

Corpora

Nuremberg Files

Set of 42 volumes of the official records of the trials of the major German individuals accused of war crimes at Nuremberg (1945-1946). The files are available for download at: www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/NT_major-war-criminals.html

ICJ Decisions

All decisions, orders, judgments, advisory opinions etc. of the International Court of Justice (1945-2019). The decisions of the International Court of Justice are available for download at: www.icj-cij.org

ICJ Pleadings

All pleadings (written and oral) of the International Court of Justice (1945-2019). The pleadings are available for download at: www.icj-cij.org

ICJ Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the ICJ. The Rule of Procedure can be found here: www.icj-cij.org/en/rules

Multilateral Treaties

All 666 multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General of the UN. The list of treaties can be downloaded at: treaties.un.org/pages/Index.aspx

EJILTalk! and OpinioJuris

Blog posts and comments from EJILTalk! (www.ejiltalk.org) and OpinioJuris (www.opiniojuris.org) up to 2019.

Historic Textbooks

The following historic textbooks on or related to international law:

- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Art of War* (Neville trans.) [1521]
- Hugo Grotius, *The Rights of War and Peace* (2005 ed.) vols. 1-3 [1625]
- Samuel von Pufendorf, *An Introduction to the History of the Principal Kingdoms and States of Europe* [1695]
- James Mill, *Law of Nations* [1825]
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War* vols. 1-3 [1832]
- Lawrence Thomas Joseph, *The Principles of International Law* [1884]
- Pearce Higgins, *The Hague Peace Conferences and Other International Conferences concerning the Laws and Usages of War* [1909]

These historic textbooks can be downloaded at: www.archive.org

BYIL

All article titles of all volumes from 1976-2017 of the *British Yearbook of International Law*. The archive of the BYIL is available here: www.academic.oup.com/bybil

EJIL

All article titles of all volumes of the *European Journal of International Law*. The archive of the EJIL is available here: www.ejil.org

Tools

Audacity

Browserling.com

CasualConc

CasualTExtractor

DeepDreamGenerator

Generative Engine / RunwayML

Gillmeister-Software.com

Gimp

Google.com

MarkovChain / markofivy

MorseCode.world

MS Word

Python

Quillbot.com

Rhymezone.com

SketchEngine.com

SoundWavePic.com

Talktotransformer.com

textgenrnn

Textmechanic.com

Notes on Methodology

The texts brought together in this collection are experimental co-productions by different software applications and their user. Some of the results share certain characteristics, others do not. For the purposes of this collection, they are divided into three imperfectly distinguished categories: modifications, creations, translations.

Modifications

The point of departure of the texts featuring in the collection's first part are different text corpora that have been manipulated and modified with the help of corpus-management software. This process contains both mechanical and creative aspects. The composition of these texts begins with the selection of a particular text corpus (e.g. UN Security Council Speeches, Historic Text Books).

Once a text corpus has been selected, the actual corpus needs to be compiled. This tends to be a mechanical process which requires locating the texts (downloading, scanning) and making the located texts machine-readable (for example, by means of optical character recognition programmes). Eventually, text corpora thus compiled are submitted to a corpus-manager. Corpus managers are powerful software applications that can *inter alia* create word frequency lists, identify common word combinations, compare collocations of groups of words in their contexts, can produce n-grams (multi-word-expressions) and sort them by frequency. For this project, a desktop-based corpus-manager (CasualConc) and an online corpus-manager (Sketchengine.eu) were used.

Subsequently, the software user can exercise a significant degree of discretion with respect to the way in which that software is used. The software user

must decide, for instance, which function of the corpus-manager should be used. The user might decide to identify the most common 4-word combinations in a particular text, or the most common 4-word combinations beginning with an 'I' (e.g. in the IMT Corpus), or to create a list of words ending with a particular ending like '-ous'.

With respect to the results which these choices produce, users must decide how to present and order them (in order of frequency, in (reverse) alphabetical order, in order of length). When terms are searched for in particular contexts (e.g. the word 'maybe' in the ICJ Pleadings), the user must decide if and to which extent the context of that particular term should form part of the eventual output. Often it can take a long time until portions of a text-corpus have been re-arranged, filtered, distilled in a manner that produces a meaningful outcome.

Creations

The texts featured in the collection's second section also pre-suppose the existence of a corpus. But in these cases, software programmes were not used to manipulate or analyse the corpora. Rather, the corpora were submitted to software programmes as datasets which the software programmes then attempted to emulate. Two different mechanisms were used: the neural-network-based 'textgenrnn' and the Markov-Chain-based python programme 'markovify'.

For example, the article titles and corresponding author names of law journals were extracted from journal archives and then submitted as a dataset to textgenrnn which then tried to compose a plausible contents page for these law journals. Most of this process is mechanical, but the software user can exercise discretion with respect to the chosen text corpus, with respect to the software's degree of creativity and with respect to the length of the presented output.

Translations

The collection's final part features examples of texts being translated from one language or one format to another. The translations themselves are mechanical processes executed by different translation programmes. However, the software user must exercise discretion with respect to the chosen object of translation and the means by which a particular translation is being carried out.

The Maps

The maps, which introduce the different parts of the collection, are taken from the archives of the United Nation's Treaty Series. They were subsequently submitted to the DeepDreamGenerator. The DeepDreamGenerator uses neural networks to interpret and modify image files.

Guiding Principles

The texts in this collection were composed and compiled in accordance with the following six rules, originally proposed by Hannes Bajohr:[†]

1. One may modify a word's genus, numerus, tense as well as inflection.
2. One may add punctuation marks as well as line breaks.
3. One may insert conjunctions.
4. One may not delete more than four sentences in a row.
5. One may not delete more than ten words in a row.
6. One may disregard any of these rules if it pleases the text.

[†] www.hannesbajohr.de/automatengedichtautomat (accessed 24 February 2020)

Notes not on Methodology

What becomes of international law's authority when letters and words are unhinged, interchanged or replaced with other forms or symbols is not easy to determine. Some of the experimental co-productions collected here resemble ordinary legal texts. Others seem entirely devoid of meaning. However, legal language, a particularly formal literary genre, does not infrequently produce results that, if judged by ordinary standards, could appear to be unusual or possibly absurd. A lawyer's loyalty to the formal logic of the legal machinery's mode of expression means that the perspective of a corpus management software or the perspective of an electron travelling through a neural network might be more similar to that of a lawyer approaching a text than one might initially think. And yet, to task a software with the analysis and re-arrangement of strings of letters and words produces an irritating echo. It is an irritating echo because, at times, the algorithmic attempts to modify, create, and translate legal texts reveal residual traces of reality which rigorous and systematic legal processes aimed to eradicate. Conversely, it is also irritating because, at times, the algorithmic engagement with law surpasses the lawyer's desire to reduce reality into legal form by ruthlessly succeeding with the expulsion of any non-technological elements from the realm of legal language. This way, international law's encounter with technology is an invitation to reflect upon law's suspension between social reality and the artificial nature of the legal form.