Improving News Consumption with NARC: News Article Revision Comparator

Motivation
Web-based news sources continually revise their text articles on a minute-by-minute basis to correct errors and to update them with the latest information. Visualizing updates can reduce consumption effort during subsequent visits to an article and provide an informative supplement to the article itself. However, existing interfaces in this area are difficult and time-consuming to use and don’t integrate well with news sites.

Methods
• Research
  • Existing interfaces and their shortcomings
  • Data sources for article revisions
  • Implementation mediums allowing for integration
• Design
  • Task analysis
  • Compare versions
  • Show insertions/deletions
  • Prototyping interactions
  • Implementation of functional browser plug-in for Firefox with Greasemonkey
• Evaluation
  • In the process of conducting user studies to evaluate the interface and visualization

Existing Viz
Fig 1. Revisionista

Fig 2. Insertion and deletion visualizations.

Fig 3. Comparison interface integrated with BBC News site.

System Flow
Revisionista
User visits news site
Current article
Database
Diff
Render Comparison

Conclusions
• Simplified article visualization and comparison over time
• Integration with source news site

Future Work
User studies, animated visuals, recognize and show transpositions, extension to other news sources

Visualizations and Interface

Interactions
• Turn Insertion/Deletion visualization on and off
• Select revision to compare against using a time slider