ColloCaid

Combining user needs, lexical data and digital writing environments

A common problem for writers is that they tend to overestimate their knowledge of collocations, especially when learning to write in a second language or are new to a particular register or domain.

Even when learners are aware of their vocabulary limitations, looking up collocations in external resources like dictionaries or other tools can interrupt thoughts and the flow of words.

This can be particularly disruptive during cognitively demanding tasks, like academic writing.

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ColloCaid is a tool we developed to help writers with general academic English collocations. One of the advantages of ColloCaid is that it offers collocation suggestions directly from a text editor

| take advantage | V+ ▸ |
| selective advantage | Adj+ ▸ |
| advantage over (instruments/time/rivals) ▸ |
| advantage of (method/approach) ▸ |

selective advantage ▸
mutual advantage ▸
unfair advantage ▸
distinct advantage ▸
main advantage
obvious advantage
added advantage
potential advantage

More

this is one of the **main advantages** of automated systems
the **main advantage** of the technique is the ease with which it can
its **main advantage** is fewer unwanted effects

** Please take care to adapt examples to your own text **

ColloCaid provides over 32,000 collocation suggestions for 572 of the most frequent nouns, verbs and adjectives in general academic English (selected by cross-referencing a combination of academic word lists). It also provides examples of collocations in context.

The ColloCaid lexical database was compiled by extracting and manually curating collocations and examples from corpora of academic English (Frankenberg-Garcia et al. 2019, 2021).

A proof-of-concept prototype that integrates this data into a text editor was then developed and can be accessed online. Recent figures show over 7000 registered users. We hope in the future to develop ColloCaid into an add-in compatible with mainstream text editors.

Frankenberg-Garcia, A. Lew, R., Roberts, J., Rees, G. and Sharma, N. (2019). Developing a writing assistant to help EAP writers with collocations in real time, *ReCALL*, 32(2): 23-39.

Frankenberg-Garcia, A. Rees, G. and Lew, R. (2021). Slipping through the cracks in e-Lexicography. *International Journal of Lexicography*, 34(2):206-234.