Package ‘twfy’

June 26, 2017

Title  Drive the API for TheyWorkForYou
Version  0.1.0
Description  An R wrapper around the API of TheyWorkForYou, a parliamentary monitoring site that scrapes and repackages Hansard (the UK's parliamentary record) and augments it with information from the Register of Members’ Interests, election results, and voting records to provide a unified source of information about UK legislators and their activities. See <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> for details.
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BugReports  https://github.com/conjugateprior/twfy/issues
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call_api

Description

All the other functions call this one - it's exported only for debugging purposes - so use them instead.

Usage

call_api(endpoint, ...)

Arguments

endpoint  Function name e.g. 'getConstituencies'

...  endpoint's (often optional) named arguments

Details

If you’re really curious about implementation, read on. Each API function introspects to see what its function name is, bundles up its named arguments, and calls this function with them. Consequently, aside from a bit of argument checking and/or return value massaging, every function is implemented exactly the same way.
**convertURL**

**Value**

Response content, as unserialized by `jsonlite::fromJSON`

---

**Convertible**

**Description**

Converts a parliament.uk Hansard URL into a TheyWorkForYou one, if possible.

**Usage**

```r
convertURL(url)
```

**Arguments**

- `url` url you want to convert

**Value**

A one row data.frame with columns `gid` and `url`.

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
site <- "http://www.publications.parliament.uk"
page <- "/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120418/debtext/120418-0001.htm"
in_page <- "+12041847002086"
address <- paste0(site, page, in_page)
res <- convertURL(address)
names(res) # gid, url

## End(Not run)
```

---

**getBoundary**

**Get constituency boundary information as KML**

**Description**

Get constituency boundary information as KML

**Usage**

```r
getBoundary(name)
```
getComments

**Arguments**

name 
Name of constituency

**Value**

A character vector full of KML (an XML dialect)

---

**getComments**

Get comments left on TheyWorkForYou

**Description**

Get comments left on TheyWorkForYou

**Usage**

getComments(start_date = NULL, end_date = NULL, search = NULL, 
pid = NULL, page = NULL, num = NULL)

**Arguments**

start_date 
Beginning date
end_date 
End date
search 
A search string
pid 
A person identifier
page 
which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num 
Number of results to return

**Value**

A list containing data.frames with columns

- comment_id Comment identifier
- user_id User identifier
- epobject_id
- body Text of comment
- posted date and time posted
- major
- gid
- firstname Commenter's first name
- lastname Commenter's last name
- url URL of the comment
- useurl URL endpoint for commenter
**getCommittee**

*Get members of a Parliamentary Select Committee*

---

**Description**

If name is not specified, all committees and their members are returned.

**Usage**

```r
getCommittee(name = NULL, date = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **name**
  Name of the committee. Partial names will be matched.
- **date**
  Date for which the committee membership is required

**Details**

TheyWorkForYou notes that "We have no information since the 2010 general election, and information before may be inaccurate."

**Value**

A data.frame of committee members, and also committees if name is not specified.

---

**getconstituencies**

*Get constituency names*

---

**Description**

Get constituency names

**Usage**

```r
getconstituencies(date = NULL, search = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **date**
  Date for which constituency names are required
- **search**
  Search string

**Value**

A data.frame with single column **name** containing constituency names
getConstituency  
Get information for a constituency

Description
Get information for a constituency

Usage
getConstituency(name = NULL, postcode = NULL)

Arguments
name  Name of constituency
postcode  A postcode
One of name or postcode is required.

Value
A data.frame with columns
- name  Constituency name
- pa_id  Constituency identifier
- bbc_constituency_id  BBC numeric identifier
- guardian_election_results  URL for election results
- guardian_id  Guardian numeric identifier
- guardian_name  Guardian name identifier

getDebates  
Get information about parliamentary debates

Description
Get information about parliamentary debates

Usage
getDebates(type = c("commons", "westminsterhall", "lords", "scotland", "northernireland"), date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL, order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)
**getGeometry**

### Arguments

- **type**: location of the debate. Defaults to the House of Commons
- **date**: Date on which debates are required
- **search**: A search string
- **person**: A person identifier to specify which speaker's contributions are required
- **gid**: A speech/debate identifier to restrict to a particular debate
- **order**: whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
- **page**: which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
- **num**: Number of results to return

### Value

A complex data.frame of debate information. Documentation is somewhat lacking, and many columns contain data.frames so you'll have to dig around.

---

**Description**

From TheyWorkForYou: "This currently includes, for Great Britain, the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the bounding box of the constituency, its area in square meters, the bounding box itself and the number of parts in the polygon that makes up the constituency. For Northern Ireland, as we don't have any better data, it only returns an approximate (estimated by eye) latitude and longitude for the constituency's centroid."

### Usage

