Using the Hypothes.is web annotation tool for neologism collection

Erin McKean
Wordnik.com
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What's Hypothes.is?

- A US-based 501(c)3 on a mission to build a "conversation layer" for the web
- Funded through Mellon, Knight, Sloan + other major foundations
- Annotation standard is based on the W3C Web Annotation Working Group
- More than 5M annotations as of March 2019

What's Wordnik?

- A US-based 501(c)3 nonprofit
- Mission to 'collect and share all the words of English'
- Founded 2008, became nonprofit 2014
- Wordnik.com website + developer API
- Information about >8M words

Hypothes.is Technical Overview

- Annotation service that stores, searches, and displays annotations, manages users and groups, and manages browser clients
- Annotation viewer that runs in the browser
- Bookmarklet for marking annotations in the browser
- API service

Setup

- Create a Hypothes.is account (free)
- Create a Hypothes.is group
  - Currently only private groups are self-service
  - Restricted and open groups are in Publisher beta
- Invite users to group
  - Users must have (free) Hypothes.is account

Wordnik Program

- Set up Hypothes.is group in 2017 as a possible adjunct to a class in lexicography, but did not see much use
- Began recruiting active users of the Wordnik site as readers in Q3 2018

Citation Annotation Process: sign up

We're currently beta-testing a way for readers to add citations from the web to Wordnik. To join, please first sign up for a hypothes.is account and then fill out this form.

