

Text and Document Visualization 1



CS 7450 - Information Visualization
October 31, 2016
John Stasko

Learning Objectives



- Explain key challenges in visualizing a large document or body of text
- Identify and explain different techniques for representing words and concepts in a document
 - Word cloud, Wordle, Parallel tag cloud, SeeSoft, WordTree, PhraseNet, SentenTree, TextArc
- Understand the positives and limitations of word clouds and Wordles
- Describe SeeSoft-style miniature visual representations
- Explain what word concordance is
- Describe how WordTree representation works
- Identify and explain the techniques:
 - Word cloud, Wordle, Parallel tag cloud, SeeSoft, WordTree, PhraseNet, SentenTree, TextArc

Text is Everywhere



- We use documents as primary information artifact in our lives
- Our access to documents has grown tremendously in recent years due to networking infrastructure
 - WWW
 - Digital libraries
 - ...

Big Question



- What can information visualization provide to help users in understanding and gathering information from text and document collections?

Challenge



- Text is nominal data
 - Does not seem to map to geometric/graphical presentation as easily as ordinal and quantitative data
- The “Raw data --> Data Table” mapping now becomes more important

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Related Topic - IR



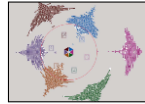
- Information Retrieval
 - Active search process that brings back particular/specific items (will discuss that some today, but not always focus)
 - I think InfoVis and HCI can help some...
- InfoVis, conversely, seems to be most useful when
 - Perhaps not sure precisely what you're looking for
 - More of a browsing task than a search one

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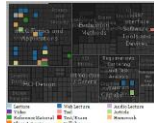
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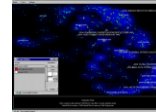
This Week's Agenda



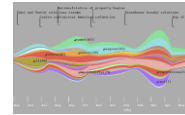
Visualization for IR
Helping search



Visualizing text
Showing words,
phrases, and
sentences



Visualizing document sets
Words, entities & sentences
Analysis metrics
Concepts & themes



Today

Next
time

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Information Retrieval



- Can InfoVis help IR?
- Assume there is some active search or query
 - Show results visually
 - Show how query terms relate to results
 - ...

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Generalize More



- How about the “holy grail” of a visual search engine?
 - Hot idea for a while
- My personal view: It’s a mistake in the general case. Text is just better for this.

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Search Visualization



<http://www.kartoo.com>

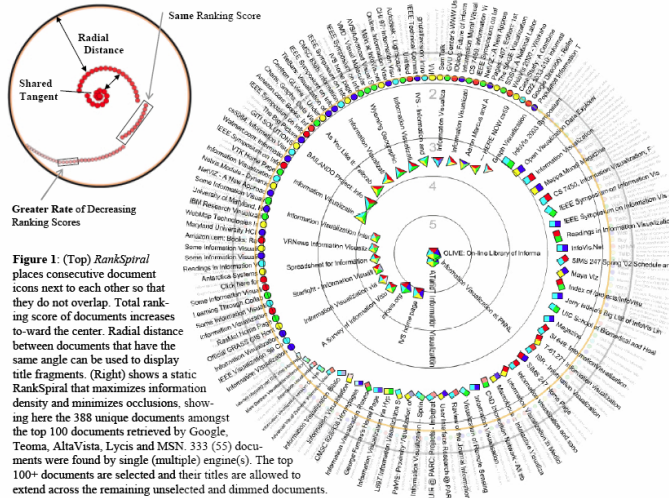
Defunct

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RankSpiral



Color represents different search engines

Spoerri InfoVis '04 poster

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To Learn More



New Book: Search User Interfaces
MARTI HEARST | CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS | 2006

READ THE BOOK
The full text of this book can be read free of charge. Select a chapter.

- 0: Preface: an overview of the structure of the book, and a guide to who should read which parts.
- 1: Design of Search User Interfaces: introduces the ideas and practices surrounding search interface design, places modern design in a historical context, and summarizes design guidelines for search interfaces.
- 2: Evaluation of Search User Interfaces: includes informal studies, formal studies, longitudinal studies and top-level analysis including bucket testing. Presents extensive device about how to avoid evaluation mistakes.
- 3: Models of the Information Seeking Process: summarizes the theoretical models about information seeking, and discusses information needs and query intent.
- 4: Query Specification: includes textual queries, natural language questions, query specification forms, dynamic feedback, and operators and commands.
- 5: Presentation of Search Results: includes document samplings, properties of results listbox, summaries, listboxes, etc. used in

BUY THE BOOK!
Order the book at:
• Amazon.com
• Cambridge University Press

Marti Hearst's Book

Chapter 10

Search User Interfaces
MARTI HEARST | CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS | 2006

CH. 10: INFORMATION VISUALIZATION FOR SEARCH INTERFACES

The preceding chapters have discussed user interfaces to support search, with a focus on what is known to be successful (from a usability perspective) for the vast majority of searches. This and the following chapter describe efforts to improve search interfaces by incorporating visual information into the display using techniques from the field of information visualization.

The human perceptual system is highly attuned to images, and visual representations can communicate some kinds of information more rapidly and effectively than text. For example, the familiar bar chart or line graph can be much more evocative of the underlying data than the corresponding table of numbers (Larkin and Simon, 1987a). The goal of information visualization is to translate abstract information into a visual form that provides new insight about that information. Visualization has been shown to be successful at providing insight about data for a wide range of tasks.

