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1 Purpose

In this project, I propose the extension and improvement of the Bushido system for exploration of a collection of Gulf War era Presidential diaries. These diaries recount the daily activities of President George H.W. Bush. In particular, they “chronicle the daily activities of the President including meetings (with lists of attendees), social and speaking engagements, trips, telephone calls, meals, routine tasks, and recreational pursuits [1].” The first incarnation of a system to provide access to the George Bush Presidential Diaries was created as a master’s thesis by Shreyas Kumar [3]. His system provided a standard Greenstone-based front-end and a time-line visualization that could show the occurrences of two search terms across the entries. In Spring 2006, Bogen and Speight created a new Java-based application to cross-reference entries against historical news articles [2], in addition to searching and browsing. Both systems left several questions unanswered. The follow up, Bushido-sai, will build on the previous work with the diaries by focusing on the original intended target audience, political scientists and political historians. The question of if there needs are met are left unanswered by both prior projects.

2 Bushido-sai

Bushido-sai, the follow-up to Bogen and Speight’s Bushido system, will inherit the features and capabilities of Bushido. A first task of improving some known issues with performance and portability will allow the prior system to be informally evaluated by domain experts. From this initial evaluation of the existing system, a list of deficiencies and improvements will be identified. Bushido will then be extended to meet the needs of the domain experts and a second evaluation will be conducted to determine if the improved system meets the needs of the domain experts.
References

