

Package ‘text2sdg’

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Type Package

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Title Detecting UN Sustainable Development Goals in Text

Description The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an important guideline for organisations to monitor and plan their contributions to social, economic, and environmental transformations. The 'text2sdg' package is an open-source analysis package that identifies SDGs in text using scientifically developed query systems, opening up the opportunity to monitor any type of text-based data, such as scientific output or corporate publications. For more information see Meier, Mata & Wulff (2025) <[doi:10.32614/RJ-2024-005](https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2024-005)> and Wulff, Meier & Mata (2024) <[doi:10.1007/s11625-024-01516-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01516-3)>.

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URL <https://github.com/dwulff/text2sdg>

BugReports <https://github.com/dwulff/text2sdg/issues>

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Depends R (>= 3.5.0)

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VignetteBuilder knitr

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auckland_queries	<i>SDG queries of the University of Auckland</i>
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Description

A dataset containing the SDG queries of **University of Auckland** (version 1). The queries are available from <https://www.sdgmapping.auckland.ac.nz/>. The Auckland queries were developed to build on the processes developed by the United Nations and the Times Higher Education Ranking in order to create an expanded list of keywords that can be used to identify SDG-relevant research. There is one query per SDG. There are no queries for SDG-17.

Usage

auckland_queries

Format

- A data frame with 16 rows and 4 columns
- system** Name of system
 - sdg** Label of the SDG
 - query_id** Index of the query
 - query** SDG query

Source

<https://www.sdgmapping.auckland.ac.nz/>

aurora_queries	<i>SDG queries of the Aurora Universities Network</i>
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Description

A dataset containing the SDG queries version 5.0 of the [Aurora Universities Network](#). See the corresponding [GitHub repository](#). For the actual implementation of the queries see `aurora_simple`, `aurora_and`, `aurora_w`, and the queries hard-coded in `detect_aurora`. There are multiple queries per SDG (one per row). In comparison to previous versions, this version of the queries Aurora added more keywords related to academic terminology to be able to detect more research papers related to the SDGs. The current version also drew inspiration from the SIRIS query system (`siris_queries`). The Aurora queries were designed to be precise rather than sensitive. To achieve this the queries make use complex keyword-combinations using several different logical search operators. All SDGs (1-17) are covered.

Usage

```
aurora_queries
```

Format

A data frame with 373 rows and 5 columns

system Name of system

sdg Label of the SDG

sdg_title Title of the SDG

sdg_description Description of the SDG

query_id Index of the query

query Original SDG query

Source

<https://github.com/Aurora-Network-Global/sdg-queries/releases/tag/v5.0>

crosstab_sdg	<i>Compare query systems and SDGs</i>
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Description

`crosstab_sdg` calculates cross tables (aka contingency tables) of SGSs or systems across hits identified via [detect_sdg_systems](#).

Usage

```
crosstab_sdg(hits, compare = c("systems", "sdgs"), systems = NULL, sdgs = NULL)
```

Arguments

hits	data frame as returned by detect_sdg_systems . Must include columns document, sdg, system, and hit.
compare	character specifying whether systems or SDGs should be cross tabulated.
systems	character vector specifying the query systems to be cross tabulated. Values must be available in the system column of hits. Defaults to NULL in which case available values are retrieved from hits.
sdgs	numeric vector with integers between 1 and 17 specifying the SDGs to be cross tabulated. Values must be available in the sdg column of hits. Defaults to NULL in which case available values are retrieved from hits.

Details

crosstab_sdg determines correlations between either query systems or SDGs. The respectively other dimension will be ignored. Note that correlations between SDGs may vary between query systems.

Value

matrix showing correlation coefficients for all pairs of query systems (if compare = "systems") or SDGs (if compare = "SDGs").

Examples

```
# run sdg detection
hits <- detect_sdg_systems(projects)

# create cross table of systems
crosstab_sdg(hits)

# create cross table of systems
crosstab_sdg(hits, compare = "sdgs")
```

detect_any

Detect SDGs in text with own query system

Description

detect_any identifies SDGs in text using user provided query systems. Works like [detect_sdg_systems](#) but uses a user specified query system instead of an existing one like [detect_sdg_systems](#) does.