The field of information visualization is a vibrant one, with hundreds of innovative ideas being put on the Web. However, applying visualization to textual information is quite challenging, especially when the goal is to improve search user interface collections. As discussed in earlier chapters, search is a means towards some other end, rather than a goal in itself. When reading text, one is focused on that task; it is not possible to read and visually perceive something else at the same time. Furthermore, the nature of text makes it difficult to convert it to a visual analogue.

Most likely for these reasons, applications of visualization to general search have not

Chapter Contents

- 10.1: Principles of Information Visualization
- 10.2: Techniques for Interactive Visualization
- 10.3: The Effects of Data Types on Information Visualization
- 10.4: The Difficulties with Visualizing Term Data
- 10.5: Visualization for Query Specification
- 10.6: Visualizing Query Terms within a Single Document
- 10.7: Visualizing Query Terms within Retrieval Results
- 10.8: Visualizing Faceted Navigation
- 10.9: Visualizing Search Results as Clusters and "Starfields"
- 10.10: 3D Visualization in Search
- 10.11: Conclusions

Book Contents

<http://searchuserinterfaces.com/book/>

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Transition 1



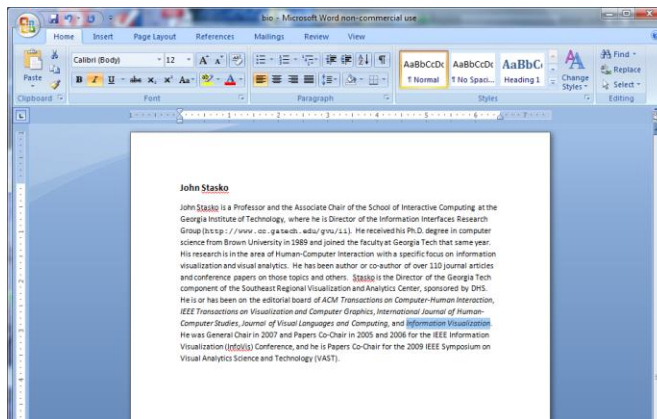
- OK, let's move up beyond just search/IR
- How do we represent the words, phrases, and sentences in a document or set of documents?
 - Main goal of *understanding* versus search

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One Text Visualization



Uses:
Layout
Font
Style
Color

...

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Design Challenge



- How would you visualize one of the recent presidential debates?
- Ideas?

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Tasks



- What kinds of questions or tasks would someone want to do with such a visualization?

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Tag/Word Clouds



- Currently very “hot” in research community
- Have proven to be very popular on web
- Idea is to show word/concept importance through visual means
 - Tags: User-specified metadata (descriptors) about something
 - Sometimes generalized to just reflect word frequencies

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History



- 90-year old Soviet Constructivism
- Milgram’s ‘76 experiment to have people label landmarks in Paris
- Flanagan’s ‘97 “Search referral Zeitgeist”
- Fortune’s ‘01 Money Makes the World Go Round

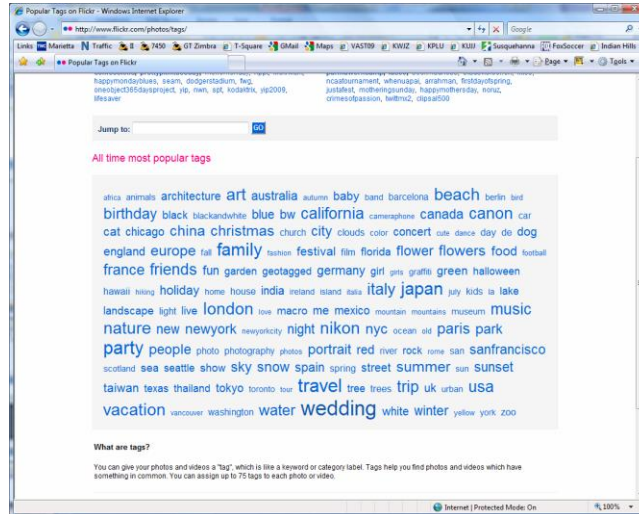
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Viégas & Wattenberg
interactions ‘08

