Using Open Data and Stories to Broaden Crowd Content

@natematias

natematias.com

civic.mit.edu/users/natematias
Digital Cosmopolitans in the Age of Connection

REWIRE

ETHAN ZUCKERMAN
Terra Incognita, by Catherine D’Ignazio, helps users explore knowledge about the world.
ActionPath, by Erhardt Graeff, offers geo-fenced invitations (on your phone) to civic action.
Civic Crowdfunding Research Project

Advancing socially-grounded research into crowdfunding for civic and community projects.

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About the CCRP

The Civic Crowdfunding Project was founded by Rodrigo Davies, a Research Assistant at MIT's Center for Civic Media.

I recently completed my master's degree in Comparative Media Studies at MIT and will be joining Stanford's department of Management Science and Engineering as a doctoral candidate in Fall 2014. You can read more about my background here.

Many of the articles are cross-posted at the Center for Civic Media blog and PBS Idea Lab. If you're interested in contributing to the project, contact me.
Between the Bars is a weblog platform for people in prison, through which the 1% of Americans who are in prison can tell their stories. Leave a comment – we'll pass it on.

... can only help us become a more compassionate, safer society.

bostonmagazine.com

... encourages inmates to retain their individual identities ...

technewsdaily.com

Amazing stuff:

Christopher Uggen, criminologist

Featured posts

Recent comments

1 HOUR, 52 MINUTES AGO

“Some people use it to talk about what prison is like for them (many do this). Others use it like ...”

By JT on Untitled
Seattle Neighborhood Twitter Interactions

Capitol Hill

Wallingford

West Seattle

Data from Feb 2013, analysis by Emma Spiro, Shelly Farnham
Socially recruited event reporting

- **Before**: Sparse photos & tweets
- **During**: Create a seed post, anyone can read, curate, edit live, anyone can recruit others to contribute
- **After**: Embed content and editing into other sites
CREATE compelling topics
Title
Survivor Marries Zombie. Craziness Ensues

Media
![Image of survivors and zombies at an event]

Context
After the Zombie Walk, a zombie married a survivor, officiated by a zombie clown. "Even when the pulse has vanished and our bodies begin to rotify, the need for love and to be loved is still there. How many of our breathing brethren mistake our simple need for companionship as an intent to harm and maim and consume? All we really want is love, to be accepted, and of course, BRAINS! YAY"
STRUCTURE

participation

Contributors:

J. Nathan Matias (@natematias)
@andresmh

Willing to help
SOCIAL RECRUITMENT

ask friends to help
10 Best Moments at CHI 2014

m.c. schraefel
@mcphoo

#chi2014 lost demo? "@kathrynschulz: most prescient vision of the future I've ever seen: pic.twitter.com/EN2QL20QgE  c. 1930. Via @mrkocnnll"

7:02 AM - 28 Apr 2014

21 RETWEETS 11 FAVORITES
@hciresearch can you please add the dance score to this blog post? Thanks!

Best results come from asking someone specific to help on Twitter. These people have volunteered to help:

From: @natematias
1. Pure, Un-selfconscious Fun

@doublejosh DJs in pixelated glasses. Dentheimer finds a backlit, and Jeanine said Things suit (who is this amazing person in the suit? Tell us!)

4. Good Riddance! Why Hello There!

Half the fun of garage sales is the discovery of what your neighbors no longer want—or what they decide to buy.

2. Cute Objects

The yard sale included all kinds of objects, from ceramics to electronics. Did we mention stuffed animals? Or Dinosaurs?

Andres writes: The guy selling them says his mom had them for two decades. They were expensive back then. He sells them for $20 now.

“Marx vs Talladega nights. Can’t decide which one to buy,” writes Andres.
4. Oppa Zombie Style

3. WARNING: The Zombies Have Learned How To Use Public Transportation

5. Zombies Invade a Wedding.

Check out the kickass groom, who’s about to put his boot into the faces of the undead. Photo by Ed Peterson

6. Survivor Marries Zombie

After the Zombie Walk, a zombie married a survivor, officiated by a zombie clown. “Even when the pulse has vanished and our bodies begin to putrefy, the need for love and to be loved is still there. How many of our breathing brethren mistake our simple need for companionship as an intent to harm and maim and consume? All we really want is love, to be accepted, and of course, BRAINS!”
5. Zombies Invade a Wedding.

