

ECS 193AB Winter/Spring2017

Template-based Data Extraction

color	otherDesignation	brandName	vintage.year
Red	BORDEAUX ROUGE	Boyer Freres	1955
Red	CHIANTI	Cimamori	
Red		Boyer l'rem	1955
Red		Puisseguin	1955
Red		Spanish Roja	1955

The library is interested in extracting data from scanned data from their historical collections. These data can thought of as tabular data. However that is not how they are formatted on the scanned documents, nor do standard OCR reliably capture what structure there is.

Current structured extraction methodologies, like [tabula](http://tabula.technology/) (<http://tabula.technology/>), do not work well with data that is only semi-structured. Additionally, most extraction tools are separated from the OCR step. This can have implications, for example; when you know you are looking only for prices, (eg `/\$(\d+|.)+/\`)

We would like an application or library that would allow the specification of search templates, these templates could be used across multiple scanned documents. Closely matching templates could be identified for further refinement or curation. Templates would act on multiple lines, and might associate multiple locations on a document into a single datum.

As ideas, we have considered approximate regular expression searches like [TRE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRE_(computing)) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRE_\(computing\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRE_(computing))), and implementing the functions as a postgresql extension, using tesseract for OCR, possibly rescanning to better match parts like prices. We've also considered a javascript library

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