



Figure 4: Babel’s Architecture. The orange area (A) is the frontend that most clients interact with. This is a traditional web service exposing a REST API that provides scholarly article recommendations freely, to anyone in the world. The green area (B) is the backend, where recommendation generation and dataset ingestion and normalization occurs. The yellow area (C) is where logging and analysis occurs. Each recommendation and any action taken, is logged and aggregated, allowing researchers to compare relative algorithm performance.

in the near future, including bibliographic coupling [4] and co-citation [8].

Table 1 shows a breakdown of the over 300 million recommendations Babel provides, consisting of seven different datasets and over 39 million papers. Our current goal is to on-board several new publishers of various sizes to validate our endpoint design, specifically around latency, scalability and analytics. Once we have done this we will begin soliciting regular updates from publishers to validate the recommendation generation phase. Finally, we will open the system to researchers who wish to implement new recommendation algorithms. We provide API documentation and a FAQ at <http://babel.eigenfactor.org>.

Babel is currently a research project, but it will eventually need to find a home. There are several examples of non-profit membership fee based entities, such as CrossRef, ORCID and DOI that provide examples of how “common good” projects like Babel can exist. Since the platform code is open-source, in the worst case scenario another group could fork the code base and start running an improved platform with improved data and tools. The need for finding relevant articles is growing and hopefully additional tools for meeting this need will emerge.

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