93        | 184           |              | 45.6617  |
| wwf.org.my                             | 143 | 1371       | 541       | 829           |              | 342.2131 |
| **WEIDJ(no-rules)**                    |     |            |           |               |              |          |

Figure 6. Percentage % of time performance for different models in extracting images
4. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have described a model for web data extraction programs, which provides an offer potential web data extraction for users. Among 17 websites that we used for the evaluation experiment, the experimental work discusses the extraction from five websites and the level of extraction is focusing on deep web. It can be operated by the action of users in clicking and pointing the cursor to search the web address after inserting the web url. This experiment shows that our proposed wrapper is able to reduce user’s burden in writing any configuration file due to different structure of each web page although it is in the same website. An important part of our work was the model of web data extraction, the execution time of extraction become longer especially in extracting a large numbers of images due to contain the noisy images also. Majority of the techniques convert the website into DOM tree so that they can be analyzed to identify noises by removing the unrelated elements. The extraction time becomes longer so an alternative have been conducted to decrease the execution time by applying JSON in WHDJ. An improved algorithm and better solution in dealing with the ever expanding data size, which would further complicate the processing of the data, should be invented. After the extraction is successful the images and related information will be saved in a database as a structured format. This information can be used for further action such as decision making. The one relevant of this extraction process is the execution time is reduce and the image’s filenames will be reindexed. In future work, we are planning to extend this research work in focusing extraction from multi deep websites. The performance of images extraction will influence the time for execution process and the impact of the study for the nation and community is the extraction of semi-structured data that can be used for managing and analyzing the characteristics of elements.

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