Check out the kickass groom, who's about to put his boot into the faces of the undead. Photo by Ed Peterson.

6. Survivor Marries Zombie

After the Zombie Wedding, a zombie married a survivor, officiated by a zombie couple. Though the pulse has vanished and our bodies begin to putrefy, the need for love and to be loved is still there. How many of our breathing brethren mistake our simple need for companionship as an intent to harm and name and consume? All we really want is love, to be accepted, and of course, BRAINS!

Open Places and Public Spaces, at
#civicmedia

Andrés Monroy-Hernández was the first speaker. First, he shared research about the use of Twitter by Mexicans to coordinate their safety in response to cartel violence. Then, he talked about the #nocito2012 social movement during the Mexican elections. Finally, he showed the chats created together with Emma Bilo about the use of Twitter in the ongoing Brazilian public demonstrations.

Links:
- Narco Tweets: [http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/narctweets/2012/07/narctweets](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/narctweets/2012/07/narctweets)

Nick's background with comics

UNFLATTENING: THINKING THROUGH COMICS, NICK SOUSANIS AT MICROSOFT RESEARCH

Submitted by matemania on June 28, 2015 - 8:42pm

I'm here at Microsoft Research in Seattle for the summer. Today, I have a visit from Nick Sousanis, who was opening an exhibition of his work, Nick is writing his dissertation (on visual and verbal discourse) entirely in graphic novel form. His project has recently been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education. [http://chronicle.com/article/Artists-Approach-to-Dissertations/163781/]

Before coming to NYC, he was immersed in Detroit's thriving arts community, where he co-founded the arts and cultural web-mag [http://www.designsbyjen.com](http://www.designsbyjen.com); served as the founding director of the University of Michigan's WorkDowntown exhibition space, and became the biographer of legendary Detroit artist Charles McGee. [http://www.vimeo.com/album/1225713/303912](http://www.vimeo.com/album/1225713/303912)

Kati London: Entertainment for Civic Engagement

Kati talks about her work at Area/Code, the company that eventually became Zynga NYC:
- Mason Money, a local currency that developed a ritualized process of building connections within communities: [http://www.masonmoney.org](http://www.masonmoney.org)
- Battle Borm, a game designed for teenagers to involve them and their families in disaster preparedness: [http://battlebormgame.org](http://battlebormgame.org)
The 6 things you missed if you didn’t attend the ICWSM Town Hall meeting

July 13th, 2013 by andrewm

This post was written live and collaboratively during the town hall meeting using Newspad.

1. Growth in submissions, flat attendance, slightly cheaper
   - 349 papers, up from 232 last year.
   - Total attendance is flat.
   - Increased number of lightning papers.
   - No more “short paper” option (partly because lack of time for authors to turn around).
   - 3 papers were in the “without publication” option (out of 10 submissions).
   - Lowering price strategies: MIT dorms, no lunches, cheaper for students.

2. Where are the social scientists?
   Mor Naaman (Rutgers) raised the issue that more social scientists are needed. He commended the conference for having social scientists in the program committee. He wondered if we need to convince people to attend ICWSM instead of ICA (International Communication Association). Someone else mentioned that maybe ICWSM could piggyback on a conference like ICA. Nicole Elison (UM) thought that might be a great idea. Brian Keegan (Northeastern) raised the issue that ICA does

5 Civic Projects Aim to Make Data Useful

By J. Nathan Matias - July 22, 2013

How can we use data to improve our lives, our communities, and the world at large? At the recent Microsoft Design expo, students from eight universities showcased design projects along the theme of “making data useful.”