Usage

```
detect_any(
  text,
  system,
  queries = lifecycle::deprecated(),
  sdgs = NULL,
  output = c("features", "documents"),
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

text	character vector or object of class tCorpus containing text in which SDGs shall be detected.
system	a data frame that must contain the following variables: a character vector with queries, a integer vector specifying which SDG each query maps to (values must be between 1 and 17) and a character with one unique value specifying the name of the used query system (can be anything as long as it is unique).
queries	deprecated.
sdgs	numeric vector with integers between 1 and 17 specifying the sdgs to identify in text. Defaults to 1:17.
output	character specifying the level of detail in the output. The default "features" returns a tibble with one row per matched query, include a variable containing the features of the query that were matched in the text. By contrast, "documents" returns an aggregated tibble with one row per matched sdg, without information on the features.
verbose	logical specifying whether messages on the function's progress should be printed.

Value

The function returns a tibble containing the SDG hits found in the vector of documents. Depending on the value of output the tibble will contain all or some of the following columns:

- document** Index of the element in text where match was found. Formatted as a factor with the number of levels matching the original number of documents.
- sdg** Label of the SDG found in document.
- systems** The name of the query system that produced the match.
- query_id** Index of the query within the query system that produced the match.
- features** Concatenated list of words that caused the query to match.
- hit** Index of hit for a given system.

Examples

```
# create data frame with query system
my_queries <- tibble::tibble(
  system = "my_system",
  query = c(
    "theory",
    "analysis OR analyses OR analyzed",
    "study AND hypothesis"
  ),
  sdg = c(1, 2, 2)
)

# run sdg detection with own query system
hits <- detect_any(projects, my_queries)

# run sdg detection for sdg 2 only
hits <- detect_any(projects, my_queries, sdgs = 2)
```

detect_sdg

Detect SDGs in text using ensemble model

Description

detect_sdg identifies SDGs in text using an ensemble model approach considering multiple existing SDG query systems and text length.

Usage

```
detect_sdg(
  text,
  systems = lifecycle::deprecated(),
  output = lifecycle::deprecated(),
  sdgs = 1:17,
  synthetic = c("equal"),
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

text	character vector or object of class tCorpus containing text in which SDGs shall be detected. Not allowed to contain any missing values.
systems	As of text2sdg 1.0.0 the ‘systems’ argument of ‘detect_sdg()’ is deprecated. This is because ‘detect_sdg()’ now makes use of an ensemble approach that draws on all systems as well as on the text length, see –preprint– for more information. The old version of ‘detect_sdg()’ is available through the ‘detect_sdg_systems()’ function.

output	As of text2sdg 1.0.0 the ‘output’ argument of ‘detect_sdg()’ is deprecated. This is because ‘detect_sdg()’ now makes use of an ensemble approach that draws on all systems as well as on the text length, see –preprint– for more information. The old version of ‘detect_sdg()’ is available through the ‘detect_sdg_systems()’ function.
sdgs	numeric vector with integers between 1 and 17 specifying the sdgs to identify in text. Defaults to 1:17.
synthetic	character vector specifying the ensemble version to be used. These versions vary in terms of the amount of synthetic data used in training (relative to the amount of expert-labeled data). Can be one or more of "none", "third", "equal", and "triple". The default is "equal".
verbose	logical specifying whether messages on the function’s progress should be printed.

Details

detect_sdg implements a ensemble model to detect SDGs in text. The ensemble model combines the six systems implemented by [detect_sdg_systems](#) and text length in a random forest architecture. The ensemble model has been trained on three data sets with SDG labels assigned by experts and a matching number of synthetic texts generated by random sampling from a word frequency list. The user has the choice of multiple versions of the ensemble model that have been trained on different amounts of synthetic texts to adjust the sensitivity and specificity of the model. Increasing the amount of of synthetic data makes the ensemble more conservative, leading to increased sensitivity and decreased specificity.

By default, detect_sdg implements the version of the ensemble model that has been trained on an equal amount of expert-labeled and synthetic data, providing a reasonable balance between sensitivity and specificity. For details, see article by Wulff et al. (2024).

Value

The function returns a tibble containing the SDG hits found in the vector of documents. The columns of the tibble are described below. The tibble also includes as an attribute with name "system_hits" the predictions of the individual systems produced by detect_sdg_systems().

document Index of the element in text where match was found. Formatted as a factor with the number of levels matching the original number of documents.

sdg Label of the SDG found in document.

system The name of the ensemble system that produced the match.

hit Index of hit for the Ensemble model.

