Nurturing informed citizens and patrons

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Technological Approaches to Study and Mitigate Fake News in Library Collections
What is fake news?
Fake news is…

• Propaganda, misinformation, slanted coverage
• More virulent due to social media and the web: 30% of traffic to fake news sites is from Facebook; which is true for only 8% of legitimate news
• Often financed by online advertising systems (Google)
• Considered a serious issue by journalists, companies
• Worth keeping out of news collections, as well as keeping in (to aid research to detect, analyze, and counteract it)
Collecting fake news
Building (or borrowing) fake news archives

Cobweb: A Collaborative Collection Development Platform for Web Archives

Contributed by
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The California Digital Library (CDL), Harvard Library, and UCLA Library have been awarded funding by IMLS to create Cobweb, a collaborative collection development platform supporting the creation of comprehensive web archives by coordinating the independent activities of the web archiving community.
Analyzing fake news
Analyzing the “shapes” of conspiracy stories


Dissecting the #PizzaGate Conspiracy Theories

By GREGOR AISCH, JON HUANG and CECILIA KANG DEC. 10, 2016
UCLA researchers teach computer to read the internet

Sifting through nearly 2 million posts, their algorithm could identify an underlying narrative

Jessica Wolf | December 02, 2016
Narrative framework analysis

Social Media -> Data Collection -> Corpus

Topic Modeling

Discussion Topics -> Measuring Topic Importance

Persistence & Prevalence of Topics

Actants

Processed Text with POS Tags

Significant Verbs (KLD Ranking)

Context Indicators

Aggregation & Visualization

Actions/Relationships

Parents -> Exemptions

Children

Adverse Effects

Vaccines

Medical Professionals

Schools

Government

Religious Institutions

Parents

attend

teach

reject

accept

Medical Professionals

VPDs

Children

attend

require

Vaccines

Teachers
Understanding fake news
A simple network model of “Pizzagate”
Towards a useful “Pizzagate” network model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sentence</th>
<th>arg1</th>
<th>rel</th>
<th>arg2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fearing yet another witch hunt, Reddit bans Pizzagate - The Washington Post</td>
<td>{Reddit}</td>
<td>{bans}</td>
<td>{Pizzagate}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citing its policy against posting the personal information of others, Reddit has banned the “Pizzagate” conspiracy board from the site.</td>
<td>{Reddit}</td>
<td>has {banned}</td>
<td>the Pizzagate conspiracy {board}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assassination Of Finnish Reporters Investigating Pizzagate</td>
<td>{Assassination}</td>
<td>{Investigating}</td>
<td>{Pizzagate}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strange: Police found various other items including a child’s jumpsuit, pictured, in the basement</td>
<td>{Police}</td>
<td>{found}</td>
<td>various other including a child’s {jumpsuit} {items} pictured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington gunman was investigating Pizza Gate fake news</td>
<td>Washington {gunman}</td>
<td>was {investigating}</td>
<td>Pizza Gate fake {news}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE TALKING ABOUT #PIZZAGATE ON TWITTER!</td>
<td>{TURKEY}</td>
<td>ARE {TALKING}</td>
<td>ABOUT {PIZZAGATE}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short and to the point: For anyone wondering whether Trump knows about Hillary and PizzaGate, here: Donald Trump drops Haiti joke on Hillary at Al Smith charity dinner</td>
<td>Donald {Trump}</td>
<td>{drops}</td>
<td>Haiti {joke} on Hillary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm sure there are tons of Jews who aren't pedos, and tons of pedos who aren't Jews.</td>
<td>{Jews}</td>
<td>{aren}</td>
<td>t {pedos}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The jews are attacking and defending pedophilia.</td>
<td>The {jews}</td>
<td>are {attacking}</td>
<td>{pedophilia}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Text reuse analysis to track misquotes & slant

CNN
TIRADE ABOUT FORMER MISS UNIVERSE, ALICIA MACHADO. >> I

MSNBC
RISSING OVER TRUMP TOWER. >> IT'S VERY SMALL WRITING. >> WHO

All passages similar to CNN Reports

CNN
AN EARLY MORNING TWITTER TIRADE ABOUT FORMER MISS UNIVERSE, ALICIA MACHADO. >> I MEAN, REALLY, WHO GETS UP AT 3:00 IN THE MORNING TO ENGAGE IN A TWITTER ATTACK AGAINST A FORMER MISS UNIVERSE. WHY DOES HE DO THINGS LIKE THAT?

CNN
>>> | DO CHERISH! WOMEN, I LOVE WOMEN. >> WHO GETS UP AT 3:00 IN THE MORNING TO ENGAGE IN A TWITTER ATTACK AGAINST A FORMER MISS UNIVERSE? >> WORKING THAT MICROPHONE WAS A HELL OF A LOT MORE DIFFICULT.
Text reuse analysis to track misquotes & slant
Resisting fake news
From “Combating Fake News: An Agenda for Research and Action”¹

1. Offer feedback to users that particular news may be fake
2. Provide ideologically compatible sources that confirm that particular news is fake
3. Detect information that is being promoted by bots and “cyborg” accounts and tune algorithms to disregard
4. Identify main sources of fake news and reduce promotion (by social media platforms, online advertising revenue) of information from those sources

¹Conference held Feb. 17–18, 2017 at the Harvard Kennedy School
Thank you

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Instigate, Innovate, Initiate

MARY LOU CAROLAN, CORNWALL PUBLIC LIBRARY
Nurturing Informed Citizens
The Library is the Heart of the Community.

Really?
The Community is the Heart of the Library
What do you really know about your community?

- Who are the stakeholders? Who are your partners in education? Who would care if the library was no longer there?
Community Conversations

• **Who:** Local leaders, community organizers, academics, business people, artists and environmentalists.

• **What:** A series of conversations about what is important to the community. An opportunity to meet decision-makers, ask questions, listen, hear all sides of an issue, develop an opinion, get involved, wonder, make decisions, get connected with the community to make positive change.
Community Conversations

All are welcome!

Come talk about your aspirations for the Cornwall Community with local community leaders

facilitated by
Library Director Mary Lou Carolan

Wednesday
May 25
6:30pm
In the library community room

www.cornwallpubliclibrary.org - 845.524.8282
Vitality in our industry requires leaders who see connections and seek ways to strengthen them.
The library provides a neutral public forum for civil discourse, information gathering, idea sharing and innovation.
Be the Change You Want to See in the World - Ghandi
Thank you

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Thank you!