Motivation

Google Scholar is a useful search tool to find scholarly articles and papers on the internet. However, it is not built for a small display size such as on mobile phones. As it returns a web page it becomes very crowded and clumsy to navigate the results when viewing on a mobile device. Also, it does not calculate any common performance indices such as the h-index or g-index which are useful for determining the impact of the authors of articles and papers. Even though Google scholar now provides similar information with user profiles as results, it’s still a cumbersome interface to navigate on mobile devices with small screens that aren’t meant for full webpages.

Goals

- Simple easy to use interface to Google scholar for mobile devices
- Calculate g-index and h-index
- Provide links to articles of authors
- Allow users to remove articles that aren’t by the author

Approach

- There is no API for Google Scholar so we had to use http requests to get the results
- Since the requests returned HTML pages, we used parsers to put the data we needed into structures
- For iOS we used a parser hosted on GitHub by zootreeves
- For Java, we used Jericho HTML parser 3.2
- To get around Google’s block of automated queries, we modified the user-agent field to spoof a normal browser
- Results are put into list views for easy viewing on mobile devices and can be selected to reveal more information.

Google results crowded on tiny screen

Similar Projects

- ODU Scholarindex:
  - Web based but also awkward on small screens.

Harzing’s public or perish:

- Limited to Windows, and Mac or Linux using Wine
- No mobile optimized application

CiteSearcher Links

Website:  http://datasys.cs.iit.edu/projects/CiteSearcher/
Android:  https://market.android.com/details?id=datasys.iit