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Flickr Tag Cloud

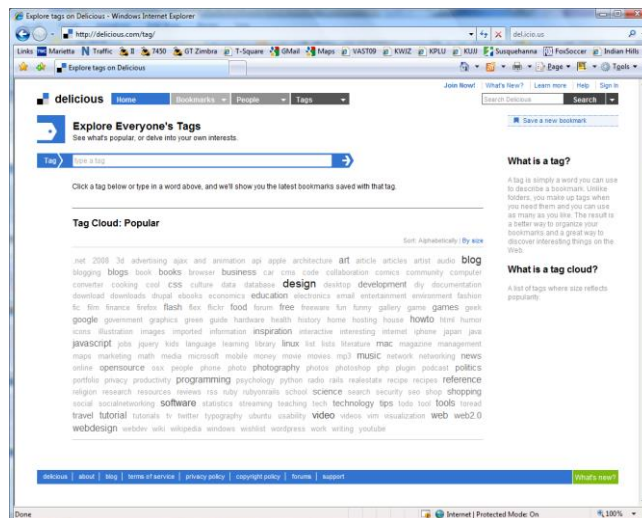


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delicious Tag Cloud

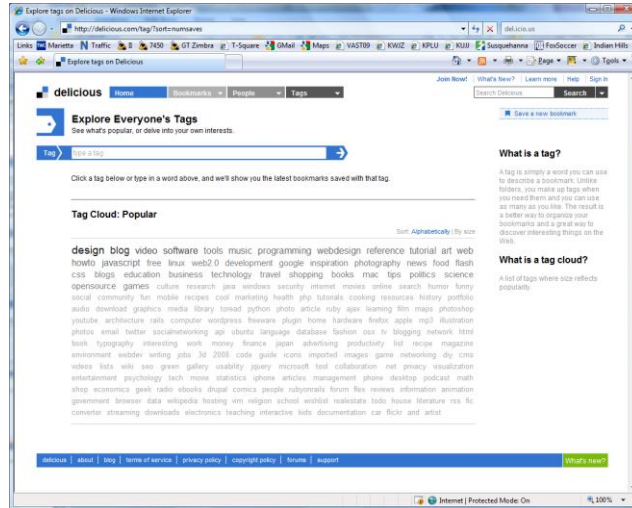


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Alternate Order

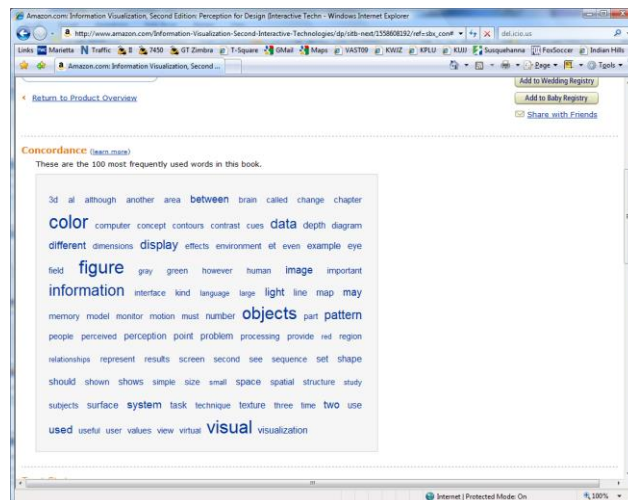


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Amazon's (old) Product Concordance



Maybe now a "word cloud"

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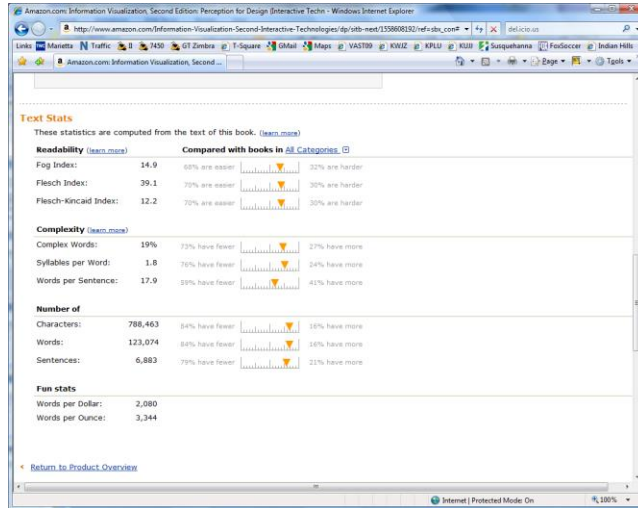
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More (old) Info



There are other types of info about a document on Amazon



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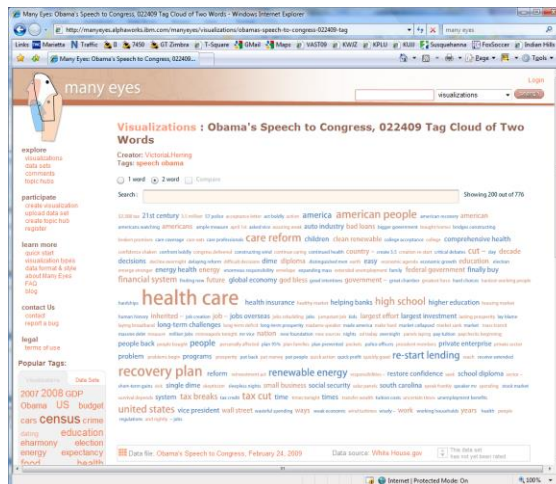
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Many Eyes Tag Cloud



Here, pairs of words are shown



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Problems



- Actually not a great visualization. Why?
 - Hard to find a particular word
 - Long words get increased visual emphasis
 - Font sizes are hard to compare
 - Alphabetical ordering not ideal for many tasks
- Studies have even shown they underperform

Gruen et al
CHI '06

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<http://www.niemanlab.org/2011/10/word-clouds-considered-harmful/>

Word clouds considered harmful

The New York Times senior software architect would like the newest "mulletts of the Internet" to go back from whence they came.

By JACOB HARRIS @harrisj Oct 13, 2011, 1:45 p.m.

In his 2003 novel *Pattern R* named Cayce Pollard with a allergic to brands. Even the

is a shoddy visualization that fails all the principles I hold dear.