```r
getGeometry(name)
```

### Arguments

- **name**: Name of constituency

### Value

A data.frame with columns

- **parts**: number of connected parts of the constituency
- **area**: area in square meters
- **min_lat**: minimum latitude in the constituency
- **centre_lat**: latitude of the central point of the constituency
- **max_lat**: maximum latitude in the constituency
- **min_long**: minimum longitude in the constituency
• centre_long longitude of the central point of the constituency
• max_long maximum longitude in the constituency
• srid_n
• min_e
• centre_e
• max_e
• min_n
• centre_n
• max_n

getHansard

Search Hansard

Description

This needs much more documentation.

Usage

getHansard(search = NULL, person = NULL, order = c("d", "r"),
          page = NULL, num = NULL)

Arguments

  search      A search string
  person      A person identifier
  order       whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
  page        which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
  num         Number of results to return

Value

  Search results
getLord

Get information about a Lord

Description
Get information about a Lord

Usage
getLord(id)

Arguments
id Person identifier

Value
a data.frame with columns

- member_id Member identifier
- constituency Constituency represented
- party Party
- entered_house Date when entered the House of Lords
- left_house Date when left the House of Lords or 9999-12-31 if still in office
- entered_reason Why they entered
- left_reason Why they left
- person_id Person identifier
- lastupdate Date TheyWorkForYou updated this information
- title Title, e.g. 'Baroness'
- given_name First names
- family_name Family name
- lordofname Location associated with title
- full_name First names then family name
getLords

Get information about Lords

Description

Get information about Lords

Usage

getLords(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)

Arguments

date ISO-style date, e.g. "1990-01-02", to compile a list of Lords for
party Restrict list to Lords in this party
search A search term

Value

A data.frame with columns

• member_id Member identifier, dependent on position
• person_id Person identifier
• name Name of Lord
• party Party
• office NULL if no offices held, or a list with one element: a data.frame with column head-
ings:
  – dept The committee or commission name
  – position Job role, e.g. Member or Leader,
  – from_date Date tenure in office began
  – to_date Date tenure in office ended, or 9999-12-31 if still in office

getMLA

Get information on a Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Description

Get information on a Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Usage

getMLA(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL, always_return = NULL)
Arguments

id
A MLA identifier
postcode
A postcode, which specifies a region represented by the MLA
constituency
Name of a constituency
always_return
whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election

Value

a data.frame with rows representing the MLA’s spells in the Assembly and columns

• member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Assembly
• house 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
• constituency Constituency represented
• party Party
• entered_house Date MP entered Parliament
• left_house Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
• entered_reason Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
• left_reason Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
• person_id Person identifier
• lastupdate When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
• title Title, if any
• given_name First name
• family_name Family name
• full_name First name and family name
• url URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
• image URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
• image_height Image height in pixels
• image_width Image width in pixels

getMLAs  Get information on Members of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Description

Get information on Members of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)

Usage

getMLAs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)
getMP

Arguments

date The date for which the MLAs are required
party Restrict MLAs to those in a party
search A search string

Value

A data.frame with columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in the Legislative Assembly
- person_id Person identifier
- name Full name of MLA
- party Party represented
- constituency Name of MLA’s constituency

getMP Get information about a Member of Parliament

Description

Returns

Usage

getMP(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL,
always_return = NULL)

Arguments

id An MP identifier
postcode A postcode, used to identify a constituency and thereby an MP
constituency Name of a constituency
always_return whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election

Value

a data.frame with rows representing the MP’s spells in Parliament and columns

- member_id Member identifier for each spell in parliament
- house 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- constituency Constituency represented
- party Party
- entered_house Date MP entered Parliament
getMPInfo

- left_house Date MP left Parliament
- entered_reason Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- left_reason Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- person_id Person identifier
- lastupdate When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- title Title, if any
- given_name First name
- family_name Family name
- full_name First name and family name
- url URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- image URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- image_height Image height in pixels
- image_width Image width in pixels

getMPInfo Get more information about a Member of Parliament

Description

Unless you want all the four hundred or so fields available about an MP you should probably specify
the ones you want in a comma-separated string to fields.

Usage

getMPInfo(id, fields = NULL)

Arguments

id An MP identifier
fields A comma separated character vector of field names

Details

Note that unlike other functions in this package the result is a list

Value

a list
getMPs  

*Get information about Members of Parliament*

**Description**

Get information about Members of Parliament

**Usage**

```r
getMPs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- `date` Date for which the MP list is constructed
- `party` Restrict to MPs in this party
- `search` A search string

**Value**

a data.frame with columns

- `member_id` Member identifier
- `person_id` Person identifier
- `name` MP’s first names then family name
- `party` Party
- `constituency` Constituency represented
- `office` NULL if no offices held, or a list with one element: a data.frame with column headings:
  - `dept` The committee or commission name
  - `position` Role, e.g. Member,
  - `from_date` Date tenure in office began
  - `to_date` Date tenure in office ended, or 9999-12-31 if still in office

or an empty list if parliament is dissolved.
getMPsInfo

Get more information about a Member of Parliament

Description
Get more information about a Member of Parliament

Usage
getMPsInfo(ids, fields = NULL)

Arguments
ids A character vector of comma-separated MP identifiers
fields A comma separated character vector of field names