References

Wulff, D. U., Meier, D. S., & Mata, R. (2024). Using novel data and ensemble models to improve automated labeling of Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainability Science. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01516-3>

Examples

```
# run sdg detection
hits <- detect_sdg(projects)

# run sdg detection for sdg 3 only
hits <- detect_sdg(projects, sdgs = 3)

# extract systems hits
attr(hits, "system_hits")
```

detect_sdg_systems	<i>Detect SDGs in text</i>
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Description

detect_sdg_systems identifies SDGs in text using multiple SDG query systems.

Usage

```
detect_sdg_systems(
  text,
  systems = c("Aurora", "Elsevier", "Auckland", "SIRIS"),
  sdgs = 1:17,
  output = c("features", "documents"),
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

text	character vector or object of class tCorpus containing text in which SDGs shall be detected.
systems	character vector specifying the query systems to be used. Can be one or more of "Aurora", "Elsevier", "Auckland", "SIRIS", "SDSN", and "SDGO". By default all systems except "SDGO" and "SDSN" are used.
sdgs	numeric vector with integers between 1 and 17 specifying the sdgs to identify in text. Defaults to 1:17.
output	character specifying the level of detail in the output. The default "features" returns a tibble with one row per matched query, include a variable containing the features of the query that were matched in the text. By contrast, "documents" returns an aggregated tibble with one row per matched sdg, without information on the features.
verbose	logical specifying whether messages on the function's progress should be printed.

Details

detect_sdg_systems implements six SDG query systems. Four systems developed by the Aurora Universities Network (see [aurora_queries](#)), Elsevier (see [elsevier_queries](#)), Auckland University (see [elsevier_queries](#)), and SIRIS Academic (see [sirish_queries](#)) rely on Lucene-style Boolean queries, whereas two systems, namely SDGO (see [sdgo_queries](#)) and SDSN (see [sdsn_queries](#)) rely on basic keyword matching. 'detect_sdg_systems' calls dedicated detect_* for each of the five system. Search of the queries is implemented using the [search_features](#) function from the [corpustools](#) package.

By default, detect_sdg_systems runs only the Aurora, Elsevier, Auckland, and Siris query systems, as they are considerably less liberal than the SDSN and SDGO systems and therefore likely produce more valid SDG classifications. Users should be aware that systematic validations and comparison between the systems are largely lacking and that results should be interpreted with caution.

Value

The function returns a tibble containing the SDG hits found in the vector of documents. The columns of the tibble depend on the value of output. Possible columns are:

document Index of the element in text where match was found. Formatted as a factor with the number of levels matching the original number of documents.

sdg Label of the SDG found in document.

system The name of the query system that produced the match.

query_id Index of the query within the query system that produced the match.

features Concatenated list of words that caused the query to match.

hit Index of hit for a given system.

n_hits Number of queries that produced a hit for a given system, sdg, and document.

Examples

```
# run sdg detection
hits <- detect_sdg_systems(projects)

# run sdg detection with Aurora only
hits <- detect_sdg_systems(projects, systems = "Aurora")

# run sdg detection for sdg 3 only
hits <- detect_sdg_systems(projects, sdgs = 3)
```

elsevier_queries	<i>SDG queries of Elsevier</i>
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Description

A dataset containing the SDG queries of [Elsevier](#) (version 1). The queries are available from [data.mendeley.com](#). The Elsevier queries were developed to maximize SDG hits on the Scopus database. A detailed description of how each SDG query was developed can be found [here](#). There is one query per SDG. There are no queries for SDG-17.

Usage

```
elsevier_queries
```

Format

A data frame with 16 rows and 4 columns

system Name of system

sdg Label of the SDG

query_id Index of the query

query SDG query

Source

<https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/87txkw7khs/1>

plot_sdg	<i>Plot distributions of SDGs identified in text</i>
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Description

plot_sdg creates a (stacked) barplot of the frequency distribution of SDGs identified via [detect_sdg](#) or [detect_sdg_systems](#).

Usage

