

News for the people?

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“A squirrel dying in front of your house may be more relevant to your interests right now than people dying in Africa.”

-- Mark, age 24





Does social media help news generation and consumption in a way that is an improvement to society?

Why do we need journalists?

What did journalists do for me lately?

Gathering and sharing information

Making sense of the world

Deciding about what matters

Giving light to information in a way that supports democracy

Real news—reporting done for citizens
instead of consumers—is a public good.

-- Clay Shirky



Journalists in social media

Reporting

Verification

Context

Analysis

Tools that allow participation

Editors in social media

Guidance

Selection

Tools for journalism

Detecting and covering breaking events

Filtering tools

Validating information

Finding and evaluating sources

Help dissemination and discussion

...

Event tools for journalism

What would a journalist ask of Twitter?

E.g., in event context

Tendency to cover “decisive moments”,
divergent points of view, audience
criticism/applause

Newsworthiness: favors surprising,
unusual, good / bad

vox civitas

Show Tweets with

(101,518 Tweets from 98,663 people)

Keywords: OK

Clear Filters

Filters:

Video



Twitter Messages

(minute 0)

- [ruthgreenwood](#) i love how joe smiles...it's infectious #SOTU
- [AmadeusYDG](#) watching the state of the union
- [billkrausmann](#) @michellemalkin Is Obama wearing make-up?
- [313bpm](#) Finished studying, now watching our nations best man speak, President Obama.
- [MenaceTSociety](#) Say something good obama
- [stephenkruiser](#) The only human being who actually makes my skin crawl is the execrable Pelosi. #SOTU
- [erikwhittington](#) Did O just wink at his wife? Weird... #sotu
- [TheInDecider](#) RT @JoeMyGod: Some members of the House have waited since 9am to hear the "handshake" #SOTU #sotudinner



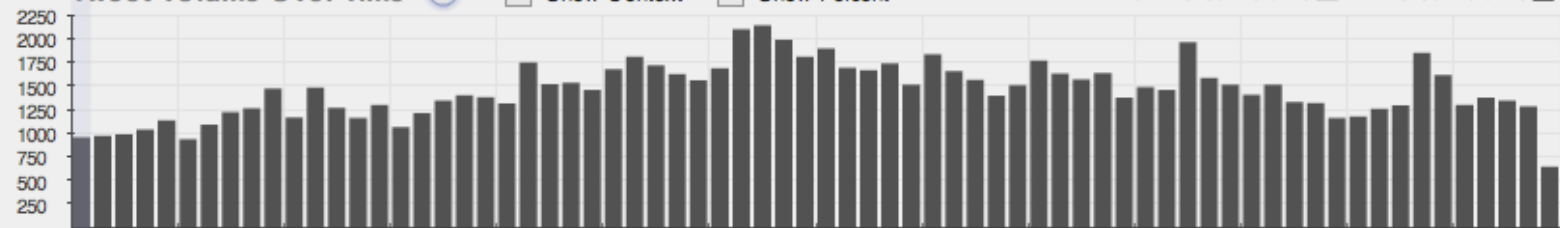
Topic Sections ?



Tweet Volume Over Time ?

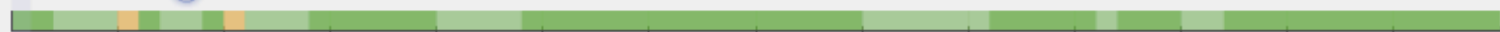
Show Context Show Percent

Unfiltered Volume Filtered Volume



Sentiment ?

Positive Negative Controversial Neutral



Key Words Over Time ?

hedge moly bailout focused desk accept evidence childhood budget scotus leadership iran equal
 20+ elkhart bail harry small china drill scientific forgive hcr freeze common ambitions muslim repeal
 telegraph canal reid focus overseas climate college walk tighten novel earmark troops haiti military

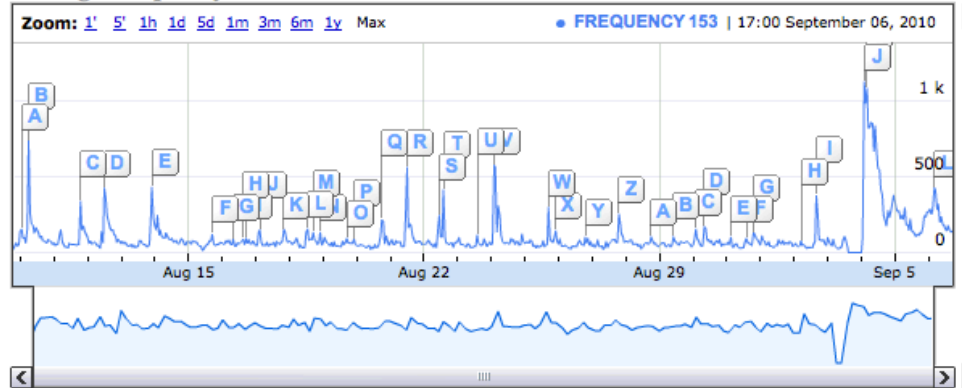
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70

earthquakes

Keywords: earthquake

Event dates: Aug. 9, 2010, 7:18 p.m. - Sept. 6, 2010, 6 p.m.





