

Metric Aggregation for Social Network Analysis in Blogospheres: Introducing Lyceum

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Background

The acceptance of weblogs (blogs) as popular tools for individual and community information share (Kumar, 2003) creates strong opportunities for research into the evolution of heterogeneous social network groups. In response to this opportunity, Ibiblio.org created Lyceum, an open source blog-deployment tool enabled for user metric analysis.

Groups of blogs can be dynamically ordered into blogospheres. Blogospheres are interrelated groups of weblogs organized through contextual, dynamic-link or domain-specific means. Lyceum, a software package developed by Ibiblio.org and distributed under the GNU General Public License, acts as an architectural backend for blogospheres, providing contextually relevant methods for XML-based dynamic blog interaction.

Discussion

Lyceum, in application form, can be characterized as having a dual purpose. First, Lyceum seeks to simplify methods by which groups deploy blogospheres. Acting as an application server, an installation of Lyceum will allow infinite users (bound only by hardware resource limits) the ability to generate unique blogs from an installation.

Lyceum's second purpose involves improving human and machine awareness of the blogosphere. The Lyceum framework acts as an intelligent agent, using XML and the Lyceum database to provide relevant information to blogosphere actors. (Fig. 1) Lyceum's natural methods for intelligent content aggregation add

a level of centralized machine-relevance not yet found in existing blogospheres.

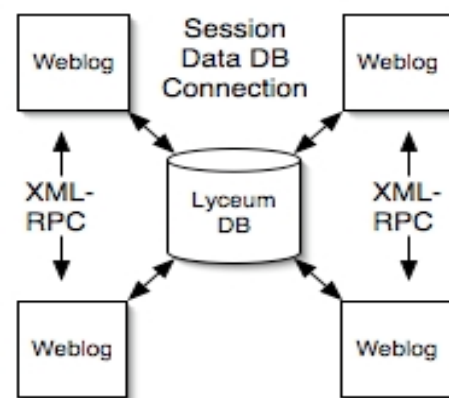


FIG 1. Simplified Lyceum Model

Methods

Lyceum's architecture enables deep analysis of activities within generated blogospheres. Utilizing the Lyceum database and information mined from session-tracking tools, Lyceum provides extremely in-depth reportable analysis on the evolution of blogospheres. Our poster will explain both Lyceum's tools for facilitated intra-blogosphere interaction, and its vast capacity for evolutionary research on social networks.

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References

Kumar, R., Novak, J., Raghavan, P., Tomkins, A. (2003). On the Bursty Evolution of Blogspace. Proceedings of WWW2003 Conference, Budapest, Hungary, 568-576.