The ACL Anthology
Current State and Future Directions

Daniel Gildea, Min-Yen Kan, Nitin Madnani, Christoph Teichmann, Martin Villalba
What is this presentation about?

- Summarize the history and current state of efforts related to the Anthology
- Illustrate the challenges of maintaining a community Project
- Invite the community to extend the capabilities of the Anthology
- Call you to join the Anthology team
The Anthology in summary

• Open access service for all ACL-Sponsored publications
• Also hosts posters and additional data
• Paper search and author pages
• 45K papers and 4.5K daily hits
• Open Source
• Maintained by volunteers
• New papers added in collaboration with proceedings editors
A brief **History** of the Anthology

- Proposed in 2001 by Steven Bird
- First version online in 2002, with Steven Bird as editor
- Min-Yen Kan becomes the new editor in 2008
- A new version of the Anthology with extra functionality is released in 2012
- Hosting of the Anthology moves from the National University of Singapore to Saarland University
How to **Future-proof** the Anthology

**Challenges**
- Limited resources for day-to-day code maintenance
- Dependencies become outdated
- Maintainer churn

**Solutions**
- Docker container for easier set-up and sandboxing
- Collaborative documentation efforts to ease onboarding
- Migration plan on the pipeline, including upgrades and test cases
Upcoming major steps

- Hosting the Anthology within the main ACL website
- Recruit a new Anthology editor
- (possibly) pay for extra support for the Anthology
Exercise: Importing of your slides

- We import slides, datasets, videos from your own
- Currently done by email (try it yourself! yes, now)
- Better workflow: pull request against the Anthology XML (à la csrankings.org)
Possible future directions

• Contains useful information both for CL researchers and about CL researchers. Useful for identifying suitable reviewers.

• Move focus from day-to-day operations towards development

• Establish a network of mirrors

• Host anonymized pre-prints
History

Summary

Future

- Comments? Questions?
- Ideas for future directions?
- Interested in joining the Anthology team?

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