Every time I see a word cloud presented as insight, I die a little inside.

For starters, word clouds support only the crudest sorts of textual analysis, much like figuring out a protein by getting a count only of its amino acids. This can be wildly misleading; I created a word cloud of Tea Party feelings about Obama, and the two largest words were implausibly "like" and "policy," mainly because the importuned word "don't" was automatically excluded.

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Why So Popular?



- Serve as social signifiers that provide a friendly atmosphere that provide a point of entry into a complex site
- Act as individual and group mirrors
- Fun, not business-like

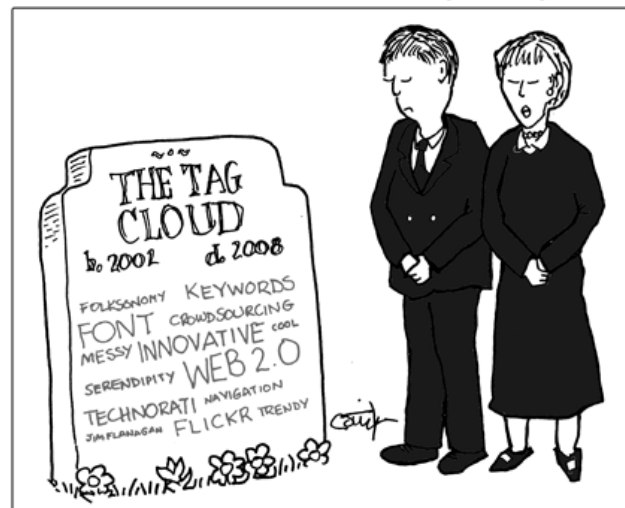
Hearst & Rosner
HICSS '08

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NOISE TO SIGNAL
Rob Cottingham · socialsignal.com/n2s



<http://www.socialsignal.com/system/files/images/2008-08-01-tagcloud.gif>

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Wordle

<http://www.wordle.net>

can do volunteering
call us volunteering from Scope, Leonard Cheshire and Russell
Commission Available at www.scope.org.uk —
www.leonardcheshire.org | www.russell.org



"verschreibbar" by Daniela 5 minutes ago



Women's Rights
Women have rights too! —macbookle11 11 minutes ago



"General's Douglas McArthur's Speech" by Rob the Builder 31 minutes ago



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Wordle

- Tightly packed words, sometimes vertical or diagonal
- Word size is linearly correlated with frequency (typically square root in cloud)
- Multiple color palettes
- User gets some control

Viegas, Wattenberg, & Feinberg
TVCG (InfoVis) '09

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Layout Algorithm



- Details not published
- Idea:
 - sort words by weight, decreasing order
 - for each word w
 - $w.position := makeInitialPosition(w);$
 - while w intersects other words:
 - $updatePosition(w);$
 - Init position randomly chosen according to distribution for target shape
 - Update position moves out radially

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Fun Uses



- Political speeches
- Songs and poems
- Love letters (for “boyfriend points”)
- Wedding vows
- Course syllabi
- Teaching writing
- Gifts



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2-day Survey in Jan. 09



- 2/3 respondents were women
- Interest came from design, visual appeal, beauty
- Why preferred over word clouds:
 - Emotional impact
 - Attention-keeping visuals
 - Organic, non-linear
- Fair percentage didn't know what size signified

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SoTU Wordles



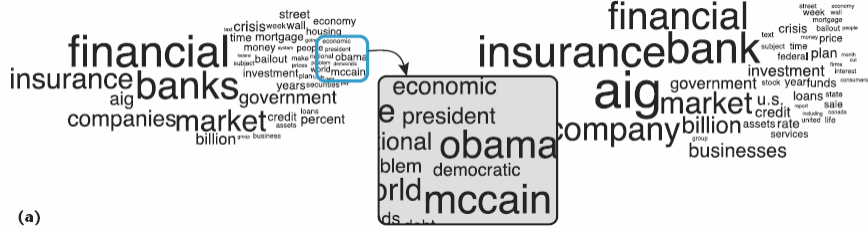
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/jan/25/state-of-the-union-text-obama#>

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A Little More Order



Order the words more by frequency

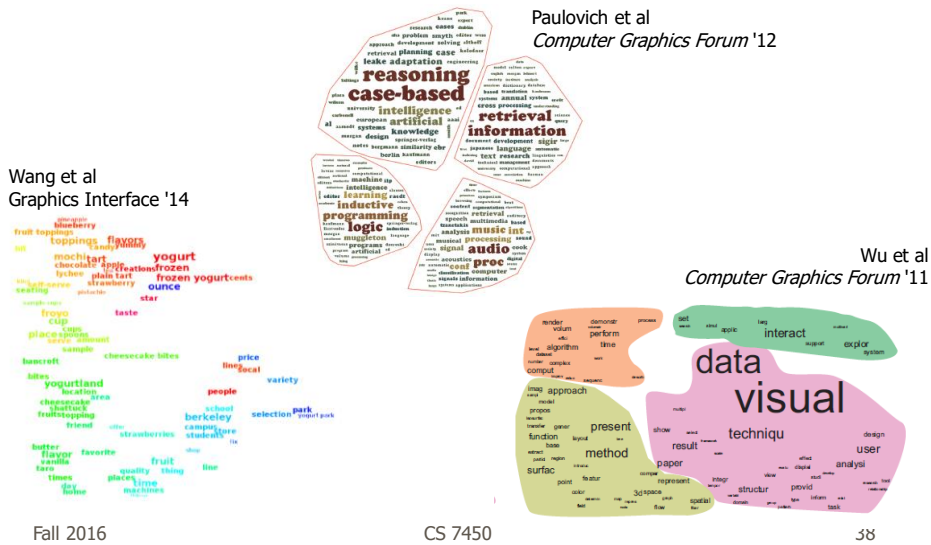
Cui et al
IEEE CG&A '10

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Semantic/Context Word Clouds



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Wordle Characteristics



- Layout, words are automatic
- If you had some control, what would you like to change or alter?

