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Author Name Disambiguation in Bibliographic Databases: A Survey

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ABSTRACT Entity resolution is a challenging and hot research area in the field of Information Systems for the last decade. Author name disambiguation in bibliographic databases like DBLP¹. Citeseer², and Scopus³ is a specialized field of entity resolution. Given many citations of underlying authors, the author name disambiguation task is to find which citations belong to the same author. In this survey, we start with three basic author name disambiguation problems, followed by a need for solutions and challenges. A generic, five-step framework is provided for handling author name disambiguation issues. These steps are preparation of dataset, selection of publication attributes, selection of similarity metrics, selection of models, and performance evaluation of clustering. Categorization and elaboration of similarity metrics and methods are also provided. Finally, future directions and recommendations are given for this dynamic area of research.

Keywords Author Name Disambiguation, Bibliographic Databases, Entity Resolution, Metrics, Similarity.

I. INTRODUCTION

The scholarly societies that are constituted via bibliometric networks are growing with progress in scientific research[1-4]. The network science methods cover several aspects of the study of evolving sciences like the relationship between professions and their careers [5], finding the emerging stars from scholarly networks [6–8], the study of citation networks [9–12], social media analytics [13–16], expert ranking methods [17]–[19]. The problem of entity resolution has attracted the attention of information system researchers for a long time now. Author Name Disambiguation (AND) in Bibliographic Databases (BD) is a hot issue and is a specialized field of entity resolution. Author name disambiguation is the process of distinguishing authors with similar names from each other. The bibliographic databases include a large amount of data from co-author networks and digital libraries. Authors or researchers can have similar names, can have multiple ways of writing their full names, or different authors can share multiple names. These situations arise the ambiguity for the methods that need the publication metadata for ranking or evaluating the authors [20-24]. The disambiguation methods are not only required in co-author networks but are also significant in fields like spam filtering [25–27]. Search engines like Google⁴ facilitate the users in searching web pages automatically. The name queries are approximately 5-10% of all queries [28]. Further, it is estimated that the 300 most common male names are used by more than 114 million people in the United States [29]. Search engines usually treat the name queries as normal keyword searches and do not pay any special attention towards their possible ambiguity. For example, when searching for Tehmina Amjad on Google, it shows 228,000 web pages containing similar names. Out of these pages, only a small portion is relevant to the intended Tehmina Amjad. This is because the data on the internet is heterogeneous.

¹ http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/~ley/db/

² http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/

³ http://www.scopus.com/home.url

⁴http:// www.google.com

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In BD, it is necessary to uniquely identify the work of one researcher from another, and this process is known as AND. Formally, a bibliographic database is an organized digital store of citations to research publications, patents, books, and news articles. It stores the metadata of the publications. Examples of commonly used BD are DBLP [30], CiteSeer [31], MEDLINE¹, and Google Scholar². An AND method that best fits a bibliographic dataset may not be suitable for other datasets. The reason behind this is that they differ in their metadata schema. Most of the methods fall in either supervised learning or unsupervised learning or a combination of the two.

Smalheiser and Torvik [32] have provided a detailed literature survey of methods for AND but their work has many shortcomings, such as a general framework is not provided, similarity metrics and methods are not explained categorywise in detail. a comprehensive survey of the existing author name disambiguation (AND) approaches that have been applied to the PubMed database by Sanyal et al. [33]. The authors classify the approaches into a taxonomy and describe the key characteristics of each approach, such as its performance, strengths, and weaknesses. They have also identified the PubMed datasets that are publicly available for researchers to evaluate AND algorithms. Our contributions in this work are as follows

(1) Proposal of a general framework for AND

(2) Categorization and elaboration of similarity metrics which are the main focus of researchers in AND to find the resemblance among citations and

(3) Categorization of methods used to handle AND task into five types with the elaboration of works falling under each category in chronological order.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes AND tasks and related concepts. Section 3 provides a general framework based on most of the methods used in the past. Section 4 is about the commonly used datasets to perform AND. Section 5 is about the similarity estimation metrics. Section 6 categorizes the methods employed for AND and explains categories in chronological order. Section 7 explains how to compare different methods and some future directions and recommendations are suggested in section 8. Finally, section 9 concludes this paper.

II. AUTHOR NAME DISAMBIGUATION IN BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (AND BD)

Resolving the name ambiguity in Bibliographic Databases is called AND_{BD} . In literature many terms are used for this problem like name disambiguation [34], [35], object distinction [36], mixed and split citation [37], author disambiguation [38] and entity resolution [39], [40]. AND_{BD} problems can be divided into three categories. Before discussing AND_{BD} problem categories through intuitive examples, some related basic concepts are provided.

Publication: A publication means the research work/article/paper of an author or group of authors working together published at any venue (journal, conference, or workshop).

Citations: The number of times a publication is cited/referenced by other publications.

References: It is the list of references given at the end of a publication.

Ambiguous Author name(s): A name that is either shared by multiple authors or multiple variant names of a single author. Let A be the ambiguous author name shared by k number of unique authors, say, a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_k . Further let a_i is an author represented by m number of various names, say, n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_m . In this article, we use "ambiguous author name", "ambiguous author" and "ambiguous name", interchangeably.

A. Problem Categories

1) SYNONYMY/NAME VARIANT PROBLEM

The problem of Synonymy arises when an author has variations or abbreviations in his/her name in the citations. For example, the author name "Malik Sikandar Hayat Khiyal" is also written as "Sikandar Hayat" in citations of the publications. The DBLP treats them as two different authors and divides his publications between two names. In literature, this problem is also referred to as name variant problem [40], [41], entity resolution problem [39], split citation problem [37] and aliasing problem [42].

2) POLYSEMY/NAME SHARING PROBLEM

The problem of Polysemy arises when multiple authors share the same name label in multiple citations. For example, "Guilin Chen" and "Guangyu Chen" write their names as "G. Chen" in their publications. A full name of an author may be shared by multiple authors. Bibliographic databases may treat these different authors as a single author. Resultantly, on querying the database for such ambiguous names, it may list all publications under a single person's name. On querying DBLP against the author name "Michael Johnson" it lists 32 publications that are actually from five different people [40]. In literature there are various names of this problem such as name disambiguation [34],

¹ www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

² scholar.google.com

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[35], [43], object distinction [36], mixed citation [37], author disambiguation [38] and the common name problem [40].

3) NAME MIXING PROBLEM

Shu et al. [40] introduced another type of name disambiguation problem and referred to it as a name mixing problem. If multiple persons share multiple names, it is called the name mixing problem. The two problems discussed above may occur simultaneously and cause the name mixing problem.

Typographical mistakes also cause name ambiguity. Treeratpituk and Giles [42] consider the typographical mistakes in names as a separate name disambiguation problem. These problems may arise due to the use of abbreviations, spelling mistakes; and occasionally using caste or family name at the end or at the beginning of names. L. Branting [44] has discussed nine different types of name variations.

B. NEED FOR THE SOLUTION

Name ambiguity may cause incorrect authorship identification in literary works resulting in improper credit attribution to the authors. AND is a basic and compulsory step for performing bibliometric and scientometric analyses. Disambiguating authors may help establish precisely, author profiles, co-author networks, and citation networks. In academic digital libraries, disambiguating author names is necessary for the following reasons.

- Users are interested in finding papers written by a particular researcher [45]
- Research communities and institutions can track the achievements of their researchers [46]
- It also helps in expert finding from which publishers can easily find paper reviewers [47]

C. CHALLENGES INVOLVED IN AND

Certain challenges are involved in AND, some of which are highlighted in the following.

- Lack of identifying information: The identifier metadata are either incomplete or not available at all.
- Multi-directional problem: multi-disciplinary papers authored by multiple researchers from multiple institutions (nationwide or worldwide) may cause 'multiple entities disambiguation' problem.
- Less number of papers by most of the authors: The machine learning techniques used for AND give better results when a reasonable number of examples are available. This is only possible when the individual authors have produced many papers. In MEDLINE almost 46% of the authors have written only one paper [48]. The authors having one or a few papers are a big hindrance for proposing precise machine learning techniques.
- Heterogeneous nature of BD: The BD are heterogeneous in many ways, like schema heterogeneity, discipline heterogeneity, language heterogeneity and attributes heterogeneity.
- The non-serious attitude of the authors: Sometimes the authors are reluctant in registering a universal identification system like UAI_Sys [49] or [50] or making consolidated profiles.
- Economic issue: The construction of such a database that can accommodate and manage the worldwide researcher's community including all the disciplines, nations, and languages is not only economically unfeasible but also probably impossible.
- Ownership issue: While testing the algorithm for AND sometimes confirmation of the original author becomes doubtful.