Value
A list of list of MP information

getMSP

Get information on a Member of the Scottish Parliament

Description
Get information on a Member of the Scottish Parliament

Usage
getMSP(id = NULL, postcode = NULL, constituency = NULL,
always_return = NULL)

Arguments
id Person identifier
postcode A postcode, which specifies the constituency whose MSP is required
constituency Name of a constituency
always_return whether to try to return an MP even if the seat is vacant or it before an election
**Value**

a data.frame with rows representing the MP’s spells in Parliament and columns

- **member_id** Member identifier for each spell in parliament
- **house** 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- **constituency** Constituency represented
- **party** Party
- **entered_house** Date MP entered Parliament
- **left_house** Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
- **entered_reason** Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- **left_reason** Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- **person_id** Person identifier
- **lastupdate** When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- **title** Title, if any
- **given_name** First name
- **family_name** Family name
- **full_name** First name and family name
- **url** URL path relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- **image** URL path to jpg relative to TheyWorkForYou’s hostname
- **image_height** Image height in pixels
- **image_width** Image width in pixels

---

### getMSPs

**Get information about Members of the Scottish Parliament**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>getMSPs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Description**

Get information about Members of the Scottish Parliament

**Usage**

```r
getMSPs(date = NULL, party = NULL, search = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **date** The date for which the MSPs are required
- **party** Restrict MSPs to those in a party
- **search** A search string
**getPerson**

**Value**

A data.frame with columns

- `member_id` Member identifier for each spell in the Scottish parliament
- `person_id` Person identifier
- `name` Full name of MSP
- `party` Party represented
- `constituency` Name of MSP’s constituency

---

**getPerson**

*Get information about a person*

---

**Description**

Get information about a person

**Usage**

`getPerson(id)`

**Arguments**

- `id` A person identifier

**Value**

A data.frame with rows representing the person’s spells in the whatever legislative body they are members of, with columns

- `member_id` Member identifier for each spell in the Assembly
- `house` 1: House of Commons, 2: House of Lords, 3: Legislative Assembly (NI), 4: Scottish Parliament
- `constituency` Constituency represented
- `party` Party (in that spell)
- `entered_house` Date MP entered Parliament
- `left_house` Date MP left Parliament, or 9999-12-31 if still in place
- `entered_reason` Reason MP entered, e.g. general_election
- `left_reason` Reason MP left, e.g. general_election_standing
- `person_id` Person identifier
- `lastupdate` When TheyWorkForYou last updated this information
- `title` Title, if any
- `given_name` First name
- `family_name` Family name
- `full_name` First name and family name
getWMS  
Get written ministerial responses

Description
Get written ministerial responses

Usage
getWMS(date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL,
order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)

Arguments

- `date` Date for which responses are required
- `search` A search string
- `person` A person identifier to specify which minister provided the answers
- `gid` A response identifier to return
- `order` whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
- `page` which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
- `num` Number of results to return

Value
A list of information about written ministerial responses

getWrans  
Get written answers to questions

Description
The output of this function needs documentation.

Usage
getWrans(date = NULL, search = NULL, person = NULL, gid = NULL,
order = c("d", "r"), page = NULL, num = NULL)
Arguments

date       Date for which answers are required
search     A search string
person     A person identifier to specify who provided the answers
gid        A written question and answer identifier to return
order      whether to order results by date or relevance. Defaults to date
page       which page of results to provide. Defaults to first page
num        Number of results to return

Value

A data.frame with two columns

- entry a data.frame
- subs a data.frame

The entry data.frame has columns

- epobject_id
- htype
- gid
- hpos
- section_id
- subsection_id
- hdate
- htime
- source_url
- major
- minor
- video_status
- colnum
- body

. subs is a list containing data.frames with all the columns in entry and in addition

- excerpt
- listurl
- commentsurl
- totalcomments
- comment
set_api_key

---

get_api_key  
*Get the API key*

---

**Description**

Get the current API key or request it if not present. When you provide a key it will be stored as a local environment variable `TWFY_API_KEY` and also in your `~/.Renviron`, making it available for all subsequent R sessions.

**Usage**

```r
get_api_key()
```

**Details**

API keys can be requested at [http://theyworkforyou.com/api/key](http://theyworkforyou.com/api/key).

**Value**

The current API key

---

set_api_key  
*Set the API key*

---

**Description**

This function manually sets or resets the API key. It is mostly useful for updating your key as all API function calls will ask for a key and store it locally and in `~/.Renviron` any time they do not find one.

**Usage**

```r
set_api_key(api_key)
```

**Arguments**

- `api_key` a new API key

**Value**

Nothing
twfy: A package for accessing TheyWorkForYou

Description

twfy is an R wrapper around the API of TheyWorkForYou, a parliamentary monitoring site that scrapes and repackages Hansard (the UK’s parliamentary record) and augments it with information from the Register of Members’ Interests, election results, and voting records to provide a unified source of information about UK legislators and their activities. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com> for details.

Details

twfy functions currently mirror the structure and naming scheme of the API as documented at http://theyworkforyou.com/api/. While the package attempts where possible to provide more detail on structure of the API’s return values, this is not guaranteed to be correct and the link above should be your primary source of documentation.
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