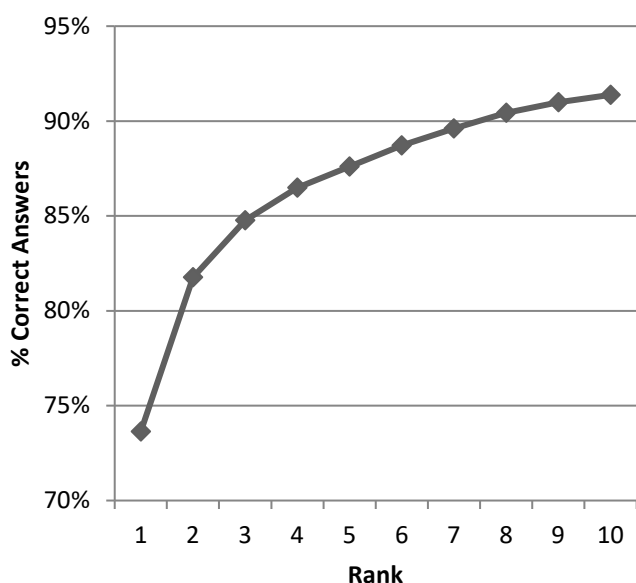


Proovit: The 1st Factoid Meta-Search Engine for Question Answering Systems



Proovit is the first “Factoid Meta-Search Engine” that efficiently gathers knowledge from multiple information sources like a meta-search engine, while providing clear, accurate answers like a QA system. Proovit is able to both retrieve and process a much smaller amount of information than systems that download and analyze individual documents, making it much more efficient while achieving accuracy above that of the current state-of-the-art QA systems. Proovit’s architecture expands upon the generic QA architecture in order to incorporate web meta-search and meta-search features and successfully yields Ranked Answer-lists.

Proovit Yields Correct Ranked Answer Lists

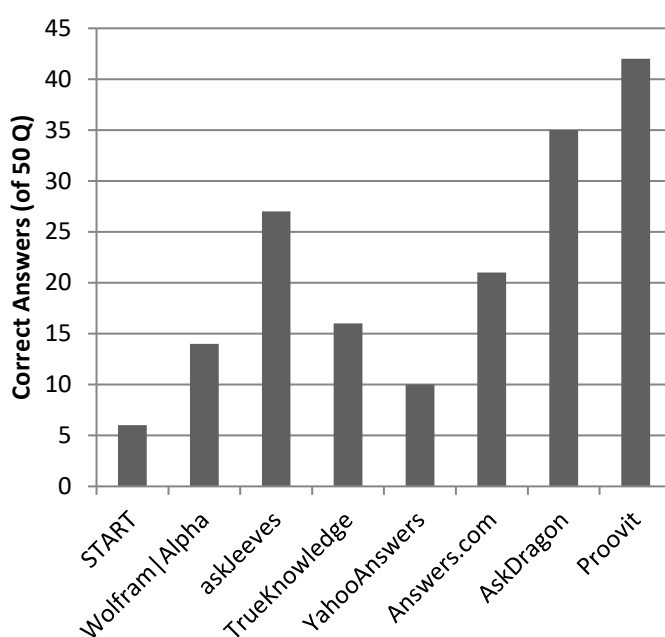


Proovit answered a Blind 30 set of questions, yielding an average of 0.089 seconds per question. On the same question set, experienced human users averaged 59.5 seconds per question.

Potential Applications

- Integrate with and enhance existing meta-search engines and provide QA capability
- Create new met-search engine that also provides QA
- SmartPhone apps that provide QA service
- Texted based QA services

Proovit Outperforms other QA Systems



All the systems were queried with the same set of 50 questions on the same day, and their answers were archived and scored. Each answer was analyzed and all approximate answers were accepted.