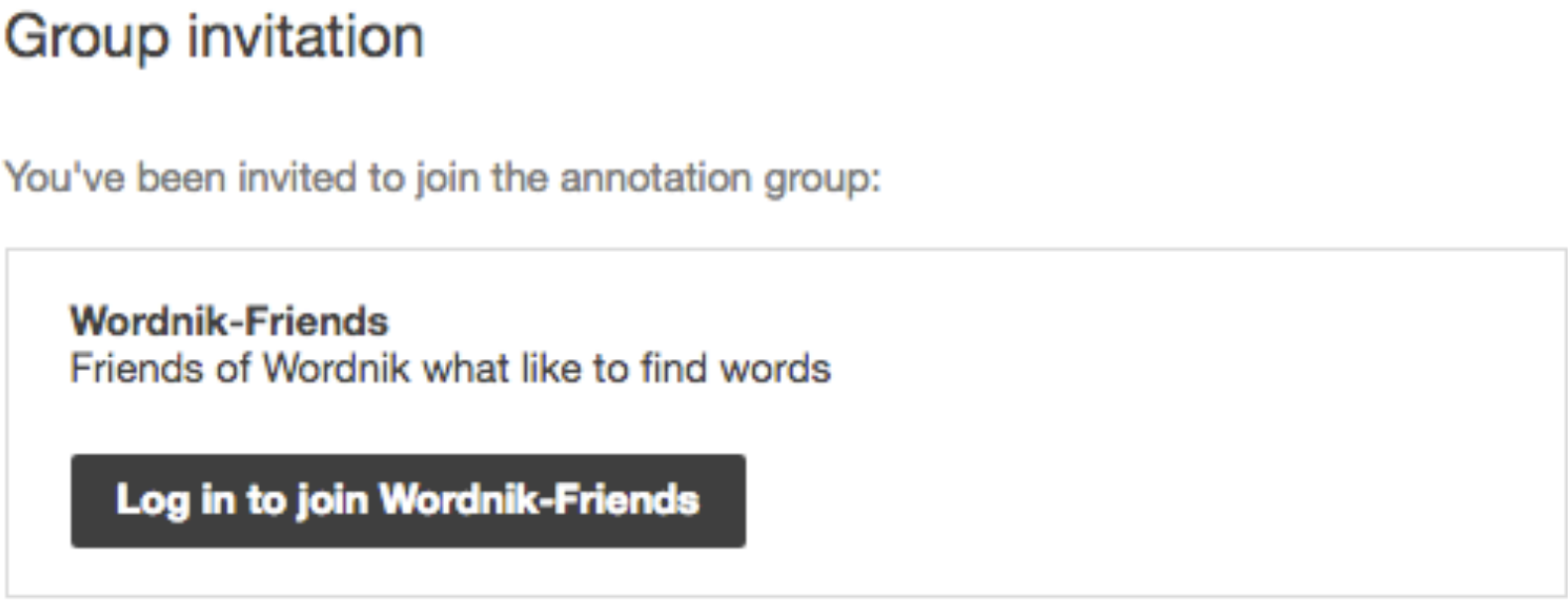
* Required

Email address *

Your email

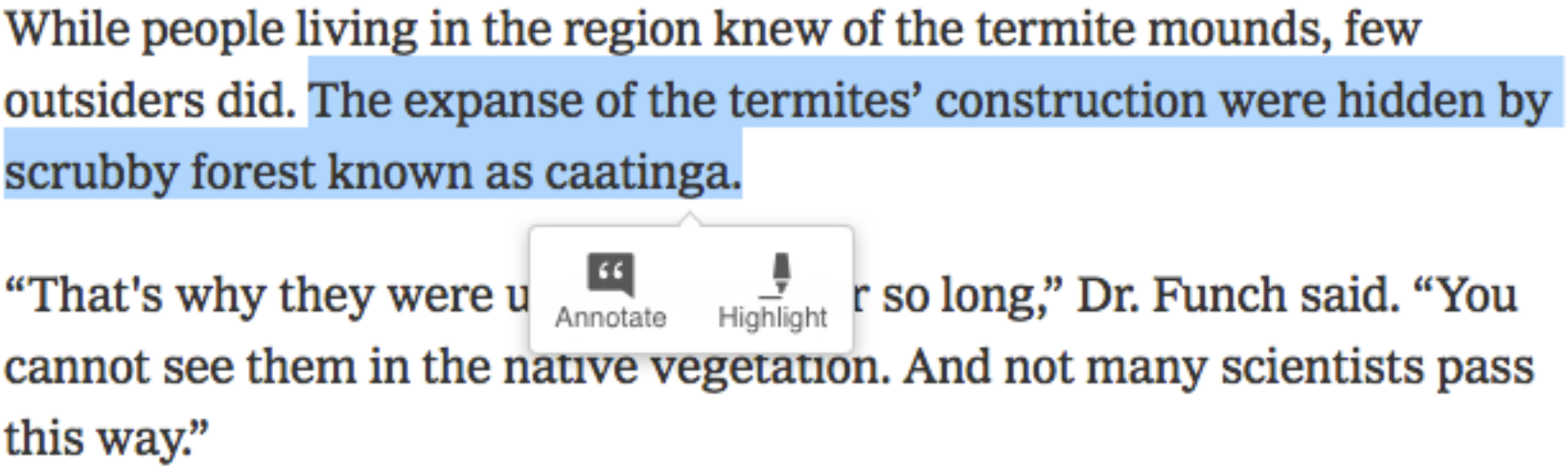
What is your Wordnik username?