To prepare for the Design Expo, students take a semester-long course, in connection with a liaison at Microsoft Research. The best projects were then selected for presentation here at Microsoft. I'm an intern this summer at Microsoft Research Fuse Labs and was present for the presentations. This blog post was co-authored by Andréa Morrey II and other contributors online.

Note: since this is a design expo, many of these presentations are concept pieces or still in prototype stage. To see all the projects, including an amazing animated digital performance on the surface of the Walt Disney Center in L.A., see the full list of inspired designs on the Fuse Labs blog.

MINE: SEE & CONTROL WHAT DATA-MINERS SEE ABOUT YOU

Mine is by Omar Shapira, Carl Jomikowski, Donna Miller Waite, and Michael Rothman at NYU's FIT program, advised by Guy Shirk, Robert D'ertz, and Jerry Rodenhouse.

How are companies using our data? The students tell us the story of Sharon, a 55-year-old woman who's looking for a house. How will data about her influence her credit rating and insurance rates? Whenever she goes to the pub, she posts it to FourSquare. Whenever she tweets about spending, her bank makes a note of it. Companies are making money from Sharon's data; how can she
Crowdsourcing Event Reporting

Elena Agapie, Andrés Monroy-Hernández, Jaime Teevan, Todd Newman, Melissa Quintanilha
Microsoft Research, FUSE Labs
Five Things to Know for Your New Day – Thursday

WORLD CUP
Soccer madness: Here's the score at the start of the 2014 World Cup: 32 teams and billions of fans for the quadrennial event. Some of them are even floating a few hundred miles above the earth in the International Space Station.

Furry revelations: In this in-depth interview, we get into the mind of a guinea pig, who's also an only pet. It's a compelling, must-see video.

Kittur et al (UIST’11), Bernstein et al (UIST’10), Nichols et al (CSCW’12), Alt et al (NordiCHI’10), Vääätäjä et al, CSCW’12
Eventful.me

WHAT EVENT SHOULD WE COVER FOR YOU?

“I would like to use Eventful to cover the event ____________________________ that will happen on _____/____/____ at ____ : ____ PM, for a duration of ____ hours. The event is taking place at this address ________________________________ and it’s a ______________________________.

technology conference
community event
neighborhood market
group sale
ad-hoc gathering

LET’S DO THIS!”
Event Reporting Request

Eventful.me

HERE'S THE STATUS OF YOUR REQUEST:

1: PHOTOS
   2 OF 7 TASKS COMPLETE

2: INTERVIEWS
   4 OF 7 TASKS COMPLETE

3: VIDEO
   DONE!

Event name
03/13/2014, 7:30PM
@ Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant Seattle
801 1st Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Current submissions
Click here to see what people have submitted to this event.
Event Reporting Request

and/or

Community Members
News Crowdsourcing Process

At The Event

Remote

Curator Approves Content
Requests New Tasks

Eventful Writer

Eventful Reporter

EVENT
TO DO 4

- Take a photo of a festival booth
- Ask another attendee what they liked
- Make a short video of the festivities
- Ask festival organizer a question

DONE 2

- Take a photo of another attendee
- Interview a booth exhibitor
Everything You Need to Know About the Nov. 6th SSCPC Meeting

Posted on November 8, 2013 by admin

The debates got heated.

During a discussion about police policy on loitering and trespassing, local citizens “heatedly berated” officers. One senior lady even began swearing.

It was a great forum for open discussion of various topics.

Topics included jaywalking (with some playful banter between citizens and police officers about the city attorney being seen jaywalking), gun violence, theft, police jurisdictions, and disaster preparedness.
You Request Event Report

Crowdsourcing News Reporting

Your Story

You

Friends, The World
March 30, 2013
Yvonne Brill, a Pioneering Rocket Scientist, Dies at 88
By DOUGLAS MARTIN

She made a mean beef stroganoff, was a brilliant rocket scientist who followed her husband from job to job and took eight years off from work to raise three children. “The world’s best mom,” her son Matthew said.

But Yvonne Brill, who died on Wednesday at 88 in Princeton, N.J., was also a brilliant rocket scientist, who in the early 1970s invented a propulsion system to help keep communications satellites from slipping out of their orbits.

