Visualizing Collocations in Religious Online Forums

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1 Background

- A lot of the religious discourse in our society is manifested on online platforms like Reddit
- We want to investigate in what way religious communities differ when talking about religious and spiritual key concepts online

Method:
- **Collocation Analysis**: How frequent are other terms mentioned close to these key concepts
- five as maximum length for a collocation
- strength of collocations: Pointwise Mutual Information (PIM)
- To visualize collocations, we place the key concept in the middle and the collocations around them.

2 Corpus

Corpus of three religious subreddits with over 700,000 comments and around 50 million tokens for the time span of July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019: the subreddits for two monotheistic religions and a more esoteric one *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric /Forum</th>
<th>/r/Christianity</th>
<th>/r/Islam</th>
<th>/r/Occult</th>
<th>Sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submissions</td>
<td>28,896</td>
<td>4,123</td>
<td>8,275</td>
<td>41,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>618,719</td>
<td>64,886</td>
<td>76,387</td>
<td>759,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokens</td>
<td>43,996,066</td>
<td>4,754,301</td>
<td>5,702,675</td>
<td>54,453,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentences</td>
<td>2,897,575</td>
<td>300,854</td>
<td>365,962</td>
<td>3,564,391</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Corpus is available upon request via mail: thomas.schmidt@ur.de

3.1 Results for the Key Term “Love”

3.2 Results for the Key Term “Religion”

3.3 Results for the Key Term “Life”