D. IS A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER FOR AN AUTHOR A VIABLE SOLUTION?

One may think that unique identifiers, say, Author Identification Number (AID), can be a simple and reliable solution for this problem. Dervos et al. [49] proposed UAI_Sys in which an author can register himself/herself by entering his/her metadata information. The UAI_Sys in return assigns a 16-digit unique code to the author. ORCID [50] is also a similar attempt for the same purpose, it issues 16 characters alphanumeric code to the researcher to uniquely identify them. It offers a permanent identity for people, just like the ones issued for content-related entities on digital networks by digital object identifiers Although it seems possible apparently, however, there are so many issues discussed in this section that are very difficult to address and implement.

In Dervos et al. [49] project it is expected that authors would remember their passwords and UAIs. Researchers do not pay attention to remember such lengthy codes. Further, all the co-authors are also bound to be registered with the universal bibliographic database. A large number of authors may produce 2 or 3 papers in their whole life. Such casual researchers take the least interest to be registered in the database. It is not only the casual researchers but regular researchers (who produce a reasonable number of research papers) may also provide wrong metadata information to the system. Sometimes it is too difficult to convince a researcher to be habitual to welcome new technologies. They may resist giving up previous practices and adopting new ones.

If such a database is developed, ideally it should accommodate all the research areas, languages, states, and all types of publications. Such a database seems not to be economical as it demands not only one-time expenses (developing cost) but also huge running expenses including staff salaries, maintenance, and security of the database, and handling the user queries.

E. MATHEMATICAL NOTATIONS

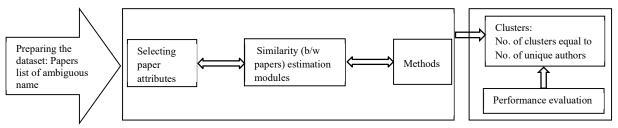
Table 1 provides the mathematical notations used in this paper.

TABLE 1
MATHEMATICAL NOTATIONS

Symbols	Sets	Description
Α	A= $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$, where a_i is the <i>ith</i> author.	Set of authors/persons sharing an ambiguous name
	k is no. of unique authors sharing an ambiguous	
	name	
D	$D = \{d_1, d_2,, d_d\}$	Set of documents in a dataset
Р	$P = \{P_1, P_2,, P_p\}$	Set of publications/documents associated with an ambiguous author/name
K		No. of clusters = No. of unique authors associated with an ambiguous name
V	$V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_v\}$, where v is the number of	Set of vertices in a graph
	vertices	
E	$E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_e\}$, where e is the number of	Set of edges in a graph
	vertices	
N		Number of unique authors
w		Set of words
t		Term, can be a word or set of words

III. ANDBD Process

In this section, we describe the general process of AND_{BD} . We do not follow the process exploited by any particular research work. We provide the common steps involved in AND_{BD} process. The purpose of this section is to help readers comprehend AND_{BD} task more easily and clearly. Figure 1 is the block diagram of the AND_{BD} process.





A. PREPARING THE DATASET

For AND a BD is used. The whole database is normally too large to analyze, within a limited time. To avoid killing time in query processing in real-life databases, a tiny dataset is either selected from a functional BD or prepared from scratch normally by crawling the web pages of ambiguous authors. For example, Han et al. [51] exploit two datasets, one for 15 different "J. Anderson"s, and the other for 11 unique "J. Smith"s; while Wang et al. [52] used a dataset containing 16 ambiguous names comprising 241 unique authors. Preprocessing in name disambiguation usually includes blocking, stop-word removal, and stemming [53]. Stop-word removal and stemming steps are required for the title words of publications and venues. A blocking step is performed to group together the authors with ambiguous names. Disambiguation operations are performed within each ambiguous group to avoid useless comparisons and operations involving non-ambiguous authors.

B. SELECTING THE PUBLICATION ATTRIBUTES

It is always desirable to utilize as many attributes of the publications as available though only useful ones are considered. All BD do not provide the same number and type of attributes. But three common attributes: co-authors, publication title, and venue; are available in almost all of them. We name these three attributes as triplet attributes. Most of the studies like [51] use only triplet attributes, [40] exploits triplet attributes plus topic similarity. Some

methods like [52], [54] take advantage of indirect co-authors, feedback, co-web, and publication year along with triplet attributes. Torvik et al. [55] propose eight different attributes: (1) middle initial, (2) suffix (e.g., Prof. or II), (3) full name, (4) language, (5) number of common co-authors, (6) number of common title words, (7) number of common affiliation words and (8) number of common Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) words. As we add more and more attributes, usually the accuracy increases a bit at the cost of time complexity. In AND time complexity is not much cumbersome, however, unavailability of reasonable number of distinguishing attributes is a bottleneck.

C. SELECTING THE SIMILARITY ESTIMATORS

After the selection of available attributes, the most technical task is to select a proper similarity estimator for the attributes. Almost all the methods in AND, work on the notion that the more the similarity values among the attributes of the two citations, the more it is plausible that they belong to the same author. The focus of the proposed similarity estimators is always to estimate the optimum similarity value among the attributes of the two papers. Various similarity estimators for each type of attribute are exploited by the researchers. For example, Shu et al. [40] used edit distance of two strings for co-author attribute, cosine similarity measure for the title and venue attributes, and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) [56] topic model for semantic topic similarity.

D. SELECTING THE MODELS

In this study, we categorized the AND methods into five types (1) supervised learning (2) unsupervised learning (3) semi-supervised learning (4) graph-based, and (5) ontology-based. Supervised learning models perform classification, unsupervised learning methods perform clustering and semi-supervised models are a combination of both supervised and unsupervised methods. Graph-based methods exploit links and ontology-based methods exploit semantics-based relationships between entities. The purpose of all methods is to separate the publications of a unique author into a unique class/cluster. A large number of methods are available, so first of all one must decide which type of method will be employed. The pros and cons of each alternative are kept in mind before applying the method. One can think to devise his/her new method as well. SVM and decision tree algorithm C4.5 classifiers are widely used classification models in AND. On the other hand, random forests, spectral clustering, and DBSCAN are popular clustering models.

E. MEASURING THE PERFORMANCE

The performance of the method used is measured using different performance metrics. Precision, recall, and F-measure are very common performance metrics used for the evaluation of AND methods

IV. Datasets

The well-known BD like DBLP, MEDLINE, DBComp, Scopus, and CiteSeer have been widely utilized by the researchers for AND. DBLP is the most widely used database for this purpose. Its basic reason, perhaps, is that the publication records in DBLP are represented in a well-structured format, i.e., XML. The basic issue faced by the researchers is how to measure the performance of the proposed method with standard/huge databases. For this purpose, they pick a few ambiguous names from the database along with their publications and other discriminative attributes and investigate the performance of their proposed method.

For example, Han et al. [51] exploited two types of datasets: (1) Collected manually from the web by querying Google, and (2) selected ambiguous names from DBLP. The first dataset consists of two ambiguous names "J. Anderson" and "J. Smith". "J. Anderson". Part of the dataset consists of 15 unique authors who share the same name, and 229 publications; "J. Smith" is shared by 11 different authors whose total publications are 338. "J. Anderson" part of the first dataset is shown in Table 2. Tables 2, 3, and 4 show some examples of name ambiguity. We can see from Table 2 that there are 15 different people whose first name is James, and the last name is Anderson. However, they have a different middle initial. All these names can appear in a publication as J. Anderson, and it needs to be resolved that which J. Anderson is actually intended. The second dataset consists of 9 ambiguous names with each having more than 10 name variations, as shown in Table 3. These datasets, later on, were used by many other works like [34], [57]. Ferreira et al. [58] also used two datasets. They collected records from DBLP and DBComp. The statistics are given in Table 4. Many other studies like [34], [57], [59], [60] have used these dataset with some variations. Reuther [61] investigated the existing test collections and proposed three new test collections to resolve the name variant problem.

