

Seminar

The 'What, Why and How?' of building 'Sawaliram'

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Curiosity is a curious quality. It is admired yet feared, desired yet suppressed. Curiosity motivates exploration; it drives our learning, development, and adaptation to the environment. Although curiosity is natural to children, we find that children ask fewer questions as they progress through school -- or so goes the story.

In the course of the TCIS-HCU outreach program we noticed that, given the right conditions, children do ask many questions. So many questions that we started to build a database to provide insight into what students are curious about, and into factors that encourage or suppress questioning. Thus arose 'Sawaliram 2.0', a project of the TIFR Hyderabad with Eklavya of Madhya Pradesh, with an aim to create a multilingual repository and an open source platform to collect, analyze, answer, translate and learn from questions asked by students, particularly the majority who do not have online access.

We will describe a few unique features of the 'Sawaliram' web platform and share some outstanding issues in its development. While interesting analysis is possible from consideration of metadata, we will broach the further possibility of using natural language processing, beginning with the essential tasks of subject categorization and identical questions detection in the data.

Friday, Sep 27th 2019

4:00 PM (Tea/Coffee at 3:30 PM)

Seminar Hall, TIFR-H