Citation Annotation Process: join group

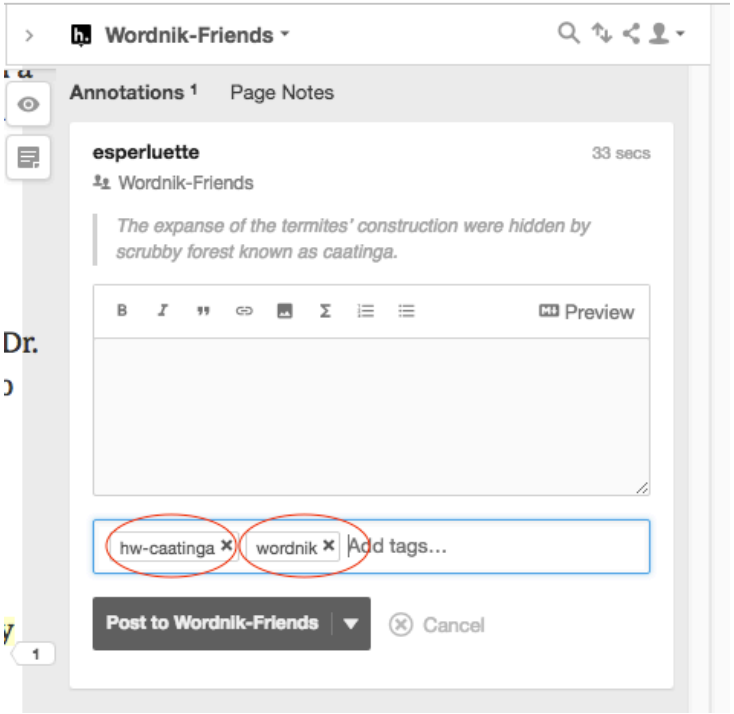


Citation Annotation Process: install Hypothes.is bookmarklet in browser

Citation Annotation Process: markup



Citation Annotation Process: markup



Hypothes.is API: selected response fields

"**updated**": "2018-11-27T22:46:28.917692+00:00",

"**exact**": "I've coined a new term for the gallows humor that my generation indulges in because we have an overheating planet, a dim political future, a crushing economy, and a real avocado toast problem:Millennihilism",

"**tags**": ["wordnik", "hw-**millennihilism**"],

"**created**": "2018-11-27T22:46:28.917692+00:00",

"**uri**": "http://copperbadge.tumblr.com/post/161095955784/ive-coined-a-new-term-for-the-gallows-humor-that",

"**user**": "acct:**Purplatypus**@hypothes.is",

Known Problems in Citation Selection

- Over-citing for rare words
- Missing/incomplete attributions
- Storage
- Recruitment/motivation of readers
- Setup/management costs

Known Problems in Citation Selection

- *Over-citing for rare words*
  - Not a problem for Wordnik's model
- *Missing/incomplete attributions*
  - Source urls automatically produced by Hypothes.is
  - May still be an issue for poorly-coded web pages (missing metadata)

Known Problems in Citation Selection

- *Storage*
  - Kept on Hypothes.is servers: can run own server/backups
- *Recruitment/motivation of readers*
  - Still an issue …
- *Setup/management costs*
  - Editorial time spent in creating instructions, answering questions
  - Engineering time in writing connectors to Hypothes.is API, setting up db
  - Review process setup (editorial and technical)

Process Issues

- Bookmarklet can balk at some web pages, esp if iframes are blocked
- Citation readers must conform to tagging instructions
- Problems annotating PDFs with no text layers

Possible Risks

- Weaponization by bad actors
  - Spammers, ax-grinders
- Hypothes.is shutdown or software deprecation
  - Server is open source; can run own server instance
- Overgamification
  - Leaderboard obsession

What's Next?

- Citations gathered through this process will begin appearing on the site in Q3 2019
- Plan to mark user-gathered citations with an icon or badge that links to a "what's this?" page that includes signup for new volunteers
- User leaderboard to show recent citations, citation totals
- Simplification of tag schema

What's Next? Pt. 2

- Recruitment of readers interested in specific subject areas
- New features in Hypothes.is API allow for retrieval of all annotations by url, permitting selection of random (but human-marked) annotations

Conclusions

- Hypothes.is is a relatively simple, cost-effective solution for marking and retrieving citations from web pages …. if:
  - Over-citation of rare and nonce words is not an issue
  - Text-type balance is not important (as citations are only from web sources)
  - Sufficient resources are available to manage readers and create API connectors

Questions?

- Links:
  - web.hypothes.is
  - web.hypothes.is/developers
  - wordnik.com
  - developer.wordnik.com