Full Name	Affiliation	No. of Pubs	Full Name	Affiliation	No. of Pubs
James Nicholas Anderson	UK Edinburgh	8	James D. Anderson	Univ. of Toronto	5
James E. Anderson	Boston College	14	James P. Anderson	N/A	3
James A. Anderson	Brown University	3	James M. Anderson	N/A	5
James B. Anderson	Penn. State Univ	6	James Anderson	UK	19
James B. Anderson	Univ. of Toronto	21	James W. Anderson	Univ. of KY	10
James B. Anderson	Univ. of Florida	17	Jim Anderson	Univ. of Southampton	20
James H. Anderson	Univ. of North Carolina	54	Jim V. Anderson	Virginia Tech Univ.	40
James H. Anderson	Stanford Univ.	4			

 $TABLE\ 2$ "J. Anderson" part of first dataset used by Han et al. [51]

 TABLE 3

 SECOND DATASET USED BY HAN ET AL. [51]

Ambiguous Names	Name Variations	No. of Pubs	Ambiguous Names	Name Variations	No. of Pubs
S Lee	35	467	C Lee	18	152
J Lee	33	330	A Gupta	16	332
J Kim	25	239	J Chen	13	174
Y Chen	24	201	H Kim	11	120
S Kim	20	181			

	DBLP		DBComp				
Ambiguous Names	No. of Authors	No. of Pubs	Ambiguous Names	No. of Authors	No. of Pubs		
A. Gupta	26	576	A. Oliveira	16	52		
A. Kumar	14	243	A. Silva	32	64		
C. Chen	60	798	F. Silva	20	26		
D. Johnson	15	368	J. Oliveira	18	48		
J. Martin	16	112	J. Silva	17	36		
J. Robinson	12	171	J. Souza	11	35		
J. Smith	29	921	L. Silva	18	33		
K. Tanaka	10	280	Silva	16	21		
M. Brown	13	153	R. Santos	16	20		
M. Jones	13	260	R. Silva	20	28		
M. Miller	12	405					

TABLE 4 TASETS USED BY FERREIRA ET AL. [58]

V. SIMILARITY METRICS

Selecting an appropriate similarity metric/distance function is a technical and challenging task [62] in AND. It is advisable to employ the best fit similarity measure for each attribute of the publications. No single metric is the best fit for all the attributes. Cohen et al. [63] compared different similarity metrics for name matching and concluded that a combination of metrics provides better results than any single metric. Most of the similarity measures do not make use of the semantics of the publications and use syntactic characteristics only, so we categorize these metrics into two types (1) syntactic and (2) semantic similarity metrics.

A. SYNTACTIC SIMILARITY METRICS

The similarity metrics that match the strings exactly and do not care about synonymy and polysemy are syntactic similarity metrics. The similarity of the two publications can be obtained by cosine, Euclidean, Manhattan, Jaccord, Jaro, Winker, and TFIDF. These metrics often outperform Levenshtein-distance-based techniques [63]. Besides these metrics, many other measures like typewriter distance, Jaro-Winkler, Monge-Elkan, or phonetic distances can also be employed. The most used metrics of subcategories are (1) edit distance and (2) token-based distance metrics of syntactic similarity.

1) EDIT DISTANCE METRICS

Distance functions map two strings S_1 and S_2 to a real number r, where a larger value of r indicates greater distance or smaller similarity between S_1 and S_2 . String distances are most useful for matching problems with little prior knowledge and/or ill-structured data [63]. A variety of edit distance functions are used in text mining tasks. The edit distance of two strings (names) is the minimum number of operations required to transform one string to the other. These operations include insertion, deletion, and replacement of a character. A good comparison of name matching techniques is given in [63].

The most simple is Levenshtein distance [63] that assigns a unit cost to all edit operations. Monger-Elkan distance function [64] is more complex and well-tuned with particular cost parameters and is scaled to the interval (0, 1). It is a variant of the Smith-Waterman distance function [65] and assigns a relatively lower cost to a sequence of insertions or deletions.

Shu et al. [40], Bhattacharya and Getoor [39], Torvik et al. [55], and Smalheiser and Torvik [32] utilized edit distancelike measures for measuring name distance of the co-authors of two citations. Shu et al. [40] applied rule-based methodology along with edit distance.

A little bit similar metric, but not based on the edit distance model is the Jaro metric [66], which is based on the number and sequence of the common characters between the two strings [37], [42], [53]. A variant of this function is Jaro-Winkler [67], which exploits the length of the longest common prefix between S_1 and S_2 [37], [42], [53], [68].

2) TOKEN BASED DISTANCE METRICS

Token-based distance metrics compare words of the two strings S1 and S2 rather than the characters. Euclidean distance is commonly used for text clustering problems and similarity estimation [28], [36], [54], [57], [69]. Let d1 and d2 represent vectors of two documents then the Euclidean distance between the two documents can be calculated as:

where, term frequency $t_i \in T$ and $T = \{t_1, \ldots, t_n\}$.

Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency (TFIDF) is the frequency of word w in an attribute of a publication, and IDF is the inverse of the fraction of words in the dataset that contains w and is used by [34], [37], [42], [53], [70], [71]**Error! Reference source not found.** Cohen et al. [63] considered a soft version of TFIDF in which similar tokens are also considered along with tokens in $S_1 \cap S_2$. Most of the research works like [37], [38], [40], [51]–[54], [58] use the cosine similarity that exploits TFIDF and vector space model (VSM) [72]. Normally this function is used for title and venue attributes. Although, it can be used for any attribute represented in the form of vectors. The documents are represented in vector space. Let d_1 and d_2 represent vectors of two documents then the cosine similarity between the two documents can be calculated as:

Jaccard coefficient, also called the Tanimoto coefficient, is the ratio between the intersection and the union of the objects. It compares the sum weight of common terms to the sum weight of terms that are present in either of the two documents except for the common terms [36], [37], [42], [53], [71]. Let d_1 and d_2 represent vectors of two documents. The Jaccard coefficient between the two documents is:

A document can also be considered as a probability distribution of terms in probability theory. The similarity between the two documents can be calculated by measuring the distance between the two corresponding probability distributions. Let d_1 and d_2 represent vectors of two documents, the KL divergence between the two distributions of words is calculated as:

The KL divergence is not symmetric on the other hand average KL divergence is symmetric, which is why the average KL divergence is more popular. The average weighted KL divergence from d_i to d_j is the same as that of from d_j to d_i . This average weighting between two vectors of the two corresponding documents guarantees symmetry. For text documents, the average KL divergence between the two distributions of words is calculated as:

B. SEMANTIC SIMILARITY METRICS

W

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The measures discussed above help in estimating pair-wise similarities between the corresponding attributes of the publications. They usually exploit syntactic characteristics and are unable to utilize the Synonymy and Polysemybased semantics of publications. The topic models such as PLSA [73] and LDA [56] provide excellent ways to exploit semantics. A publication mostly contains multiple topics, and it is important to find the topic similarity between the two publications. Generally, a topic is a semantically related probabilistic cluster of terms (words). Here, we describe LDA which can capture semantics in an unsupervised way. It is a generative probabilistic model for text corpora [48], [56], [74] at the words and documents level. It assumes every document as a mixture of topics and every topic as a Dirichlet distribution over words in the vocabulary. It has been used for finding topic similarity among the publications [28], [39], [51]. Shu et al. [40] and Song et al. [28] extend the LDA model and apply it to AND. The probability of generating word *w* from document d is given as:

simultaneously.

VI. APPROACHES FOR ANDBD

Much research work has been done on entity resolution in a variety of research areas. In the field of databases, studies are made on merge/purge [75], record linkage [76], duplicate record detection [77], data association [78] and database hardening [79]. In Natural Language Processing (NLP), Cross-Document Co-Reference [80] methodologies and name matching algorithms [44] are designed. In BD, several methods or models are employed, such as, citation matching [81], k-way spectral clustering [34], social network similarity [35], mixed and split citation [37], Latent Topic Model [40], latent Dirichlet model [39], Random Forests [42], Graph-based GHOST [43] and Ontology-based Category Utility [82].

A variety of solutions [32] [72] ranging from the manual assignment by librarians [34], [83] to unsupervised learning are provided for AND. Most of the researchers categorize AND_{BD} in supervised, unsupervised, and semi-supervised learning methods. The graph-based and ontology-based methods have also been applied to resolve AND. We have classified methods for AND in the following five categories. Each category is explained in chronological order with discussions about its pros and cons.

A. SUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

In supervised learning [42], [51], [55], [57], [84]–[86], the major objective is to find class labels by exploiting the related information. Supervised learning is labor-intensive, costly, and error-prone if labeling or training of the dataset is not performed properly. Supervised learning methods achieve better performance as compared to those of unsupervised learning methods with the tradeoff of expensive labeling labor and time consumed. Supervised methods may be exploited to predict an author's name in a citation [51] or to disambiguate publications of a particular author [42], [55], [84], [85].