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Mani-Wordle



- Start with nice default algorithm
- Give user more control over design
 - Alter color (within a palette)
 - Pin words, redo the rest
 - Move and rotate words
 - Smooth animation and collision detection for tracking changes

Koh et al
TVCG (InfoVis) '10

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Multiple Documents?



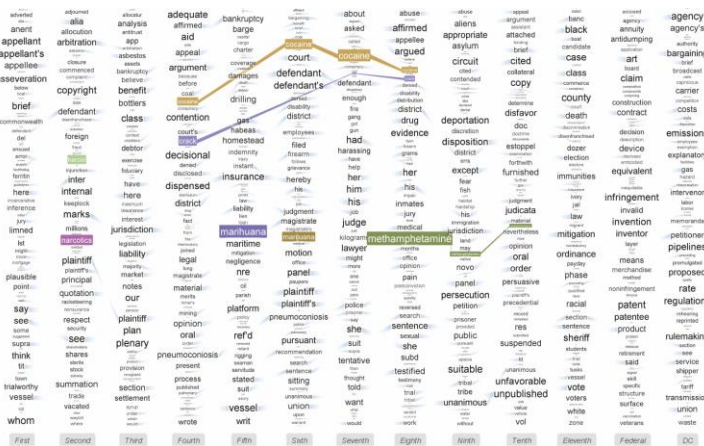
- How to show word frequencies across multiple related documents?

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Parallel Tag Clouds



Video

Different circuit courts

Collins et al
VAST '09

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Analytic Support



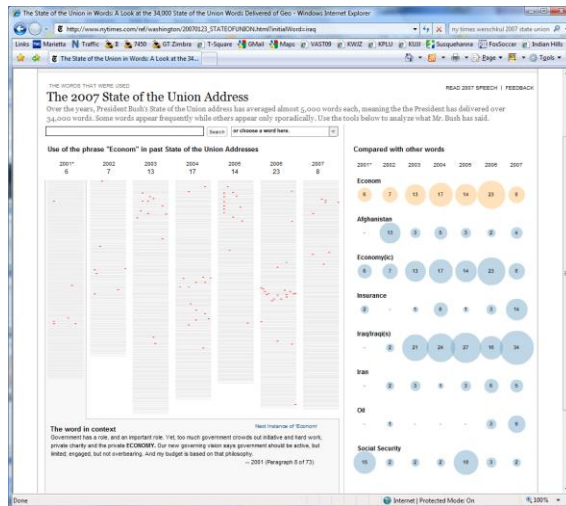
- Note: Word Clouds and Wordles are really more overview-style visualizations
 - Don't really support queries, searches, drill-down
- How might we also support queries and search?

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Overview & Timeline



State of the Union Addresses

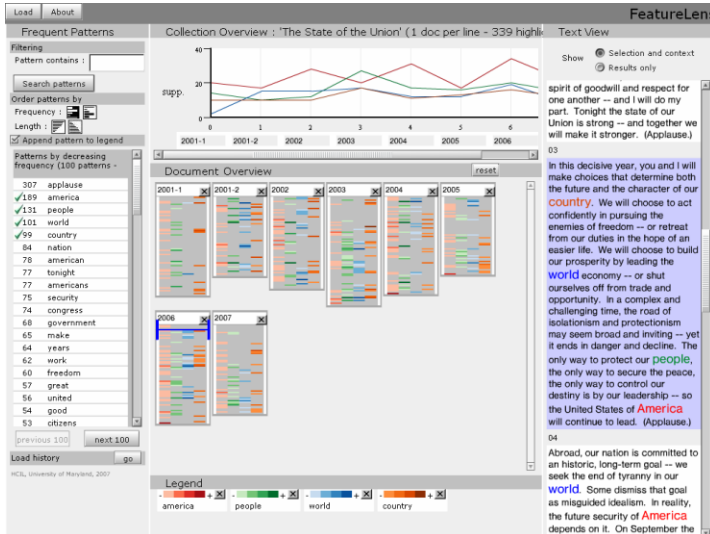
http://www.nytimes.com/ref/washington/20070123_STATEOFUNION.html?initialWord=iraq