The system became the industry standard, and it was the achievement President Obama mentioned in 2011 in presenting her with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

Her devotion to family, personal and professional balancing act also won notice. In 1980, Harper’s Bazaar magazine and the DeBeers Corporation gave her their Diamond Superwoman award for returning to a successful career after starting a family.
Beatrice Hessen, an editor of her father's well-known philatelic journal, died of cancer on Thursday at her home in Palo Alto, Calif. She was 52 years old.
Employment Measurements

ASNE: % US Women Reporters & Writers, 2005-2012

Source: American Society of Newspaper Editors
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Female Subjects (%)</th>
<th>Male Subjects (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural economy, agriculture, farming practices, agricultural policy,</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>land rights ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Global partnerships (international trade and finance systems, e.g.</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTO, IMF, World Bank, debt) ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports, events, players, facilities, training, policies, funding</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National defence, military spending, military training, military</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parades, internal security ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic indicators, statistics, business, trade, stock markets ...</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other domestic politics/government (local, regional, national),</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elections, speeches, the political process ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-violent crime, bribery, theft, drug-dealing, corruption, (</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>including political corruption/maipoachyce) ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic policies, strategies, models (national, international) ...</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, traffic, roads ...</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign/international politics, relations with other countries,</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>negotiations, treaties, UN peacekeeping ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic crisis, state bailouts of companies, company takeovers and</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>mergers ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>War, civil war, terrorism, state-based violence ...</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riots, demonstrations, public disorder ...</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other stories on the economy</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace, negotiations, treaties...(local, regional, national),</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration, refugees, asylum seekers, ethnic conflict, integration,</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racism, xenophobia ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal system, judicial system, legislation (apart from family,</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property &amp; inheritance law) ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment, nature, pollution, global warming, ecology, tourism ...</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other stories on politics and government</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion, culture, tradition, controversies, teachings, practices</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other stories on science or health</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other labour issues, strikes, trade unions, negotiations, other</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employment and unemployment ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime, murder, abduction, assault, drug-related violence ...</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall percent of Female Subjects</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development issues, sustainability, community development ...</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, technology, research, funding, discoveries, developments ...</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer issues, consumer protection, regulation, prices, consumer</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fraud ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, leisure, cinema, theatre, books, dance ...</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster, accident, famine, earthquake, flood, hurricane, plane</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crash, car crash ...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty, housing, social welfare, aid to those in need ...</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women electoral candidates (local, regional, national)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: “Who Makes the News?” Global Media Monitoring Project
Overall 2011

Female: 91
Male: 235
I fear the attention we’ve already given them has either motivated their editors to disdain the mirrors we’ve held up to further neglect or encouraged them to actively turn those mirrors into funhouse parodies at costs to women

King, A. *Vida Count 2012: Mic Check, Redux.*
VIDA Women in Literary Arts, March 4, 2013
publishers

biases

citizen media

algorithms

the crowd

Images by Simon Child, Lance Weisser, Luis Prado, Dillon Arloff, from The Noun Project
Who’s Quoted and Mentioned

Number of Posts, per week, in Global Voices Egypt:

Unique Twitter Accounts Cited, per week, in Global Voices Egypt:

Twitter Citation Per Blog Post

Twitter Accounts

natematias.com/medialab/gv-viewer/
Tools

- **globalNamedata**: Tools to download and process name data from various sources. Last updated 12 days ago.

- **GenderTracker**: GenderTracker is a service that decomposes articles and computes various gender-related metrics based on the content. Last updated 4 months ago.