Han et al. [51] proposed two supervised methods to disambiguate author names in the publications using VSM [72], [87] for the representation of publications; and cosine similarity for calculating the pair-wise similarity of publication attributes. They propose canonical names by grouping together author names with the same first name initial and the same last name. Each canonical name is associated with all those publications, where that name appeared. First method applies naive Bayes probability model [88] and the second Support Vector Machines (SVMs) [89]. Both methods exploit triplet¹ attributes for similarity calculations. This famous work is the enhancement of Han et al. [90] where they exploited k-means clustering along with the Naïve Bayes model using the same dataset and attribute set.

Torvik et al. [55] proposed an authority control framework to resolve only the name-sharing problem for MEDLINE records by using eight different attributes. They calculated the pair-wise similarity profile based on these attributes and decide whether a pair of publications containing the same name of an author belongs to a single individual. Culotta et al. [84] proposed a method that overcomes the problem of transitivity produced due to pair-wise comparisons. A researcher can have multiple papers, email addresses, and affiliations. While comparing the publications of such authors the pair-wise classifier cannot handle multiple instances of an attribute. They employed the sets rather than pair-wise comparisons and addressed the transitivity issue between co-authors in a better way. The comparison of a

¹ In this article we refer co-authors, title, and venue attributes as triplet attributes.

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new publication is made with all the publications in a cluster rather than the pair-wise comparisons. By comparing a publication with sets makes it possible to handle the multiple values of an attribute.

Yin et al. [36] focused name-sharing problem by considering only identical names. DISTINCT, an object distinction methodology to disambiguate authors is proposed. They combine set resemblance of neighbor tuples and random walk probability between the two records of a relational database. SVM [89] is applied to assign weights to various types of links in the graph and agglomerative hierarchical clustering to get final clusters.

Torvik and Smalheiser [85] enhance their work [55] by (a) including first name and its variants, emails, and correlations between last names and affiliation words; (b) employing new procedures of constructing huge training sets; (c) exploiting methods for calculating the prior probability; (d) correcting transitivity violations by a weighted least squares algorithm; and (e) using an agglomerative algorithm based on maximum likelihood for calculating clusters of articles that represent authors. The work proposed in [55] was not scalable which is usually a problem of most AND methods. The above enhancements make it scalable for a huge dataset like MEDLINE records.

Pucktada and Giles [42] resolve the name-sharing problem in MEDLINE records. They introduce Random Forest classifier to find a high-quality pair-wise linkage function. They define similarity profile by considering 21 attributes categorizing them into six types of attributes; three of them are triplets and the other three are: affiliation similarity, concept similarity, and author similarity. They use a naive-based blocking procedure. This procedure uses the author's last name and the first initial to block the author's name that does not share both parts of the author's name. They compare the results with SVM. Their results show that Random Forests outperform SVM.

Qian et al. [86] proposed Labeling Oriented Author Disambiguation (LOAD) to resolve author name disambiguation problem. LOAD exploits supervised training for estimating similarity between publications using High Precision Clusters (HPCs) for each author to change the labeling granularity from individual publications to clusters. Labeling HPCs decreases labeling effort at least 10 times as compared to the labeling publications. Found HPCs are clustered into High Recall Clusters (HRCs) to place all publications of one author into the same cluster. For pair-wise comparisons, LOAD employs rich features like name, email, affiliation, homepage between two authors, co-author name, co-author email, co-author affiliation, co-author homepage, title bigram, reference, and download link. Besides, self-citation and publishing year, the interval between two papers are also considered.

The methods discussed above perform name disambiguation in an offline environment. Different from them, Sun et al. [91] proposed a publication analysis system. The focus of the system was to decide, at query time by involving the user, if the queried author name matches the given set of publications retrieved from the Google Scholar database. The system exploits two kinds of heuristic features (1) number of publications per name variation, and (2) publication topic consistency. Topic consistency exploits discipline tags crowd-sourced from the users of the Scholarometer system [92]. They train the binary classifier on a dataset of 500 top-ranked authors from scholarometer database¹ by manually labeling either ambiguous or unambiguous, and examine the publications retrieved from Google Scholar for each queried name. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work addressing real-time author name disambiguation and achieves 75% accuracy.

Zhang et al. [93] proposed a Bayesian non-exhaustive classification method for resolving online name disambiguation problems. They considered a case study for bibliographic data and involved a temporal stream format for

disambiguating authors by dividing their papers into similar groups. Table 5 provides a quick summary of the methods based on supervised learning models.

Reference #	Problem	Tool / Method	Attributes / features	Comparison with	Dataset	Finding	Limitation
Han et al. [51] 2004	Disambiguate names in citations	Naive Bayes probability model, SVM	Co-author names, paper title, venue	Comparison of both approaches and their hybrid approach	Publications from web, DBLP	Hybrid of naive Bayes outperforms Hybrid I scheme of SVM	Not flexible, not topic sensitive
Torvik et al. [55] 2005	Resolve name sharing	Authority control framework	8 different attributes	Comparison is performed with manually labeled data only	Medline	Different articles authored by the same individual will share similarity in one or more aspect of Medline records	No comparison with state-of-the-art, Specific to Medline records only

 TABLE 5

 SUMMARY OF SUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

¹ scholarometer.indiana.edu

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Culotta et al. [84] 2007	Transitivity due to pair- wise comparisons	Supervised machine learning, error- driven, rank-based training	Examining sets of records not pairs	Approach is evaluated on three different datasets	Penn, Rexa, DBLP	Error reduction of 60% over standard binary classification approach	Not topic sensitive, Not compared with state-of-the-art
Yin et al. [36] 2007	Name sharing problem	Supervised and un- supervised set resemblance and random walk	Fusion of different type of subtle linkages	Comparison of both approaches and their hybrid approach	DBLP	Fusing difference type of linkages and combining set resemblance of neighbor tuples and random walk probability is effective	Not compared with state-of-the-art, Specific to authors with identical name only
Torvik and Smalheiser [85] 2009	Enhancement of [23]	Estimating the probability that two articles sharing same name, were written by same individual	Adding 5 more variants to [23]	[23]	Medline	Author-ity model with more scalability and recall	Not high performance, model will fail to apply to scientists whose research output is diverse
Pucktada and Giles [42] 2009	Name sharing problem	Random Forest classifier, naive based blocking	21 different attributes	SVM	Medline	Random Forest classifier outperforms SVM	High accuracy can be achieved with a relatively small set of features.
Qian et al. [86] 2011	Labeling Oriented Author Disambiguation	Estimating similarity between publications using High Precision Clusters	Set of rich features	Human labeling after conventional automatic author disambiguation	CS, UE and DBLP	Machine Learning combined with ceiv judgement produce more accurate results to assist and reduce human labeling	No Iterative process for AND, Limited usage of feature sources, non usage of direct optimization algorithms
Sun et al. [91] 2011	Detect ambiguous names at query time	Finding ambiguities from crowdsourced annotations	Number of citations per name variation, publication topic consistency	For each combination of features, accuracy, area under curve and F1	Papers retrieved from google scholar	Improved accuracy	Publication metadata was not considered
Zhang et al. [93] 2016	Online name entity disambiguation	Dirichlet process prior with a Normal × Normal × Inverse Wishart data model	Temporal stream format	Qian's Method [63], Khabsa's method [64]	AMiner	Proposed method outperforms the state-of-the-art methods	Computational complexity depends upon several factors and can be variable

B. UNSUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

Unsupervised learning methods [28], [34], [35], [39], [59], [60], [70], [94]–[99] do not need manual labeling. Instead, they carefully choose features to classify similar entities into clusters. Various clustering algorithms are applied to cluster similar entities. Giles et al. [34] apply a k-way spectral clustering method to resolve AND. Unsupervised learning methods save labeling time with the tradeoff of efficiency and precision. However, in many dynamic scenarios, unsupervised learning methods are better solution than supervised learning methods.

The unsupervised methods may utilize similarities between publications with the help of a predefined set of similarity functions to group the publications for a particular author. These functions are usually defined over the features present in the publications [34], [35], [59], [94]–[97]. These features are also called the local information [40] as they are apparently available in the publication. The similarity functions may also be defined over implicit information such as topics of the publication [36], [40], [60] or Web data [60], [98], [99]. The information about the topic(s) of the publication is not explicitly present in the publication under consideration rather it is derived from the dataset hence called the global information [40].

