

TOOL NAME Visual Citizen

SHORT NAME

VisualCit

DESCRIPTION

VisualCit is a web-based tool that allows citizen scientists to build end-to-end prototypes that process social media data. The results of the processing are shown in real-time, and the pipeline components can be configured interactively. In this way, prototypes can be quickly sketched, revised, and finalized.

VisualCit functionalities include the crawling of social media and the live application of a number of preprocessing, filtering and enriching actions such as geolocation. Filtering actions are performed on the media attachments, enabling the automated selection and analysis based the image contents.

Social media currently supported are Twitter and Flickr.

ACCESS

VisualCit is open to everyone. The access to the web interface does not require a registration, and users can freely experiment with exploring the data and functionalities to create a new citizen science project for crawling, filtering, and geolocating images.

Advanced services are available as open source code for large data extraction projects.

Link: <http://visualcit.polimi.it:7778>

OWNERSHIP

VisualCit is designed and maintained at Politecnico di Milano. The development is supported by the EU Crowd4SDG project.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Short introduction video: <https://youtu.be/hzlPiZjknjQ>
 Tutorial video: <https://youtu.be/ZlaayJYDC9w>
 Source code: <https://gitlab.iiia.csic.es/crowd4sdg/polimipipeline>
 Further info: <https://pernici.faculty.polimi.it/it/crowd4sdgpolimi>
 Contact: barbara.pernici@polimi.it

PROTOCOL

VisualCit exposes an easy-to-use web interface that can be used to configure sequences of actions, to be applied to select and filter social media posts. No programming knowledge is required to use the rapid prototyping tool.

- **Query:** a query is provided by the user writing a number of search keywords as free text and a selection of the results of the crawling is shown
- **Preprocess:** posts containing duplicate or unsuitable content can be removed
- **Filter:** the contents of the attached media can be selected in a customized way, by looking at image contents (e.g., selecting posts containing persons, or a given type of scene, and many more)
- **Enrich:** location of the posts can be estimated based on the contents, and are shown on a map
- **Modify:** the process steps and their configuration can be altered or reset at any time
- **Download:** processed data corresponding to each step can be downloaded by the user in tabular form

PROJECT SUPPORT

- DATA COLLECTION DATA ANALYSIS DELIBERATION OTHER

ORIGINAL DATA

Input data is crawled from social media, using the query configuration provided by the user

PRODUCED DATA

CSV files containing the processed social media posts. The files can be downloaded at any step of the process. Each file contains the posts corresponding to that step, together with the outputs required by the citizen scientist during the exploration phase.