Authors:
- @natematias
- @ireneros
- Adam Hyland
- Bocoup

Repositories:
- Public: 5
- Private: 0
- Members: 4
Open Gender Tracker Interactive API Explorer

(montage of interface elements, articles mentioning Beer, Boston Globe, Jan - March 2013)
Gender Analysis API

https://github.com/OpenGenderTracking/

Author
GET /gender?name = Dan Sinker

Content Overview
POST /content $text = <TEXT>

Mentioned / Quoted
POST /mentioned $text = <TEXT>

@natematias  @gaba
Consider the case of Narus, for example, who were alleged to send surveillance technologies to Mubarak in Egypt (link). Morgan also tells us the story of Mark Klein, who came forward in 2006 (link) about Narus being installed at the behest of the NSA. Another example of mass surveillance is a system called X-Keystore (link), a system that claimed to collect “nearly anything a user does online” (email, metadata, etc.). Apparently analysts can use this for ongoing interception of a user’s internet activity.

According to the French company (link: French), 10,000 to 15,000 calls per day. The system is being used in Libya and Syria.

Morgan tells us that surveillance technologies do network monitoring, detecting malicious content. It can be used to monitor threats on your network, but it can also be used to block content online. In 2006, the VP of sales of Blue Coal went to a conference in Dubai and pitched it as lawful intercept technologies. Most recently, they have been offering SSL intercept capability, the kind of thing that a nation state could use to access encrypted communications. Their gear was found in Syria in 2011 ostensibly to facilitate government surveillance.

PROPOSED INTERFACE for a “GENDER CHECK” before publishing a new post.
Social Media

@natematias  @dearsarah
Episode 1 — Gender

On Twitter, who does natematias follow?

39% men
31% women

30% brands, bots, and more

Why
About
Improve Your Data
Logout
apersonsname
@apersonsname

M F B

Alice Blogger
@screen_name

M F B

Bob Journalist
@screen_name

M F B
The performance of people I need to follow for politeness and algorithmic stuff is more male. The people that I actually follow and read every day is more female. [.....]

Key to this is acknowledging that I work in the tech sector and that there's a lot of politeness involved with following people so as to not offend. And since the tech sector is predominantly male, this bias is visible.
I was baffled by the result – so far from what I perceived about my own account!...

I *loved* the idea of being told how many women I would have to follow to bring up my percentage of female ‘followees’ by 5%
Randomised Trial of FollowBias, over two weeks

SLIDE OMITTED
The Crowd

1. New York Times Obituaries
2. Wikipedia Biographies

- Women
- Men

Each of these bubbles represents a search query in the Editorial Obituaries of the New York Times. The balance of color represents the proportion of obituaries about men and women. Click to explore.

Obituaries about women
Obituaries about men

@natematias
Sophie Diehl
Kezia Keeble

06/17/1990

Kezia Keeble, a former Vogue editor and a powerful public-relations executive who helped reshape the image of American fashion, died at her home in Manhattan on Friday night.

Kezia Keeble, a former Vogue editor and a powerful public-relations executive who helped reshape the image of American fashion, died at her home in Manhattan on Friday night.

She was later fashion editor at Esquire from 1976 to 1977.

Read the full obituary of Kezia Keeble

Search Wikipedia for Kezia Keeble

Learn more & find other sources for Wikipedia

- Search the New York Times for Kezia Keeble
- Search the LA Times for Kezia Keeble
- Search the Boston Globe for Kezia Keeble
- Search Harper’s for Kezia Keeble
- Search Time Magazine for Kezia Keeble
- Search The Atlantic for Kezia Keeble
- Search Britannica for Kezia Keeble
- Search Google Books for Kezia Keeble

Do Something

We don’t have to rely on the New York Times for women’s stories to be heard. On Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and Wikipedia, anyone can donate their voice. You could:

1. Share or Tweet these stories
2. Search Wikipedia to learn more and find missing biographies
3. Search for sources to help this person meet Wikipedia’s notability requirements.
4. Request Wikipedia articles for notable women
5. Create a new Wikipedia article for this person
Instructions

Click a dot to read an excerpt from the life records of women appearing in New York Times editorial obituaries.

Whenever you take an action, you contribute to a collective project to find and record people who ought to be added to Wikipedia.

- entry in the New York Times
- this entry has been read
- the NYT record has been read
- needs Wikipedia entry
- found in Wikipedia