
JVerbnet

User's Guide

Version 1.2.0

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1 Purpose of the Software

JVerbnet is a Java library for interfacing with the University of Colorado's Verbnet data. It features API calls to retrieve verb classes by their id numbers, associated Wordnet keys or Propbank groupings. The library includes no GUI elements, and is written for Java 1.5.0. The software is free to use for all purposes, as long as proper copyright acknowledgment is made.

JVerbnet does not include the Verbnet data directly. The Verbnet data itself must be downloaded separately from the Verbnet site at <http://verbs.colorado.edu/~mpalmer/projects/verbnet.html>.

2 Getting Started

The main interface for accessing dictionary data is the `edu.mit.jverbnet.index.IVerbIndex` interface. The standard implementation of this interface is the `edu.mit.jverbnet.index.VerbIndex` class. In the simplest case, where you are using Verbnet with the data files on the same filesystem as your Java program, you can instantiate the `VerbIndex` class with a single argument, a Java URL object that points to the directory where the Verbnet dictionary data files are located.

An example of this can be found in Listing 1, in the form of a Java method `testIndex()`. In the method, the first block (lines 4-5) deals with constructing a URL object that points to the Verbnet data files. This path will probably be different on your system depending on where your Verbnet files are located. The second block of code (8-9), constructs an instance of the default VerbIndex object, and opens it by calling the `open()` method. The final block (12-21) demonstrates searching the index for a particular verb and printing out some information. The final numbered block of code shows the console output of the method. Listing 2 shows the console output of the method.

```

1 public void testIndex() throws Exception {
2
3     // make a url pointing to the Verbnet data
4     String pathToVerbnet = "/path/to/your/verbnet/directory/";
5     URL url = new URL("file", null, pathToVerbnet);
6
7     // construct the index and open it
8     IVerbIndex index = new VerbIndex(url);
9     index.open();
10
11    // look up a verb class and print out some info
12    IVerbClass verb = index.getRootVerb("hit-18.1");
13    IMember member = verb.getMembers().get(0);
14    Set<IWordnetKey> keys = member.getWordnetTypes().keySet();
15    IFrame frame = verb.getFrames().get(0);
16    FrameType type = frame.getPrimaryType();
17    String example = frame.getExamples().get(0);
18    System.out.println("id: " + verb.getID());
19    System.out.println("first wordnet keys: " + keys);
20    System.out.println("first frame type: " + type.getID());
21    System.out.println("first example: " + example);
22
23 }
```

Listing 1: Basic use of JVerbnet

```

1 id: hit-18.1
2 first wordnet keys: [bang%2:35:00, bang%2:35:01]
3 first frame type: NP V NP
4 first example: Paula hit the ball.
```

Listing 2: Output of the testIndex() method in Listing 1 (for Verbnet 3.2)

3 Frequently Asked Questions

3.1 How do I license JVerbnet for commercial use?

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