Workshop on Textual Analysis Methods in Accounting and Finance
Lancaster University Management School
12-14 September 2018

Overview
A large fraction of financial markets data takes the form of unstructured, qualitative information (i.e., text). Analysis of text is therefore emerging as a research priority in accounting and finance. However, current approaches in the literature are often simplistic (e.g., keyword lists) and inconsistent with practice procedures in computational linguistics (e.g., training and validation).

This workshop aims to provide a rigorous and applied introduction to core methods used in natural language processing (NLP) and corpus linguistics. The workshop is supported by the Economic and Social Research Council, Lancaster University Management School, and UCREL.

Workshop programme
The 2.5-day workshop will begin with an overview and critique of extant textual analysis research in accounting and finance, followed by sessions on:
- Text extraction
- Readability and tone:
- Constructing and using wordlists
- Introduction to machine learning
- Classification using machine learning
- Topic modelling
- Introduction to corpus linguistics
- Applied corpus methods (keyness, collocation and concordance)

Details of the workshop are available at http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/cfie/TAMAFprogramme2018.pdf. The majority of sessions are computer-based (PCs provided) and will involve hands-on training with software and simple sample script (no prior programming skills required).

Target audience
The workshop targets accounting and finance researchers with limited or intermediate knowledge of textual analysis, who are either currently working on existing text-based problems or planning to do so in the near future. We expect the final group of attendees will comprise a mixture of faculty and PhD students. No experience with coding is required (although those with prior experience may be at a slight advantage). PhD students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their research proposal after lunch on 14 September.

Further details
The workshop will begin at 11.00 on 12 September and end after lunch on 14 September.
Places are limited to a maximum of 30 attendees. The event is free to registered participants but attendees are required to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. (10 × £100 bursaries are available to PhD students as a contribution towards travel and accommodation – see below for further details.) See http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lums/about-us/visit-us/ for travel information; details of accommodation options are available on request.

Applications
Please provide a CV and either (i) a current working paper involving analysis of text or (ii) a brief synopsis of plans to use textual analysis methods in the future. Email documents to: Professor Steven Young (s.young@lancaster.ac.uk). Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and decisions will be made within one week of receiving the application email. Priority will be given to applicants already working on textual analysis problems.

PhD students wishing to apply for a £100 travel bursary should indicate such in their email and provide a letter from their supervisor verifying PhD status and confirming that institutional support covering residual travel and accommodation costs is also available where required.