Giles et al. [34] improved their previous work [51] by applying k-way spectral clustering [34] for AND using the triplet attributes for similarity measuring. Malin [35] applied hierarchical clustering and random walk to resolve name sharing and name variant problems. The main limitation of this method is a static threshold which is used as a stopping criterion of the clustering process. Bekkerman and McCallum [70] resolve the name ambiguity problem. They present two frameworks: the first one uses the link structure of Web pages, and the second exploits A/CDC (Agglomerative / Conglomerative Double Clustering). Their methods require a minimum of the prior knowledge as provided in BD. However, their methods best fit web appearances instead of BD.

Bhattacharya and Getoor [39] referred AND as entity resolution problems and extend LDA topic model [56]. They suppose that authors who belong to one or more groups of authors, may co-author papers and simultaneously discover the clusters of authors and clusters of papers written by these authors. They perform parameter estimation through Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm along with Gibbs sampling [100]. The extended model is about 100 times slower than an alternative method [95] and solves only the name variant problem. Bhattacharya and Getoor [95] proposed a collective entity resolution method as an improvement to their previous work [39]. Given two papers both written by authors a_1 and a_2 , if the two instances of a_2 refer to the same individual, then it is likely that both instances of a_1 refer to the same entity. Resolving this 2nd level ambiguity helps in cases where there is a high level of ambiguity. They treat high versus low ambiguity scenarios separately. They first address the most confident assignments and then less confident ones. The final similarity value between the two citations is calculated based on pair-wise comparisons and previously disambiguated authors. The weighting parameter is adjusted manually, and it may take different optimal values across different contexts. Although this method is an advancement to their previous work [39] yet scalability was still a problem.

Cota et al. [96] proposed a heuristic-based hierarchical clustering that successively combines clusters of citation records of the ambiguous authors. In the first step, the compatibility of the ambiguous author names was found. If the two names in two publications are compatible, then they are further compared against common compatible co-author(s). The two publications are merged to a cluster if a compatible co-author is found, else they form separate clusters. The resulting clusters are almost pure but fragmented. To decrease the fragmentation, they use the second step in which clusters are compared in a pair-wise fashion exploiting title and venue attributes. The major distinction of this method was that it compares all the titles and venues of a cluster with that of other clusters applying bag of words approach. If the similarity between two clusters reaches a threshold value, then they are fused to one cluster otherwise they remain separate clusters. They claim improvements up to 12% against non-hierarchical clustering, 21%

Song et al. [28] proposed an algorithm based on Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis [73] and Latent Dirichlet Allocation [56] to deal with AND exploiting the contents of the articles. They exploited metadata of publications and authors and publication's first page to relate authors to topics.

Shin et al. [101] proposed AND framework by constructing a social network for finding semantic relationships between authors and solves name sharing and name variant problems simultaneously. They employ two methods: one for namesake names and the other for heteronymous names. A social network is constructed in three steps. (1) *Information extraction:* extraction of paper title. (2) *Candidate topics extraction:* extraction of topics that are representative of the publication. These candidate topics are extracted from the abstract of the publication using morphemic analysis [102]. (3) *Social network construction:* the social network is constructed based on the above two types of information. They used the cosine similarity metric for finding similarity among two social networks.

Yang and Wu [103] resolves name sharing problem by exploiting triplet attributes along with web attributes. They use Cosine and Modified Sigmoid Function (MSF) for triplet attributes, and Maximum Normalized Document Frequency (MNDF) for web attribute, to estimate the pair-wise similarity between the publications. They also employed a binary classifier to reduce the noise in the clustering publications.

Tang et al. [29] formalize the problems for name disambiguation in a unified probabilistic framework. The framework uses a Markov Random Fields (MRF) [104] exploiting six local (publication) attributes (content based information) and five relationships (structure based information) between the pair of publications. The framework, on one hand, achieves better accuracy than baselines but, on the other hand, its time complexity is almost twice as compared to baselines.

Wu et al. [105] used Dempster-Shafer theory (DST) for AND. They proposed an unsupervised DST based hierarchical agglomerative clustering algorithm which is used with a combination of Shannon's entropy to blend disambiguation attributes for more reliable candidate pair of clusters for union in each repetition of clustering. Qian et al. [106] proposed a dynamic method for author name disambiguation keeping the growing nature of digital libraries in mind. They proposed a two-step process, BatchAD+IncAD, which first performs AND by grouping all records into disjoint clusters, and then it periodically performs incremental AND for newly added papers and determines that new papers belong to an existing cluster or forms a new one. Khabsa et al. [107] proposed a constraint-based clustering algorithm, that allows constraints to be added to the clustering process and allowing the data to be added as well, in an incremental way. This methodology helps the users by allowing them to make corrections to disambiguated results. The method is based on a combination of DBSCAN and pairwise distance based on random forests. Sun et al. [108] proposed an unsupervised method based on topological features AND solution. To measure the similarity of publications the method includes a structure similarity algorithm along with a random walk with restarts. Table 6 includes a summary of methods that involve unsupervised learning methods for AND.

Reference #	Problem	Tool / Method	Attributes / features	Comparison with	Dataset	Finding	Limitation
Glies et al. [34] 2005	Disambiguation in Author Citations	K-way Spectral Clustering	Co-author names, paper titles, and publication venue titles	Evaluation based on confusion matrix	DBLP	Spectral methods outperform k- means	Not compared with any state-of-the-art
Malin [35] 2005	Name sharing and name variant problems	Hierarchical clustering and random walk	Actor lists for movies and television shows	Consideration as baseline 1) ambiguous names are distinct entities 2) ambiguous names are single entity	IMDB	Measuring similarity based on community, rather than exact similarity is more robust	Not compared with any state-of-the-art
Bekkerman and mccallum [70] 2005	Finding Web appearances of a group of people.	Link structure of the Web pages, another using Agglomerative/Cong lomerative Double Clustering (A/CDC)	Only affiliation of a person with a group is required	Traditional agglomerative clustering	Hand-labeled a dataset of over 1000Web pages	Improved F measure	Relational structure of relevant classes is not considered
Bhattacharya and Getoor [39] 2006	Entity resolution	Probabilistic model, extended LDA	Decisions not on independent pairwise basis, but made collectively	Hybrid softtf-IDF [31]	Citeseer, arxiv (HEP)	Exploits collaborative group structure for making resolution decisions	Cannot resolve multiple entity classes
Bhattacharya and Getoor [95] 2007	Entity resolution	Relational clustering algorithm	Attribute-based baselines	Attribute-based entity resolution, naïve relational entity resolution, collective relational entity resolution	Citeseer, arxiv, biobase	Improved performance over baselines	Manually adjusted weighting parameter which can have different optimal values. Not scalable
Cota et al. [96] 2007	Disambiguation in split citation and mixed citation	Heuristic-based hierarchical clustering	Authors, title of the work, publication venue	SVM, K-Means	DBLP	Improved performance over baselines	Compared only with unsupervised methods
Song et al. [28] 2007	Disambiguation exploiting contents of the articles	Two stage approach based on LDA and PLSA	Person names within web pages and scientific documents	Spectral clustering and DBSCAN	Citeseer	Improved scalability	Compared only with unsupervised methods
Shin et al. [101] 2010	Finding semantic relationships between authors and name sharing	Methods for namesake names and heteronymous names	Paper titles and topics	Comparison among two social networks with cosine similarity	DBLP	Improved effectiveness	
Yang and Wu [103] 2011	Name sharing problem	Cosine, Modified Sigmoid Function, and Maximum Normalized Document Frequency	Triplet attributes along with web attribute	Compared with [34]	DBLP Dataset constructed by [34]	Improved accuracy	Cluster separator filtered out some correctly matched pairs from the datasets
Tang et al. [29] 2012	Disambiguation, how to find number of people "K"	Probabilistic Framework	Attributes of publications and relationships	Four baseline methods	AMiner	Performs better than baseline and "K" is close to real	-
Wu et al. [105] 2014	Name disambiguation	DST based unsupervised hierarchical		Three unsupervised models		Performance comparable to a	

 TABLE 6

 SUMMARY OF UNSUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

		agglomerative clustering				supervised model	
Qian et al. [106] 2015	Dynamic disambiguation	Batchad+incad framework	Authors metadata	Five state-of- the-art batch AD methods	Two labeled data sets, case study and DBLP	Improved efficiency and accuracy	Erroneous results when an author changes affiliation or topic
Khabsa et al. [107] 2015	Disambiguation with constraints	DBSCAN and pairwise distance based on random forests.	Metadata information and citation similarity	Models with different combination of features	Citeseer	Improved pairwise and cluster F1	DBSCAN cannot split an impure cluster

A. SEMI-SUPERVISED METHODS

Semi-supervised Learning approaches [58] have also been applied to AND in BD. It combines the characteristics of both supervised and unsupervised methods.