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FeatureLens

Video



Show patterns of words or n-grams

Don et al
CIKM '07

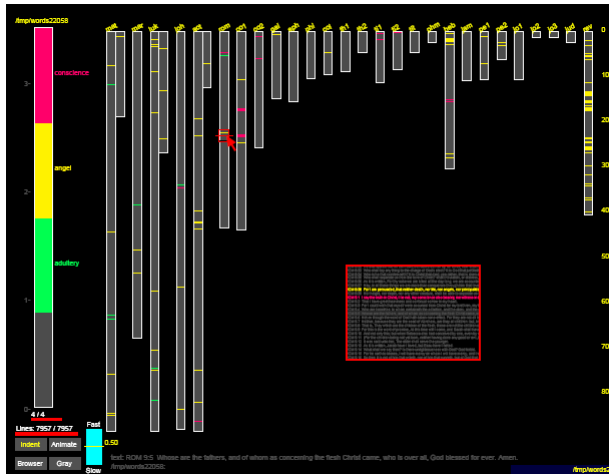
<http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/textvis/FeatureLens/>

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SeeSoft Display



Like taping text to the wall and walking far away

New Testament

Eick
Journal Comput. & Graph. Stats '94

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Beyond Individual Words



- The previous techniques focus largely on words
 - Especially word clouds & wordles
- Can we show combinations of words, ie, actual phrases and sentences, in order to provide more context?

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Concordance



The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary page for the word 'concordance'. The page includes a navigation menu on the left, a search bar at the top, and a main content area. The main content area displays the word 'concordance' and its definition. A red arrow points from the word 'Definition' to the definition text.

concordance - Definition from the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/concordance

Merriam-Webster Online Search

concordance

One entry found.

WordClick™
DOUBLE-CLICK ANY
WORD in your search
results for a definition.
On Off

Sponsored Links

Find the Benefits of Concordance ® Software by LexisNexis ®. Buy Now!
law.lexisnexis.com

Main Entry: **con·cor·dance** ♦
Pronunciation: kən-'kôr-'dān(s), kən-'
Function: noun
Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Medieval Latin *concordantia*, from Latin *concordant-*, *concordans*, present participle of *concordare* to agree, from *concord-*, *concor-*
Date: 14th century

1 : an alphabetical index of the principal words in a book or the works of an author with their immediate contexts
2 : CONCORD , AGREEMENT

Definition

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Concordance in Text



Headword	No.	Context...	Word	...Context	Reference
HEAR	15	That my own	heart	drifts and cries, having no...	Deep Analysis:
HEARD	9	By the shout of the	heart	continually at work	And the wave
HEARING	7	Nothing to adapt the skill of the	heart	to, skill	And the wave
HEARS	3	The tread, the beat of it, it is my own	heart	,	Träumeri
HEARSE	1	Because I follow it to my own	heart	,	Many famous
HEART	25	My	heart	is ticking like the sun:	I am washed i
HEART'S	2	The vague	heart	sharpened to a candid co...	The March Pa
HEART-SHAPED	1	Contract my	heart	by looking out of date.	Lines on a Yo
HEARTH	1	Having no	heart	to put aside the theft	Home is so Se
HEARTS	7	And the boy puking his	heart	out in the Gents	Essential Bea
HEARTY	1	A harbour for the	heart	against distress.	Bridge for the
HEAT	6	These I would choose my	heart	to lead	After-Dinner F
HEAT-HAZE	1	Time in his little cinema of the	heart	,	Time and Spar
HEATH	1	This petrified	heart	has taken,	A Stone Churc
HEATS	1	How should they sweep the girl clean...	heart	,	I see a girl dra
HEAVE	1	Hands that the	heart	can govern	Heaviest of fi
HEAVEH	4	For the	heart	to be loveless, and as col...	Dawn
HEAVEN-HOLDING	1	With the unguessed-at	heart	riding	One man walk
HEAVIER THAN...	1	If hands could free you,	heart	,	If hands could
HEAVIEST	2	That overflows the	heart	,	Pour away th

<http://www.concordancesoftware.co.uk>

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Word Tree



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From King James Bible

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Word Tree



- Shows context of a word or words
 - Follow word with all the phrases that follow it
- Font size shows frequency of appearance
- Continue branch until hitting unique phrase
- Clicking on phrase makes it the focus
- Ordered alphabetically, by frequency, or by first appearance

