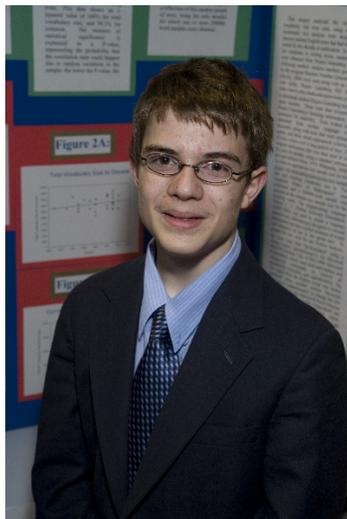


CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



James Harris

How Has English Vocabulary Changed Over Time?

Division: Earth & Environmental Sciences / None

Category: Junior

Region: Chignecto East

City: Scotsburn, NS

School: West Pictou Consolidated School

Abstract: This project analysed how the size of English vocabulary has changed over time by analysing a random sample of electronic books from Project Gutenberg using a home-made Python script. The unique and common word counts over time were then graphed by decade. Both the unique and common word counts show an increase over the time period studied.

Biography

I was born on October 6th, 1993, in Vancouver BC. My younger sister Claire and I were both home schooled until 2006. I've worked with computers since before I can remember; Mom says I learned the alphabet on the computer when I was two and started designing SimCity maps a year later. We moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in 1997. I had the good fortune to find a homeschooling computer teaching lab, run by Dr. Christian Blouin, who introduced me to the programming language Python. I have played the piano since I was five, love classical music in particular, and am working on my grade five Royal Conservatory of Music exam. I started playing flute in the school band in 2004. I started school in West Pictou Consolidated in the fall of 2006 (yes, two years after I joined the school band), and have been in the Pictou Mariners Swim Team since then. I also joined Sea Cadets (RCSCC Royal William) that winter, and currently hold the rank of Able Cadet. I like weaving, but haven't been able to find time (or a loom) since I started public school. I am hoping to study Engineering at the Royal Military College.

Awards

Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$2 000
Gold Medal - Computing & Information Technology - Junior Sponsor: Intel of Canada, Ltd.	\$1 500
Total	\$3 500