On et al. [53] proposed the framework for resolving the name variant problem in two steps: (1) blocking and (2) distance measurement. They used four blocking methods that reduce the candidates, and seven unsupervised distance measurements that measure the distance between the two candidate publications to decide whether they belong to the same entity. They also exploit two supervised algorithms Naive Bayes model [88] and the Support Vector Machines (SVMs) [89] to separate the publications of an author in a separate cluster.

Lee et al. [37] called the name sharing problem as a mixed citation and name variant as a split citation problem. They used Naive Bayes model and SVM (supervised methods); and cosine, TFIDF, Jaccard, Jaro and JaroWinkler (unsupervised methods) to resolve the name disambiguation problem.

On et el. [71] again focused on the name variant problem and call it Grouped-Entity Resolution (GER) problem. They propose Quasi-Clique, a graph partition-based method. Unlike previous text similarity approaches like string distance, TFIDF or vector-based cosine metric, their approach investigates the hidden relationship under the grouped entities using Quasi-Clique technique.

Huang et al. [109] resolve both types of problems on a small dataset selected from CiteSeer. They employed an online SVM algorithm (LASVM) as a supervised learner of finding the distance metric of the publication attributes by pairwise comparisons. The supervised learner easily handles the new papers with online learning. For clustering the publications of the authors, they used DBSCAN algorithm that constructs the clusters on multiple pair-wise similarities and handles the transitivity problem. They use different similarity metrics for different attributes, e.g., edit distance for URLs and emails, Jaccard similarity for affiliations and addresses, and Soft-TFIDF [110] for author names.

Zhang et al. [54] proposed a semi-supervised name disambiguation probabilistic model with six constraints. They consider following constraints: (1-3) triplet attributes constraints; (4) CoOrg, principal authors of two papers are from the same organization; (5) citation, one publication cites the other; (6) τ -CoAuthor, two of the co-authors (one from each publication) are not same but they appear in another publication as co-authors. They applied Hidden Markov Random Fields for AND on AMiner¹ data. Their model combines six types of constraints with Euclidean distance and facilitates the user to refine the results.

Wang et al. [111] proposed a two-step semi-supervised method for AND that resolves name sharing problem only for identical names in AMiner². They propose atomic clusters, i.e., each cluster has the publications of a particular author. At first step, they use a bias classifier to find the atomic clusters. They use a list of publications having the ambiguous author name and triplet attributes of the publications as input to the classifier. In the second step, they integrate the atomic clustering results into the Hierarchical and K-means clustering algorithms.

Wang et al. [52] proposed constraint based topic modeling (CbTM) method as an extension of [54]. They assume that if a pair of publications satisfy a constraint, then both the publications should have more chances to have similar topic distribution. They combine the original likelihood function of LDA with a set of constraints defined over the attributes available from the publication's dataset. Thus, the likelihood function is also affected by the constraints. They define the constraints as set of constraint functions each having value either 0 or 1. The presence of a constraint in the pair of publications under consideration means the function has value 1 otherwise 0. They define five constraints; two of

¹ http://AMiner.org

them belong to triplet attributes excluding the title attribute and other three are: indirect co-author or transitive coauthor (it is actually the τ -CoAuthor constraint defined in [54]); web constraint (it means that two publications appear in the same web page) and user feedback (what the users comment about two publication's authors). In the end, agglomerative hierarchical clustering algorithm is employed to construct clusters to uniquely identify authors containing all their publications.

Shu et al. [40] proposed LDA-dual topic model for complete entity resolution. They categorize AND into three types: name sharing, name variant, and name mixing. They introduce the concept of global information based on the words and author names present in the dataset. In LDA-dual they define topics as two Dirichlet distributions, one over words and the other over author names, characterizing topics as a series of words and author names. They also consider local information like paper titles and co-authors. Along with triplet attributes they use topic similarity and minimum name distance. They claim that two publications share little local information as compared to that of global information and employed Metropolis-Hasting within Gibbs sampling to calculate the global information i.e., model hyperparameters: α , β , and γ . The complete process consisted of following steps: (1) find topics of publication in the dataset using Gibbs sampling; (2) construct a pair-wise classifier of two publications; (3) resolve name sharing problem with the help of spectral clustering and classifier's support for each ambiguous author name; (4) solve the name variant and name mixing problem with help of the classifier.

Ferreira et al. [58] proposed Self-training Associative Name Disambiguation, a hybrid name disambiguation method. In the first (unsupervised) step clusters of authorship, records are formed utilizing persistent patterns in the coauthorship graph. In the second (supervised) step training is performed through a subset of clusters constructed in the first step deriving the disambiguation function.

Arif et al. [112] proposed an enhanced version of the vector space model for AND in digital libraries. Along with the normal authorship attributes, they added the additional information from the paper's metadata, including email ID, affiliation of authors, and co-authors as well. These additional features have greatly improved the performance of the method. Table 7 shows the summary of name disambiguation methods that involve semi-supervised learning.

Reference #	Problem	Tool / Method	Attributes / features	Comparison with	Dataset	Finding	Limitation
On et al. [53] 2005	Name variant problem	(1) blocking and (2) distance measurement, 7 supervised and 2 unsupervised algorithms	Co-author relationships	Four alternatives using three representative metrics	DBLP, e-Print, biomed, econpapers	Using coauthor relation (instead of author name alone) shows improved scalability and accuracy	It is a two- step approach and shows improvement over one- step approach
Lee et al. [37] 2005	Mixed citations and split citations	Sampling-based approximate join algorithm, 2 supervised and 5 unsupervised	Associated information of author names	Four alternatives using three representative metrics	DBLP, e-Print, biomed, econpapers	Improved accuracy	Accuracy for e-print is lower as compared to DBLP's accuracy
On et el. [71] 2006	Name variant	Graph partition-based method Quasi-Clique	Contextual information mined from the group of elements	Quasi-Clique experimented on different real and synthetic datasets	ACM, biomed, IMDB	Improves precision and recall with existing ER solutions	Performance is better for IMDB but not for Citations data which has more strong connections as compared to actors in IMDB
Huang et al. [109] 2006	Name sharing, and name variant problem	LASVM and DBSCAN	Author and papers metadata	Traditional svms	Citeseer	Improved efficiency and effectiveness	
Zhang et al. [54] 2007	Name disambiguation	Semi-supervised probabilistic model	6 different features from authors and	Blocking and distance measure for co-authors	AMiner	Improved scalability and accuracy	Compared only with unsupervised hierarchical

 TABLE 7

 SUMMARY OF SEMI-SUPERVISED LEARNING METHODS

			citation information				clustering methods
Wang et al. [111] 2008	Name sharing problem	Two-step semi- supervised method	Atomic clusters with citations of a particular author	Hierarchical clustering and K- means	AMiner	Concept of atomic clusters produce better results. Co- author features are important for atomic clusters	Compared only with unsupervised hierarchical clustering methods
Shu et al. [40] 2009	Name sharing, name variant and name mixing	LDA-dual topic model	Generative latent topic model that involves both author names and words	Experiments on three different training data sets	DBLP	Improved accuracy	Smoothing method for new words and author names does not scale
Ferreira et al. [58] 2010	Name disambiguation	Self-training Associative Name Disambiguation (SAND)	Authorship records	Two supervised and two unsupervised methods	DBLP, bdbcomp	Improved results as compared to baselines	More improvement when compared with unsupervised methods as compared to the case of supervised methods
Wang et al. [52] 2010	Name sharing problem	Constraint based topic modeling	Combine the original likelihood function of LDA with a set of constraints	Hierarchical clustering algorithm to group the papers into clusters	AMiner	Improved precision, recall and F1	
Arif et al. [112] 2014	Mixed citation and split citations problem	Enhanced vector space model	Additional attributes like e- mail ID and affiliation of author and co- authors	Comparisons of real authors names with names generated by proposed method	IEEE	Improved F measure	Not tested against any baseline or state-of-the- art

B. GRAPH-BASED METHODS

The graph-based methods are popular for AND. Many authors employ a co-authorship graph to capture the similarity between two entities. It has been adopted by many methods discussed above, such as relational similarity in Bhattacharya and Getoor [95] and Yin et al. [36]; inter-object connection strength in Kalashnikov and Mehrotra [113], Yin et al. [36], and Chen et al. [114]; and semantic association in Jin et al. [115]. The length of the shortest path in a graph is usually employed to estimate the degree of closeness between two nodes. Kalashnikov and Mehrotra [113] and Yin et al. [36] utilized connection strength to find the similarity of two nodes connected through relationships. For this purpose Kalashnikov and Mehrotra [113] exploit legal paths and Fan et al. [43] make use of valid paths. Bhattacharya and Getoor [95] employed collaboration paths of length three and assign equal weights to all paths regardless of their length. Kalashnikov and Mehrotra [113] proposed a more complicated method to calculate the weights for connection strengths. They proposed multiple equations and an iterative method to determine the weights. Differently, On et al. [71] used Quasi-Clique, a graph mining technique [116] to take advantage of the contextual similarity in addition to syntactic similarity. On et al. [71], Chen et al. [114] and Jin et al. [115] estimate the similarity between two nodes (authors) as a combination of the feature-based similarity and the connection strengths of all simple paths no longer than a user-defined length.

