Finding Textual Examples of Genres: Issues for Corpus Users

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Jung, Chae Kwan & Sue Wharton. 2012. Finding Textual Examples of Genres: Issues for Corpus Users. *Korean Journal of English Language and Linguistics* 12-1, 129-148. There is a range of EAP corpora available to teachers and researchers today. Some of these offer classifications of their texts by genre, in order to allow corpus users who are interested in genre-specific writing to select appropriate sets of texts. However, the classification used in the corpus may not easily identify the genres which the corpus user wishes to research, making it necessary for corpus users to develop their own procedures for identifying suitable texts. In this paper, we discuss our own experience of locating texts from two genres, Reflective Accounts and Undergraduate Engineering Laboratory Reports, from the BAWE corpus. We evaluate the success of the procedures we developed, and suggest implications for other corpus users and for corpus developers.

**Key Words:** EAP Corpora, Genre-Specific Writing, Corpus Users and Developers

1. Introduction

An increasing number of corpora based on academic texts are becoming available to teachers and researchers of EAP, often developed by groups of academics in higher education institutions. Some corpora, such as BAWE (British Academic Written English) or MICUSP (Michigan Corpus of Upper-level Student Papers), offer classifications by genre of the texts they contain. However, the classification systems offered do not necessarily fit with the research questions or data search needs