Moving Forward

[Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Drawing Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

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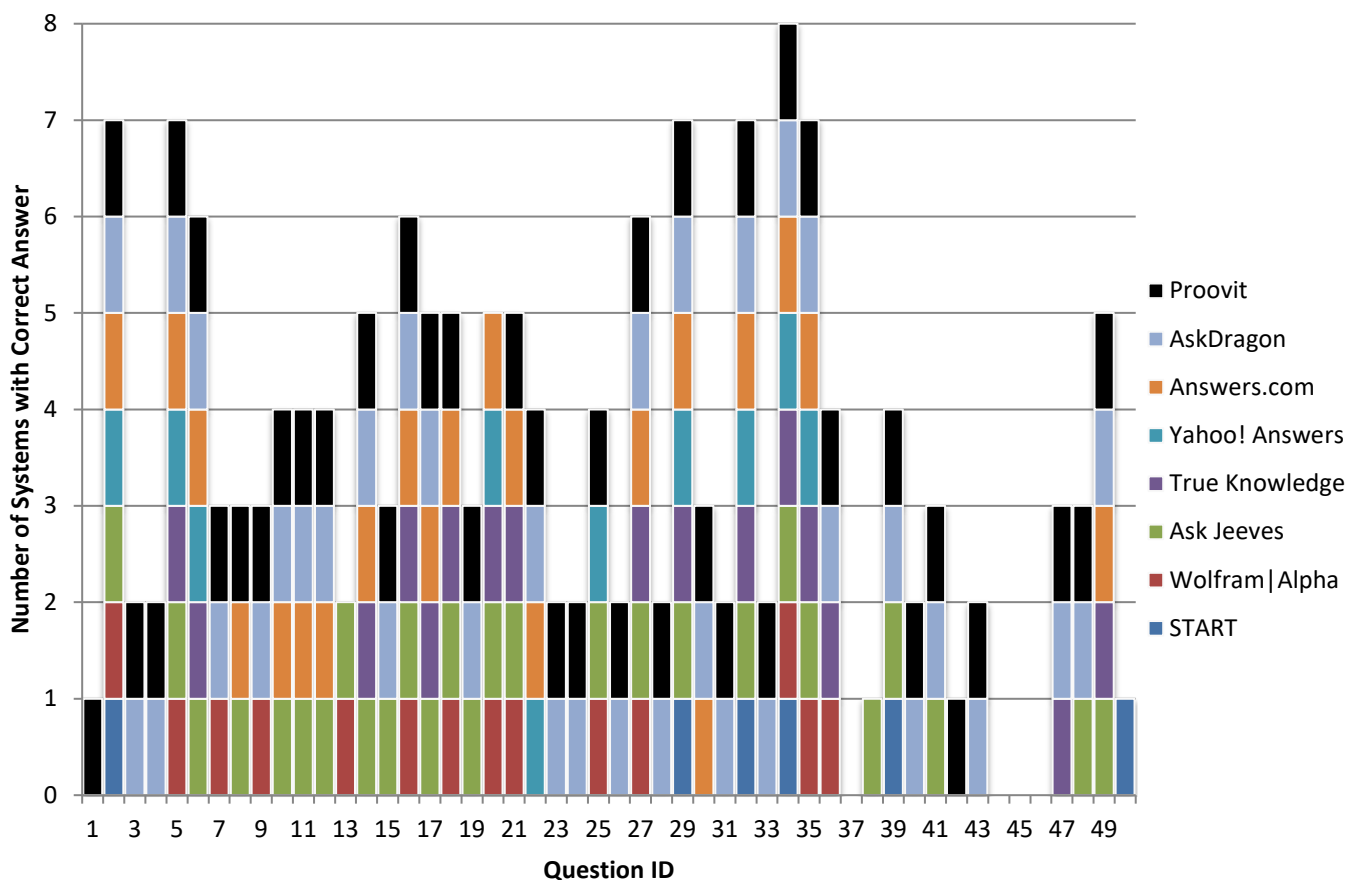
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There are various forms of QA systems that are available on the Internet. There are database-driven systems like START and Wolfram|Alpha, community-based systems like Answers.com and Yahoo! Answers, and open-domain QA systems like AskDragon. To test the ability of these systems to discover novel answers, we use the 50 factoid questions proposed by Mark Andrew Greenwood in his 2005 dissertation. These “Blind 50 Questions” are designed to be objective, non-changing, and non-ambiguous. Most importantly, this list of questions has not been published on any websites, this should be the first time any of the systems have seen the questions.



The most surprising example of poor accuracy comes from TrueKnowledge, which uses search engines and even other QA systems to determine answers. Wolfram|Alpha also performed quite poorly. And, this is surprising, given the amount of fanfare Wolfram enjoyed in the years prior to its release. Undeniably, however, our results reveal that Proovit, as well as AskDragon, yield higher accuracy than any database driven systems of community based systems. To learn more about this research and/or partnership opportunities please contact UL Lafayette’s Office Of Innovation Management via the information provided below.

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