In the above paragraph, we presented a short but comparative description of some of the graph-based works in AND. Now the details of each work are discussed. McRae-Spencer and Shadbolt [117] resolved the AND on large-scale citation networks through graph-based methods exploiting self-citation, co-authorship, and publication source analyses in three passes to tie the papers of a particular author in a collection assigned to that author. The first pass is to test each paper in the ambiguous name cluster against every other paper within that cluster to see if the second paper is the self-citation of the first, or vice versa. Similarly, the second pass is performed to draw a co-authorship graph, and the third pass used source URL metadata. The output of these three passes is the graphical representation of the

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publications. This method was based on metadata rather than textual context and on the notion that authors cite their previous publications. This method used self-citation as an attribute so the new papers have fewer or may have no citations at all. The papers of an author, written just before his/her retirement¹ or death will never have self-citations. Similarly, the papers written just before the change of research area will be self-cited hardly ever.

Galvez and Aneg'on [41] addressed the conflation of personal name variants problem in a standard or canonical form exploiting finite-state transducers and binary matrices. They divide the variants into *valid* (the variation among legitimate variants and canonical forms, e.g., such as the lack of some components of a full name, the absence or use of punctuation marks, and the use of initials) and *non-valid* (the variation among non-legitimate variants and correct forms, e.g., miss-spellings, involving deletions or insertions of characters in the strings, nicknames, abbreviations, and errors of accentuation in the names from certain languages) categories. They identify and conflate only valid variants into equivalence classes and canonical forms.

Yin et al. [36] proposed DISTINCT, an object distinction methodology to solve AND, where entities have identical names. The method combines set resemblance of neighbor tuples and random walk probability (between two records in the graph of relational data) to measure relational similarity between the records of the relational database. These two methods are complementary: one exploits the neighborhood information of the two records, and the other uses connection strength of linkages by assigning weights. DISTINCT exploits several types of linkages, like title, venue, publisher, year, and author's affiliation.

Jin et al. [115] proposed Semantic Association AND graphical method. The similarity between the attributes (expect co-authors) of the two publications is measured through VSM, and the term TF-IDF is applied for term weighting. For co-authors and transitive co-authors, semantic association graphs are constructed. The nodes show authors, and the edges show the association. The edges also determine the weight by counting the number of publications coauthored by two authors. It is a two-step process, RSAC (Related Semantic Association based Clustering) and SAM (Semantic Association based Merging). RSAC clusters two publications in a group if the co-authorship graphs of the two publications are similar, i.e., they have common co-authors. Similarly, all the publications are grouped in small clusters. Transitivity property may hold true for co-authors of some publications, but RSAC does not handle it, and all the publications of an author may be assigned to multiple groups. To handle this issue SAM merges the groups based on similarity values calculated for literature (titles + abstracts), affiliations, and transitive co-authorship graphs. Fan et al. [43] resolved name sharing problems through GHOST (GrapHical framewOrk for name diSambiguaTion) using only co-authorship attributes, however for dense authors they exploited user feedback too. Contrary to the methods of Chen et al. [114] and Jin et al. [115], GHOST does not take into account the feature-based similarity, and the connection strength between nodes u and v is measured using Ohm's Law-like formula defined over a subset of valid paths. Another difference of this work from the work in [115] is that it does not model the transitive co-authorship graph. This work has two strengths. First, the time complexity is very low as compared to the previous works as it exploits only co-author attribute and achieves 94% precision on average. Second, GHOST employs Ohm's Law-like formula to compute the similarity between any pair of nodes in a co-authorship graph. The drawback of GHOST is that the results for dense authors are not in line with the results of non-dense authors. Fan et al. [43] proposed user feedback for such authors. No doubt the results are improved but the scalability is a challenge here because in real life databases there may be thousands of dense authors.

Wang et al. [87] proposed active user name disambiguation (ADANA) exploiting a pair-wise factor graph (PFG) model which can automatically determine the number of distinct names. Based on PFG model, they introduce a disambiguation algorithm that improves performance through user interaction.

Shin et al. [118] proposed a graph based model called Graph Framework for Author Disambiguation (GFAD), which involves co-author relations while constructing graphs and ambiguity is removed by vertex splitting and merging based on the co-authorship. Table 8 provides a summary of methods that involve the use of graph-based models.

Reference #	Problem	Tool / Method	Attributes / features	Comparison with	Dataset	Finding	Limitation
Mcrae-Spencer and Shadbolt [117] 2006	Name disambiguation	Citation graph	Self-citation, co- authorship And document source analyses	Precision, recall an df1 for 8 name based clusters	Citeseer	Slightly improved results in terms of usefulness	Needs to create correction facility within

TABLE 8
SUMMARY OF GRAPH BASED METHODS

¹ By the term "retirement" we do not mean the retirement from job rather we mean retirement from research work willingly or unwillingly due to any reason.

Galvez and	Personal name	Standard or	Author names	Application of	LISA, SCI-E.	Improved	some tested services Similarity
Aneg´on [41] 2007	variants problem	canonical form exploiting finite- state transducers and binary matrices		master graph to the lists of author indexes		precision, Recall and F1, reduced erroneous analysis	measures needs improvement in terms of error margins
Jin et al. [115] 2009	Name disambiguation	Semantic Association based Name Disambiguation method (SAND),	Semantic association graphs	DISTINCT [36], aktiveauthor [117]	Citesseer, DBLP, Libra	Improved accuracy	
Fan et al. [43] 2011	Name disambiguation	Graphical framework for name disambiguation (GHOST)	Feature-based similarity, and the connection strength between nodes based on co-authorship	2 labeled authors for DBLP and 8 labeled authors for pubmed for comparison, DISTINCT [36]	DBLP, pubmed	High precision and recall	Performance May suffer for rare dense authors
Wang et al. [87] 2011	Active name disambiguation	ADANA using pair- wise factor graph	Active user interactions	4 baseline methods	Publication data set, a web page data Set, and a news page data set	Reduced error rate	Error rate has been decreased with the help of user corrections
Shin et al. [118] 2014	Namesake problem	Graph Framework for Author Disambiguation	Co-author relations	3 representative unsupervised methods	DBLP, AMiner	Improved performance	