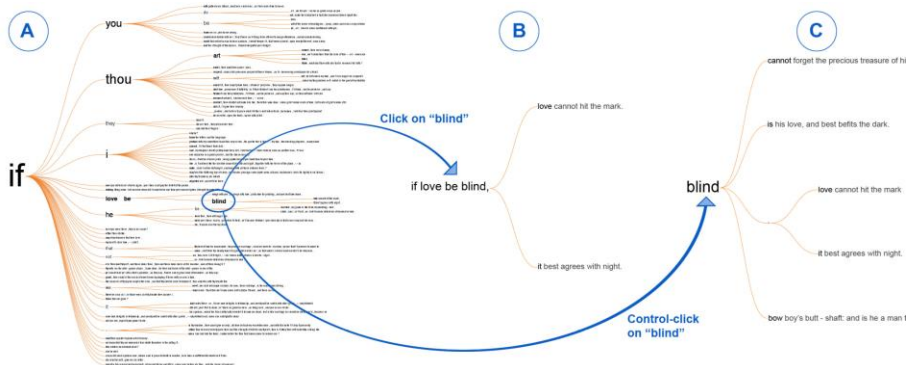
Wattenberg & Viégas
TVCG (InfoVis) '08

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Interaction

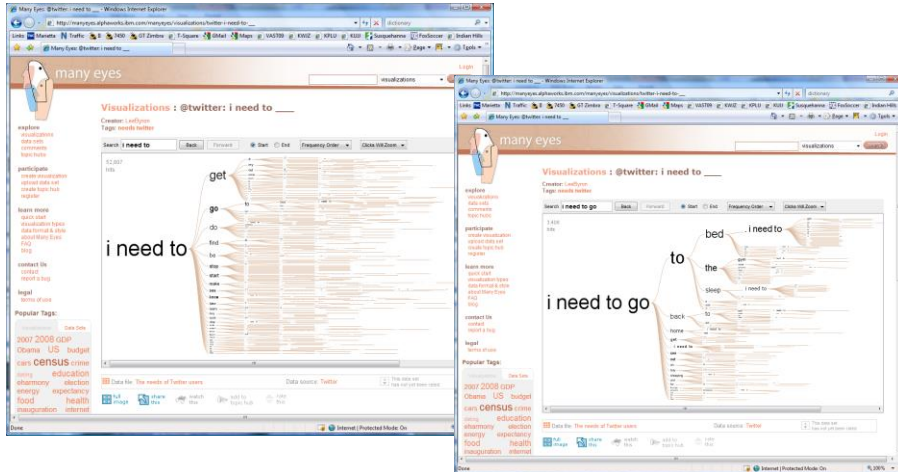


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Many Eyes' WordTree



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Was added to Many Eyes

Phrase Nets



- Examine unstructured documents
- Presents pairs of terms and phrases such as
 - X and Y
 - X's Y
 - X at Y
 - X (is|are|was|were) Y
- Uses special graph layout algorithm with compression and simplification

van Ham et al
TVCG (InfoVis) '09

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Examples

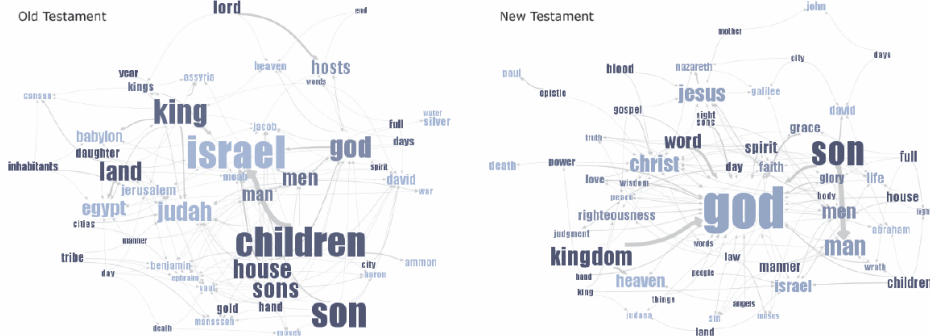


Fig 4. Matching the same pattern on different texts. Here we used the pattern "X of Y" to compare the old and new testaments. Israel takes a central place in the Old Testament, while God acts as the main pattern receiver in the New Testament.

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Examples

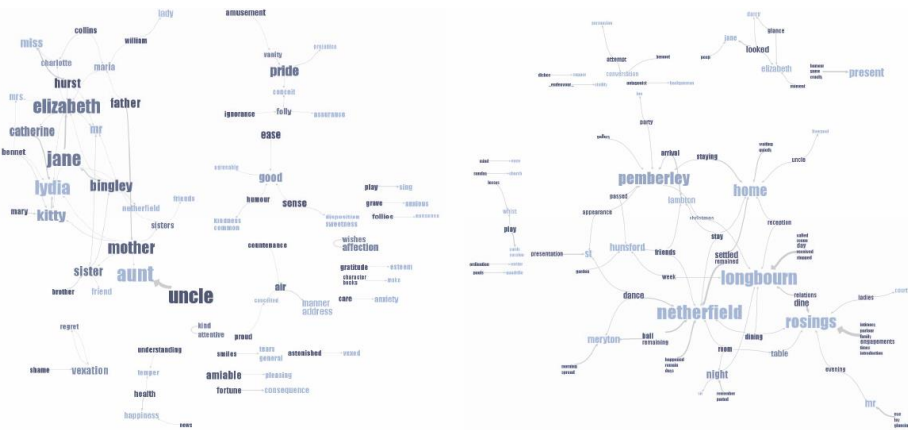


Fig 5. Matching different patterns on the same text. Here we analyzed Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* with "X and Y" and "X at Y" respectively. The left image shows relationships between the main characters amongst others, while the right image shows relationships between locations.

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User Interface

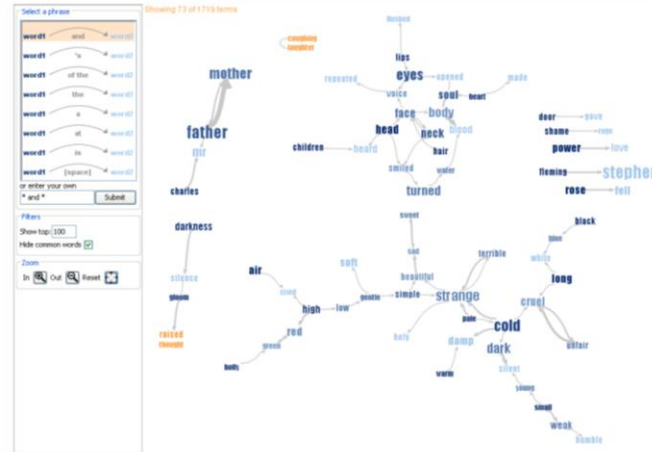


Fig 3. The Phrase Net user interface applied to James Joyce's Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. The user can select a predefined pattern from the list of patterns on the left or define a custom pattern in the box below. This list of patterns simultaneously serves as a legend, a list of presets and an interactive training mechanism for regular expressions. Here the user has selected "...X and Y...", revealing two main clusters, one almost exclusively consisting of adjectives, the other of verbs and nouns. The highlighted clusters of terms have been aggregated by our edge compression algorithm.