Message Frequency



Tweet Map



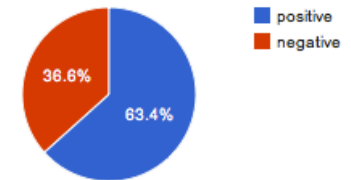
Relevant Tweets

-  Suffering from floods in Pakistan could exceed total in 3 disasters the 2004 tsunami, 2005 earthquake & 2010 Haiti earthquake- United Nations
-  RT @SajTK: People suffering exceeds 13 million more than combined total of 2004 Tsunami, 2005 Kashmir Earthquake & 2010 Haiti Earthquake...
-  "Through the shake of an earthquake I will never fall... That's how strong my love is..."
-  Did anyone feel an earthquake at 3 AM? Or am I just delusional?

Popular Links

<http://bit.ly/9ZdFnG> (cited by 4)

Overall Sentiment



- Enter a filter term
- L. earthquake, christchurch, warned, zealanders, scams 2010-9-6
 - K. earthquake, christchurch, zealand, thoughts, prayers 2010-9-4
 - J. earthquake, christchurch, 7.0, zealand, nz 2010-9-4
 - I. earthquake, 3.3, felt, pablo, san 2010-9-2
 - H. sept., earthquake, <http://bit.ly/c5jxgl>, 24, us. 2010-9-2

Physical World Events

#in10years vs. #jan25 vs...



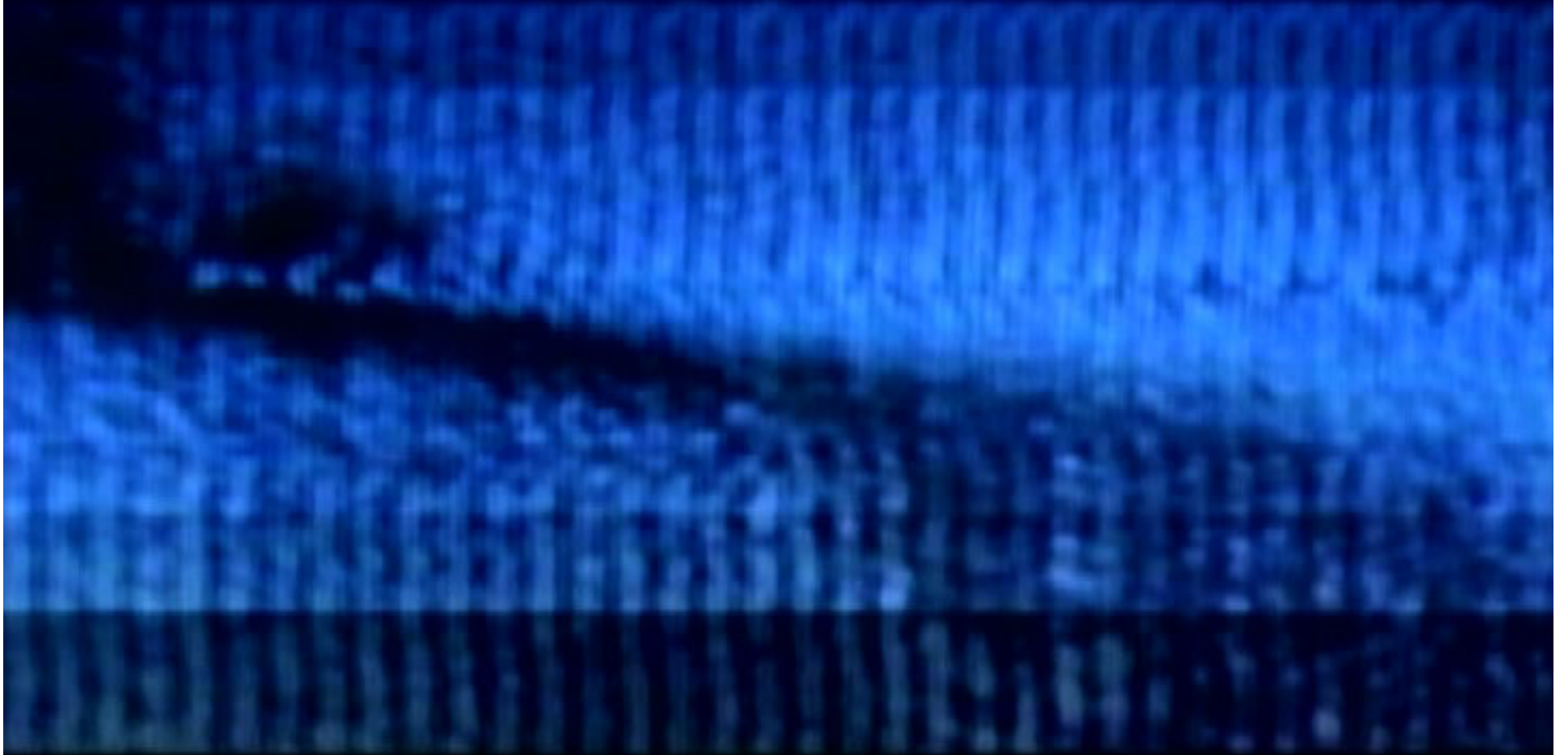
@waxpancake

Andy Baio

If Twitter had trending topics for Portland, **#rain** would be our Justin Bieber.

(Becker et al., ICWSM 2011)

Filtering tools



Eyewitness – identification, verification



In summary

We shape our tools, and thereafter our
tools shape us.

-- Marshall McLuhan

“Everyone can speak but no one can be
heard”

-- Yochai Benkler

thank you

mornaaman.com

@informor

With thanks to Nick Diakopoulos

socialmediainformationlab

<http://sm.rutgers.edu>