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The NucScholar project: an AI/ML framework for compiling and searching the nuclear science literature

Literature search engines have become an integral and indispensable part of academic research. Search engines like google scholar rely on powerful AI/ML tools to return results that match the user's intended meaning as closely as possible, but they are better suited for general-purpose queries. As a result, they tend to overwhelm the user searching for domain-specific information with irrelevant hits. For this reason, the Nuclear Science References (NSR) database [1], hosted and maintained by the National Nuclear Data Center at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), has become a standard search engine in the field. The goal of the NucScholar project is to build on the capabilities of NSR by automating onerous archival tasks needed to construct a database of nuclear science journal articles, and by augmenting the search/retrieval interface through the use of natural language processing (NLP) tools.

In this talk, I will present the current status of the project. I will focus in particular on the automated archiving functionality and on the NLP capability to perform both semantic and question-answering searches, and their implementation using deep learning models.

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[1] B. Pritychenko et al., NIM A 640, 213 (2011).

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