Words and Context



- Can we show most frequent words like a word cloud but also provide context?
 - Should each word appear one time?
 - But then how to show context?
 - If appears multiple times, how to make that work?

SentenTree



- Elements of word clouds and word trees
 - Highlight keywords using size
 - Show sentence fragments
 - Provide a summary of the dataset
 - Enable drill-down into details

Hu, Wongsuphasawat, and Stasko
TVCG '17 (InfoVis '16)

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Example



Summary of 189,450 tweets (108,702 unique) posted in a 15 minute time window around the first goal of the opening game of the 2014 Soccer World Cup

(Interaction is key & not shown here)

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Example



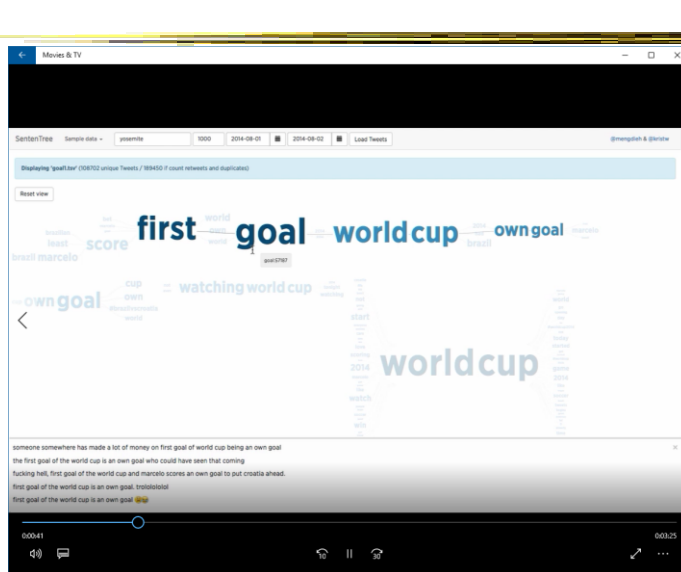
Tweets mentioning word "Yosemite" from Aug 1, 2014

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Video



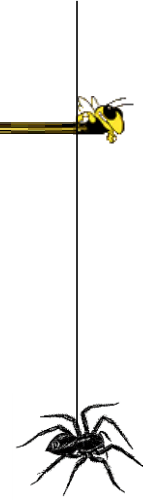
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Another Challenge

- Visualize an entire book
- What does that mean?
 - Word appearances
 - Sentences
 - ...



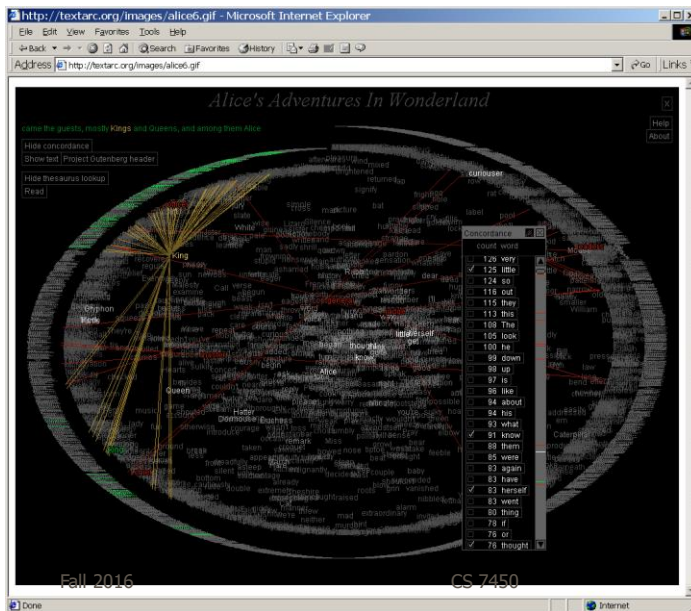
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TextArc

<http://textarc.org>



Sentences laid out
in order of appearance

Words near to where
they appear

Significant interaction

Brad Paley

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Next Time



- More about collections of documents and showing other characteristics of documents
 - Analysis metrics
 - Entities
 - Concepts & themes

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Learning Objectives



- Explain key challenges in visualizing a large document or body of text
- Identify and explain different techniques for representing words and concepts in a document
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Reading



- Viegas & Wattenberg '08

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Project



- Meetings with TAs
 - Once every two weeks
 - Will be logged
 - Conveys an impression

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Upcoming



- Text and Documents 2
- Hierarchical (Tree) Data 1

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References



- Marti Hearst's i247 slides
- All referred to papers

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