"The Internet is not a thing, a place, a single technology, or a mode of governance. It is an agreement."
John Gage, Director of Science, Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Objectives of the talk

- Look at some definitions and views about “information”.
- Discuss a way to track dynamic information.
- Republic of Web - examples to show the usefulness of this way.
“[Information] is a central and defining characteristic of all life forms, manifested in genetic transfer, in stimulus response mechanisms, … and, in the case of humans, in the intelligent acquisition of understanding and wisdom.”

Definitions of information

- ‘information is informing, telling; thing told, knowledge, items of knowledge, news’.
  - Oxford English Dictionary

- Information – In information processing, knowledge concerning such things as facts, concepts, objects, events, ideas, and processes that within a certain context has a particular meaning.
  - IBM Dictionary of Computing
Views on information

- “Library and information professionals, thus have a perception of information as objective matter, defining it instrumentally in terms of data, facts, knowledge and opinion, to be applied to learning, decision making, problem solving and other tasks.”
  - Kaye (1995)

- “[Information is] that sense created at a specific moment in time space by one or more humans.”
  - Dervin (1992)
Role of information

- “At a very fundamental level information colors our perceptions of the world around us, and thereby influences attitudes, emotions, and actions.”

- \[ \Delta I + (S') \rightarrow (S + \Delta S') \]
Information derivatives

- 0th derivative
- 1st derivative
- 2nd derivative
- n-th derivative
Republic of Web

Information of, by, and for the people

Chirag Shah. CRADLE Talk. UNC Chapel Hill
Republic of Web
Social networks
Social Q&A

Resolved Question

How far is my mailbox supposed to be from the street or curb?
7 hours ago

Best Answer - Chosen by Asker

It needs to be close enough that the mailman can reach it without stretching too far out the window of their vehicle. Call your local Post Office for minimum and maximum distances.
4 hours ago

Asker's Rating: *****
That is exactly what I did and the post office says the opening of the box should line up with the inside of the curb! And the postman came right after we installed it and said it is better than others because theirs are too low in the ground!
Thanks!
By now everyone has heard about the leak from a staffer in the John McCain campaign, that Governor Sarah Palin had to be told that Africa was a continent, not a country. Fox News initially reported the source of the story as an unnamed McCain campaign member. MSNBC did Fox one better; David Shuster, an MSNBC anchor, reported, “Turns out it was Martin Eisenstadt, a McCain policy adviser, who has come forward today to identify himself as the source of the leaks.”

Trouble is, as the New York Times now reports, there is no such person as Martin Eisenstadt. His existence, the supposed leak, and Governor Palin’s remark about Africa were all a hoax.

One would have thought that the media’s mauling of Governor Palin would have ended with the defeat of the McCain-Palin ticket. However, the media seems intent on destroying her future political prospects as well. Unfortunately, the revelation of the hoax will not get one-tenth of the publicity as the original false story.

UPDATE: HOT AIR reports that the fictional Martin Eisenstadt was not the source of the smear for Carl Cameron at Fox News, and so far at least Fox News is not retracting the original Carl Cameron report, even though MSNBC has retracted the story.

3 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

Much like the weapons of mass destruction were?

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008 12:32:00 PM

Lowell Brown said...

Anonymous, an excellent attempt to change the subject to something absolutely irrelevant. In a way, I am impressed.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008 12:41:00 PM
Video sharing

Chirag Shah. CRADLE Talk. UNC Chapel Hill

Republic of Web
ContextMiner and the elections 2008

Collecting data and mining contextual information relating to the elections 2008.
Overview of the collection
Overview of the collection

- As of Oct. 20, 2008:
  - Unique videos: 22,104
  - Unique authors: 8,352
  - Total views: 575,488,029
  - Average views: 23,503
  - Total comments: 3,130,856
  - Average comments: 128
  - Total ratings: 2,912,976
  - Average ratings: 119
## Obama vs. McCain

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<th>John McCain</th>
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<td><strong>Videos posted</strong></td>
<td>577</td>
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<td><strong>Number of views</strong></td>
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<table>
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Connectors and mavens

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<th>Mavens</th>
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<td>Mavens (People who posted a lot of comments in our collection)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>gravelin08 : 746</td>
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<td>uterfan : 174</td>
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<td>iTellYouNoLie : 151</td>
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<td>Veritatem1212 : 548</td>
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<td>LeeKwangEng : 113</td>
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ContextMiner public beta

Early July to Mid-Nov., 2008

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<td>Active campaigns</td>
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<td>Queries</td>
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<td>In-links</td>
<td>1,257,736</td>
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Chirag Shah. CRADLE Talk. UNC Chapel Hill

Republic of Web
TubeKit public beta

- Allows one to build a harvester for YouTube
- Also includes several other tools for YouTube crawling
- Runs on the local site
- Support for downloading videos too
- More than 200 downloads

www.tubekit.org
CFP: YouTube and the 2008 Election Cycle in the United States

April 3-4
UMass Amherst
Papers due: 01/07/2009
Summary

- Information – not just bytes, databases, or bit streams.
- Studies of how people transform information and how information transform people are very valuable.
- www.contextminer.org
- www.tubekit.org
- www.republicofweb.org
Thank You!

- VidArch team:
  Gary Marchionini, Helen Tibbo, Cal Lee, Paul Jones, Rob Capra, Terrell Russell, Chirag Shah, Laura Sheble, Yaxiao Song