Dfr-browser

Dfr-browser is WE1S’s primary tool for exploring topic models, serving as a general-purpose topic model visualization interface that is useful for getting an overview of a model, looking closely at a model, looking at articles associated with topics, and looking at words associated with topics. Principal visualizations in Dfr-browser include:

- Overview of all topics (in several layouts)
- Topic view (showing top words and most associated documents)
- Word view (showing topics in which a word is important)
- and Document view (showing topics that a document is associated with).

Andrew Goldstone, the creator of the original Dfr-browser, has published excellent instructions on using the interface as a complement to a topic model he produced for the Signs journal. Sections of his instructions include: “Reading the Interview” and “Exploring in Depth.” He also has instructions on his GitHub site for Dfr-browser. WE1S’s chapter on Dfr-browser in its Topic Model Observatory Guide adds goal-directed instructions for getting an overview and then looking closely at a model, examining articles associated with a topic, and looking at words associated with a topic.

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1 See WE1S’s Methods card M-2 for an explanation of topic models.

2 WE1S uses a slightly adapted version of Dfr-browser that has been adjusted to work with the metadata accompanying its text sources as opposed to that of the JSTOR articles that Goldstone designed his tool to work with.