

---

# Contents

---

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	ix
<b>Chapter 1. Named Entities for Accessing Information</b> . . . . .	1
1.1. Research program history . . . . .	2
1.1.1. Understanding documents: an ambitious task . . . . .	2
1.1.2. Detecting basic elements: named entities . . . . .	3
1.1.3. Trend: a return to slot filling . . . . .	7
1.2. Task using named entities as a basic representation . . . . .	9
1.3. Conclusion . . . . .	10
<b>Chapter 2. Named Entities, Referential Units</b> . . . . .	11
2.1. Issues with the named entity concept . . . . .	12
2.1.1. A heterogeneous set . . . . .	12
2.1.2. Existing defining formulas . . . . .	17
2.1.3. An NLP object . . . . .	21
2.2. The notions of meaning and reference . . . . .	22
2.2.1. What is the reference? . . . . .	22
2.2.2. What is meaning? . . . . .	24
2.3. Proper names . . . . .	27
2.3.1. The traditional criteria for defining a proper name . . . . .	28
2.3.2. Meaning and referential function of proper names . . . . .	30
2.3.3. The “referential load” of proper names . . . . .	34
2.4. Definite descriptions . . . . .	35
2.4.1. What is a definite description? . . . . .	35
2.4.2. The meaning of definite descriptions . . . . .	38

2.4.3. Complete and incomplete definite descriptions . . . . .	39
2.5. The meaning and referential functioning of named entities . . . . .	41
2.5.1. Reference to a particular . . . . .	42
2.5.2. Referential autonomy . . . . .	44
2.5.3. A “natural” heterogeneity . . . . .	45
2.6. Conclusion . . . . .	46
<b>Chapter 3. Resources Associated with Named Entities . . . . .</b>	<b>47</b>
3.1. Typologies: general and specialist domains . . . . .	48
3.1.1. The notion of category . . . . .	48
3.1.2. Typology development . . . . .	49
3.1.3. Typologies beyond evaluation campaigns . . . . .	53
3.1.4. Other uses of typologies . . . . .	54
3.1.5. Illustrated comparison . . . . .	57
3.1.6. Issues to consider regarding entities . . . . .	57
3.2. Corpora . . . . .	59
3.2.1. Introduction . . . . .	59
3.2.2. Corpora and named entities . . . . .	60
3.2.3. Conclusion . . . . .	65
3.3. Lexicons and knowledge databases . . . . .	65
3.3.1. Lexical databases . . . . .	66
3.3.2. Knowledge databases . . . . .	72
3.4. Conclusion . . . . .	75
<b>Chapter 4. Recognizing Named Entities . . . . .</b>	<b>77</b>
4.1. Detection and classification of named entities . . . . .	78
4.2. Indicators for named entity recognition . . . . .	79
4.2.1. Describing word morphology . . . . .	79
4.2.2. Using lexical databases . . . . .	81
4.2.3. Contextual clues . . . . .	83
4.2.4. Conclusion . . . . .	85
4.3. Rule-based techniques . . . . .	85
4.4. Data-driven and machine-learning systems . . . . .	88
4.4.1. Majority class models . . . . .	91
4.4.2. Contextual models (HMM) . . . . .	92
4.4.3. Multiple feature models (Softmax and MaxEnt) . . . . .	93

---

4.4.4. Conditional Random Fields (CRFs) . . . . .	95
4.5. Unsupervised enrichment of supervised methods . . . . .	95
4.6. Conclusion . . . . .	96
<b>Chapter 5. Linking Named Entities to References . . . . .</b>	<b>99</b>
5.1. Knowledge bases . . . . .	100
5.2. Formalizing polysemy in named entity mentions . . . . .	102
5.3. Stages in the named entity linking process . . . . .	103
5.3.1. Detecting mentions of named entities . . . . .	103
5.3.2. Selecting candidates for each mention . . . . .	103
5.3.3. Entity disambiguation . . . . .	104
5.3.4. Entity linking . . . . .	106
5.4. System performance . . . . .	106
5.4.1. Practical application: DBpedia Spotlight . . . . .	107
5.4.2. Future prospects . . . . .	108
<b>Chapter 6. Evaluating Named Entity Recognition . . . . .</b>	<b>111</b>
6.1. Classic measurements: precision, recall and F-measures . . . . .	112
6.2. Measures using error counts . . . . .	115
6.3. Evaluating associated tasks . . . . .	120
6.3.1. Detecting entities and mentions . . . . .	121
6.3.2. Entity detection and linking . . . . .	122
6.4. Evaluating preprocessing technologies . . . . .	126
6.5. Conclusion . . . . .	128
<b>Conclusion . . . . .</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Appendices . . . . .</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Appendix 1. Glossary . . . . .</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Appendix 2. Named Entities: Research Programs . . . . .</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Appendix 3. Summary of Available Corpora . . . . .</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Appendix 4. Annotation Formats . . . . .</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Appendix 5. Named Entities: Current Definitions . . . . .</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Bibliography . . . . .</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>169</b>