C. ONTOLOGY-BASED METHODS

In information science, ontology is basically the knowledge of concepts and the relationships between those concepts within a domain. In other words, it is knowledge representation of a domain. Ontology-based AND has been exploited by many researchers in different fields. For example, Geographic Named Entity Disambiguation [119], Identity Resolution Framework (IdRF) [120], Named Entity Disambiguation exploiting Wikipedia [121], [122], Entity Coreference [92]. As far as digital libraries or BD are concerned, researchers paid little attention to this kind of methods. Initially, Hassell et al. [123] resolved AND through already populated ontology extracted from the DBLP. They utilize a file from DBLP that contains entities like authors, conferences, and journals, and convert it into RDF and used it as background knowledge. Their method takes a set of documents from DBWorld¹ posts, "call for papers" to disambiguate the authors. Each such document contains multiple authors, say, the committee members, and some information about them, like affiliation, and information about the venue like topics of the venue. The scenario of the method is different from those we have discussed throughout this article. All other approaches perform disambiguation by either predicting the most probable author of a publication or by grouping the publications of the same author in a unique cluster in BD. Different from those, this method pinpoints, with high accuracy, the correct author in the DBLP ontology file that a document of DBWorld refers to. Their method selects an author name from the document and searches the candidate authors in the populated ontology in RDF form. All the candidate authors are compared with the author in the document to predict the most confident author in the ontology that relates to the author in the document. Different types of relationships in the ontology are exploited to predict the correct author out of various matches (candidates) in the ontology. These relationships include entity name, text proximity, text co-occurrence, popular entities, and semantic relationships. Name entity refers to specifying which entities from the populated ontology are to be spotted in the text of the document and later disambiguated as all the entities of the document may not present in the DBLP ontology. Text proximity is the number of space characters between the name entity and the known affiliation. Here known affiliation means the object already known by the ontology as affiliation, say, name of a university. In DBWorld postings, affiliations are usually written next to the entity name. If an entity name in the document and the affiliation matches the author name and known affiliation in the ontology, there are chances that these two entities are the same real-world entity. Text co-occurrence is utilized to match the research areas of the candidate authors in the ontology and the topics of the venue present in the posting. A popular entity is an author in the ontology that has the highest score of publications among the candidate authors. Semantic relationships are used to match the co-authors of the candidate authors in the ontology and the entities in the document, with a notion that the entities on a document may be related to one another through any means, maybe co-authors of some publications. Park and Kim [82] proposed OnCu System to resolve name sharing problem through ontology-based category utility. The term category utility is used for similarity measurement between two entities. They exploit two types of ontology: author ontology, built on the publications from several proceedings of conferences, and the computer science domain ontology. Different from Hassell et al. [123] they determine the correct author from various candidate authors in the author ontology by exploiting the domain ontology for estimating the semantic similarity. Their goal is to discover

¹ DBWorld. http://www.cs.wisc.edu/dbworld/ April 9, 2006

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the right author of the input publication and his/her right homepage. Their method also differs from that of Hassel et al. [123] in using ontology-based evaluation functions. OnCU views candidate authors as clusters of their publications and employs a cluster-based evaluation function exploiting ontology to predict the right author out of multiple candidate authors. The ontology-based approaches provided better semantic similarity measures for different attributes, but this is fruitful only if the ontologies providing background knowledge are carefully constructed and frequently revised to meet the dynamic nature of the digital libraries. Table 9 provides a quick summary of disambiguation based that utilize the domain ontology.

TABLE 9
SUMMARY OF ONTOLOGY-BASED METHODS

Reference #	Problem	Tool / Method	Attributes / features	Comparison with	Dataset	Finding	Limitation
Hassell et al. [123] 2006	Entity disambiguation	Ontology-driven method	Background knowledge (authors, conferences, and journals)	Different types of relationships in the ontology are exploited	Ontology from DBLP, corpus from dbworld	Successful use of large, populated ontology	Needs to be tested on more Robust platforms
Park and Kim [82] 2008	Name sharing problem	Oncu, ontology- based category utility	Author ontology, Computer science domain ontology	Evaluation based on category Utility over the created ambiguity dataset	Collected papers from AAAI, ISWC, ESWC, And WWW conferences websites.	Improved performance	Cannot consider property Relations

VII. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Accuracy, precision, recall and F-measure are the common performance metrics used to evaluate AND methods [29], [39], [40], [43], [52], [54], [70], [87], [101]. The performance of method used is either measured in terms of the number of publications correctly predicted or the number of authors correctly predicted. In literature, the performance measurement terms are defined in a variety of ways. Here we shortly describe the common notion of these terms:

A. ACCURACY

Accuracy (disambiguation accuracy) is the generic term used to represent performance in terms of correctness. It may be defined in any way that best suits the proposed method. It may be equivalent to precision, recall, and F-measure. The term accuracy is defined and used by several researchers [37], [42], [51], [57]. For example, Han et al. [51] defined disambiguation accuracy as "the percentage of the query names correctly predicted", whereas Han et al. [57] defined it as "the sum of diagonal elements divided by the total number of elements in the confusion matrix". Both these definitions describe the accuracy in terms of correctly predicted authors rather than the correctly predicted publications of an author.

B. PRECISION

It is the ratio between the number of correctly predicted publications of author a_i and the number of publications predicted as a_i 's publications.

$$Precision = \frac{No.of \ elements \ of \ [\{P_{a_i}\} \cap \{P'_{a_i}\}]}{No.of \ elements \ of \ \{P'_{a_i}\}} - - - - - - (7)$$

where, $P_{a_i} = \text{publications}$ of author a_i and $P'_{a_i} = \text{publications}$ predicted as author a_i 's. Suppose author a_i has publications $\{P_1-P_5\}$; and the system predicted publications of author a_i are $\{P_1-P_4, P_6, P_7\}$. By applying Eq. 7:

Precision = 4/6 = 0.67

C. RECALL

It is the ratio between the number of correctly predicted publications of author a_i and number of a_i 's publications.

$$Recall = \frac{No.of \ elements \ of \ [\{P_{a_i}\} \cap \{P'_{a_i}\}]}{No.of \ elements \ of \ \{P_{a_i}\}} - - - - - (8)$$

where, P_{a_i} = Publications of author a_i and P'_{a_i} = Publications predicted as author a_i 's. By considering the above example using Eq. 8:

$$Recall = 4/5 = 0.8$$

D. F-MEASURE

It is the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

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$$H = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{x_i}} - - - - - - - - (9)$$

By considering the above example using Eq. 9:

F-measure
$$=\frac{2}{\left(\frac{1}{0.67}+\frac{1}{0.8}\right)}=\frac{2}{(1.49+1.25)}=0.73$$

The above metrics can also be defined on the cluster level too [58]. Cluster precision is the fraction of correct clusters to the number of clusters acquired by the method, and cluster recall is the fraction of true clusters to that of the method, and cluster F-measure is the harmonic mean of both [58].

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although a lot of research work has been performed in this field yet there is a need for a lot of improvement. Many attempts have been made to assign a unique author ID to each author to resolve the name disambiguation, but these methods could not gain the attention of the researchers due to many reasons as we have discussed in Section 2. Many researchers emphasize exploiting more and more attributes to estimate the maximum similarity among the citations. This causes two issues: *first*, the time complexity of the algorithm increases, and resultantly scalability is inversely affected; *second*, the availability of numerous features for each citation becomes almost impossible. Besides these issues assigning weight and fixing threshold values to each feature are the bottleneck, especially when the feature set becomes large. We recommend exploiting only those features that are usually available in the BD so that a general framework applicable to most of them can be proposed. To resolve the AND problem in a better way we suggest a few directions below that may help improve the performance:

- Semantics play an important role in co-author networks [45]–[47]. WordNet¹ captures structured semantics
 of words and can be exploited for AND in BD to achieve more accurate results through ontologies [56,97].
 We propose to use multi-gram topic models besides the unigrams of words for topics distribution over words.
 In this way, the natural syntactic relationship among the words is preserved and author writing habits can
 become useful for AND. These suggestions can be useful as they consider semantics and can provide better
 similarity estimation among the citations.
- 2. In literature, the transitivity issue is addressed only for the co-authors attribute. We suggest leveraging this concept for title and venue attributes too.
- 3. Instead of simply matching the titles of the publications, the references of the two publications to find the similarity between the two publications can also be exploited.
- 4. Most of the methods while handling the venue attribute use only its title. We suggest considering the ranking of the publication venues too. Based on this ranking, the REsearch Ability Level (REAL) of a researcher can be estimated. The REAL value may help predict the correct author as authors with the same names might have different rank research publications. All these measurements help improve similarity metrics.
- 5. The change of the research domain of an author is common these days due to overlaps between different fields. We suggest constructing sub-clusters within a cluster associated with a particular author. Each sub-cluster can differ from those of others based on multiple topics of interest of the author.
- 6. The advisor-advisee relationship can also be identified first to develop hierarchies for authors. As a result, the authors who are not the same will become nodes of distinct branches of a tree.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

In this survey, we presented a detailed study of the AND methods for DB. Key challenges are highlighted and a generic framework is proposed, which is quite intuitive and applicable. A lot of work has been done for name variant and name sharing problems separately, but few efforts are made to deal with both simultaneously which needs more attention. Different types of methods, such as supervised, up-supervised, semi-supervised, graph-based, and ontology-based provided elegant solutions for AND, still, graph-based and ontology-based methods need to be explored

¹ http://wordnet.princeton.edu/

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exhaustively. In the end, we have highlighted the major issues and future directions in this field. These future directions and open challenges can give a quick start to future researchers who are interested to research this area.

In this study, we presented a snapshot of research work done about AND in BD, methods applied, and future challenges around the time of its writing. However, we do believe that the fundamental information, methods, future directions, and open challenges presented here will be useful for the researchers in this area of research now and in the future to get a quick start.

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