```
plot_sdg(
  hits,
  systems = NULL,
  sdgs = NULL,
  normalize = "none",
  color = "unibas",
  sdg_titles = FALSE,
  remove_duplicates = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

hits	data frame as returned by detect_sdg or detect_sdg_systems . Must include columns sdg and system.
systems	character vector specifying the query systems to be visualized. Values must be available in the system column of hits. systems of length greater 1 result, by default, in a stacked barplot. Defaults to NULL in which case available values are retrieved from hits.
sdgs	numeric vector with integers between 1 and 17 specifying the SDGs to be visualized. Values must be available in the sdg column of hits. Defaults to NULL in which case available values are retrieved from hits.
normalize	character specifying whether results should be presented as frequencies (normalize = "none"), the default, or whether the frequencies should be normalized using either the total frequencies of each system (normalize = "systems") or the total number of documents (normalize = "documents").
color	character vector used to color the bars according to systems. The default, "unibas", uses three colors of University of Basel's corporate design. Alternatively, color must specified using colors names or color hex values. color will be interpolated to match the length of systems.
sdg_titles	logical specifying whether the titles of the SDG should added to the axis annotation.
remove_duplicates	logical specifying the handling of multiple hits of the same SDG for a given document and system. Defaults to TRUE implying that no more than one hit is counted per SDG, system, and document.
...	arguments passed to geom_bar .

Details

The function is built using [ggplot](#) and can thus be flexibly extended. See examples.

Value

The function returns a [ggplot](#) object that can either be stored in an object or printed to produce the plot.

Examples

```
# run sdg detection
hits <- detect_sdg_systems(projects)

# create barplot
plot_sdg(hits)

# create barplot with facets
plot_sdg(hits) + ggplot2::facet_wrap(~system)
```

projects	<i>Descriptions of research projects</i>
----------	--

Description

500 project descriptions of University of Basel research projects that were funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The project descriptions were drawn randomly from University of Basel projects listed in the the public [data.snf.ch project data base](https://data.snf.ch/about/glossary).

Usage

projects

Format

A character vector of length 500.

Source

<https://data.snf.ch/about/glossary>

sdgo_queries	<i>SDG Ontology by OSDG</i>
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Description

A dataset containing the SDG queries based on the keyword ontology by OSDG. The queries are available from figshare.com.

Usage

sdgo_queries

Format

A data frame with 4,122 rows and 5 columns

system Name of system

sdg Label of the SDG

keyword SDG keyword used in query

query_id Index of the query

query SDG query

Details

Bautista-Puig, N.; Mauleón E. (2019). Unveiling the path towards sustainability: is there a research interest on sustainable goals? In the 17th International Conference on Scientometrics & Informetrics (ISSI 2019), Rome (Italy), Volume II, ISBN 978-88-3381-118-5, p.2770-2771. The authors of these queries first created an ontology from central keywords in the SDG UN description and expanded these keywords with keywords they identified in SDG related research output. There are multiple queries per SDG. All SDGs (1-17) are covered.

Source

https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/SDG_ontology/11106113/1

sdsn_queries	<i>SDG keywords by SDSN</i>
--------------	-----------------------------

Description

A dataset containing SDG-specific keywords compiled from several universities from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Network. The authors used UN documents, Google searches and personal communications as sources for the keywords. All SDGs (1-17) are covered.

Usage

sdsn_queries

Format

A data frame with 847 rows and 5 columns

system Name of system

sdg Label of the SDG

keyword SDG keyword used in query

query_id Index of the query

query SDG query

Source

<https://ap-unsdsn.org/regional-initiatives/universities-sdgs/>

siris_queries

*SDG queries of SIRIS Academic***Description**

A dataset containing the SDG queries of **SIRIS Academic**. The queries are available from [Zenodo.org](https://zenodo.org). The SIRIS queries were developed by extracting key terms from the UN official list of goals, targets and indicators as well from relevant literature around SDGs. The query system has subsequently been expanded with a pre-trained word2vec model and an algorithm that selects related words from Wikipedia. There are multiple queries per SDG (one per row). There are no queries for SDG-17.

Usage

siris_queries

Format

A data frame with 3,445 rows and 6 columns

system Name of system

sdg Label of the SDG

keyword Primary SDG query element

extra Secodary SDG query element

query_id Index of the query

query SDG query

Source

<https://zenodo.org/record/3567769#.YVMhH9gzYUG>

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