What is this presentation about?

- Summarize the history and current state of efforts related to the Anthology
- Illustrate the challenges of maintaining a community Project
- Invite the community to extend the capabilities of the Anthology
- Call you to join the Anthology team
The Anthology in **summary**

- Open access service for all ACL-Sponsored publications
- Also hosts posters and additional data
- Paper search and author pages
- 45K papers and 4.5K daily hits
- Open Source
- Maintained by volunteers
- New papers added in collaboration with proceedings editors
A brief **History** of the Anthology

- Proposed in 2001 by Steven Bird
- First version online in 2002, with Steven Bird as editor
- Min-Yen Kan becomes the new editor in 2008
- A new version of the Anthology with extra functionality is released in 2012
- Hosting of the Anthology moves from the National University of Singapore to Saarland University
How to **Future-proof** the Anthology

**Challenges**

- Limited resources for day-to-day code maintenance
- Dependencies become outdated
- Maintainer churn

**Solutions**

- Docker container for easier set-up and sandboxing
- Collaborative documentation efforts to ease onboarding
- Migration plan on the pipeline, including upgrades and test cases
Upcoming major steps

- Hosting the Anthology within the main ACL website
- Recruit a new Anthology editor
- (possibly) pay for extra support for the Anthology
Exercise: Importing of your slides

- We import slides, datasets, videos from your own
- Currently done by email (try it yourself! yes, now)
- Better workflow: pull request against the Anthology XML (à la csrankings.org)
Possible future directions

- Contains useful information both *for* CL researchers and *about* CL researchers. Useful for identifying suitable reviewers.
- Move focus from day-to-day operations towards development
- Establish a network of mirrors
- Host anonymized pre-prints
The ACL Anthology
Current state and future directions

The ACL Anthology is a service offered by the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), allowing open access to the proceedings of all ACL-sponsored conferences and journal articles. It offers search of indexed papers, author-specific pages, and services that can be embedded within pages. It is Open Source, and maintained on a volunteer basis.

A brief history of the Anthology

- 2001 The Anthology is proposed as a project to the ACL Executive by Shane Bluns.
- 2002 First version of the Anthology, with Shane Bluns taking the position of Editor.
- 2008 Min-Yen Kan takes the role of Editor.
- 2012 A second version of the Anthology is released. Maintenance continues to this day.
- 2017 After several years hosted at the University of Singapore, the Anthology relocates to Swarthmore University.

Current state of the Anthology

- 43k indexed papers
- 5.5k daily views

Future-proofing the Anthology

- With the Anthology in a stable state, it is time to look ahead. We identified three main areas of work:
  - Documenting every aspect of the system, to simplify onboarding of new members, when project members change.
  - Capture and publish demodellers.
  - Define a roadmap for ongoing development, which will be shared.
- Challenges for the Community:
  - We want the Anthology to grow beyond a repository of scientific papers, to invite and communities to contribute ideas and implementations on all areas. We suggest two possible first projects:
    - Add anonymous pre-print support, helping authors and preserving double-blind review - either as collaboration with pre-print services like ArXiv, or as an extension.
    - Use the users' database to find suitable reviewers for submissions

Join the Anthology team!

- We are always looking for new volunteers to keep the Anthology running. Programmers (especially those on BIDS), system administrators, software engineers, and every little bit help.
- Interested? Know someone? Get in touch with us! Contact any of the authors, or follow us on GitHub!

Summary
History
Future-proofing
Upcoming
Future

- Comments? Questions?
- Ideas for future directions?
- Interested in joining the Anthology team?

Come and visit our poster