Call for Participation

Brainstorming the next generation of corpus software
Workshop Type: Practical or Applied Workshop
Length: Half-day workshop (3 h + 30 min break)
Organizers: Laurence Anthony, Stephen Wattam, Matt Coole, John Mariani, Paul Rayson, John Vidler

Corpus linguists rely on corpus software tools to analyze their carefully designed and constructed corpora. But, they can sometimes find it difficult to see beyond the features of their preferred concordance, collocation tool, or keyword generator tool and start thinking about completely new and interesting ways to analyze their data.

In this workshop, the organizers will first give a brief overview of the current state of corpus linguistics software. You will then be invited to consider the different ways you use this software in your research to identify gaps in your analytical procedures. Next, you will be invited to brainstorm new features, functions, and directions for corpus software. Working in small groups together with a software developer, you will be encouraged to think 'outside of the box' of your current research methods, and potentially come up with new ideas for corpus tools. The different groups will present these ideas to the session as a whole, and then the common themes will be considered in terms of their novelty, practical value, and potential for realization.

At the end of the workshop, the focus will shift to the practical aspects of developing new software tools. Participants with experiences of programming or working together with software developers will be invited to share their experiences, suggestions, and advice. The session will then finish with a summary of the discussions, and you will be encouraged to create a concrete plan for using or developing at least one new corpus tool in your future research activities.

Questionnaire:
In preparation for the workshop, we have designed a short 5 min (anonymous) survey asking about your current uses of corpora and corpus tools. If you plan to attend the workshop, we would very much appreciate you completing this survey. You can access it at the following URL:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3LBZZCR