

# Rethinking online news

@fin @c3o — chaos communication camp 2011



# Rethinking the news

@fin @c3o — chaos communication camp 2011

(online qualifier will soon be unnecessary)



clearly printing news on paper is a legacy process  
disrupted by technology



US newspaper circulation halved over the last decade





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NEWS ANALYSIS

### Aftershock to Economy Has a Precedent That Holds Lessons

By JAMES B. STEWART  
25 minutes ago

Recent events bear an intriguing resemblance to 1937-38, and the recession within a Depression, which galvanized policy makers who had grown complacent about the recovery.

[Post a Comment](#) | [Read \(107\)](#)

### Stocks Open Higher in U.S.; Europe Up

By CHRISTINE HAUSER and JULIA WERDIGIER  
38 minutes ago

Stocks appear to have been helped by the imposition of temporary bans on negative



Jim Wilson/The New York Times

1 2 3 4 5 ▶

Dr. Andrew Lowy, left, consults with Andy S. before surgery.

### In New Cancer Therapy, Hope and Doubts

By ANDREW POLLACK

As competition for patients intensifies, more medical centers are offering a controversial procedure in which inner organs are bathed in hot chemotherapy drugs.

#### OPINION »

### Why Aren't Germans Protesting?

Europe binged on debt. Now Germany is stuck with the tab.

ROOM  
for  
DEBATE

- Krugman: The Hijacked Crisis | [Comments](#)
- Boylan: We Want Cake, Too
- Egan: Rick Perry's Prayers
- Editorial: A Scalpel, Not an Ax, for Medicaid
- Op-Ed: Page Program

#### MARKETS »

At 12:08 PM ET

S.&P. 500	Dow	Nasdaq
1,186.94	11,326.84	2,519.55
+14.30	+183.53	+26.87
+1.22%	+1.65%	+1.08%

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#### WHAT'S POPULAR NOW

- The Hijacked Crisis
- Romney Tells Iowa Hecklers, 'Corporations Are People'

#### TIMES DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

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The New York Times

business model



online versions of newspapers are like britannica.com instead of the wikipedia they need to be  
can't count on incumbents –



already technologists like winer/ev/assange have done more





we're here to recruit you  
journalism is now one of the most exciting fields to work in, needs hackers  
tech that we're good at + positive contrib to society, distribute knowledge, increase  
transparency, empower people vs. vested interests = hacker values



Hack the news!

**1**

First on the scene

Detect, curate &  
fact-check



"Win the morning"

Be the source people  
link to

# Write finished articles

## News as process

Research>Factcheck>Write>Publish. Deadline... paper

Cover everything

Do what you do best -  
link to the rest.

as if they were invented before the hyperlink... oh wait.



Tell people what to think

Foster community

op-eds  
blogging/opinion

Act all-knowing

Be transparent

jump to conclusions  
don't admit ignorance

# Broadcast

?

can you think of more peer-to-peer models?





fields of questions.  
issues & current examples tackling them.

# How news comes to be

every day, things happen. thousands of things to billions of people.  
now the question is: which of the things stay secret, who gets to know about which  
and who investigates the important ones.  
how can we get rid of the gatekeepers?



“someone’s bound to share it on twitter”



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## It's Time to Be Heard

08/04/11 by HablaCentro Comunidad

Free Credits

Fund This Story

\$1,158.32 raised and \$1,841.68 to go



## Shine light on Mass. Lottery

07/18/11 by MuckRock

Free Credits

Fund This Story

\$234.78 raised and \$315.22 to go



## Understanding the WBC

07/06/11 by Louis McGill

Free Credits

Fund This Story

\$585.18 raised and \$214.82 to go



# How news is presented

the most prevalent medium online is still the print-like article: once final, always final.

what about media-streams?

what about anything else the web makes possible?

topic pages were one solution ...



**NOTE:** This page is part of the Living Stories experiment that ran in Google Labs from Dec 2009 - Feb 2010. The stories listed here are still available to showcase the Living Stories format, but are no longer being updated with the latest news. The Living Stories code is available as open-source for anyone to use on their own sites at: <http://code.google.com/p/living-stories/>

### [Fixing D.C.'s Schools: Michelle Rhee Takes Charge](#) - The Washington Post

Updated 1 year ago

[D.C. school officials reported 220 abuse claims against teachers](#)  
Feb 10, 2010

[D.C. officials cite positives in Post poll](#)  
Feb 3, 2010

[D.C. schools chancellor's approval rating down sharply](#)  
Feb 1, 2010

[View all »](#)

### [Washington Tackles Health Care Reform](#) - The Washington Post

Updated 1 year ago

[Obama invites Republicans to a summit on health care](#)  
Feb 9, 2010

[Obama's \\$3.8 trillion budget includes health care plan](#)  
Feb 1, 2010

[In Ohio, Obama says he won't walk away from health-care fight](#)  
Jan 29, 2010

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### [The Politics of Global Warming](#) - The New York Times

Updated 1 year ago

[A Federal Climate Service Is Created to Provide Data](#)  
Feb 9, 2010

[Skeptics Find Fault With U.N. Climate Panel](#)  
Feb 9, 2010

### News, made for the Web.

The Living Stories project is an experiment in presenting news, one designed specifically for the online environment. The project was developed by Google in collaboration with two of the country's leading newspapers, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

#### All in one place

Complete coverage of an on-going story is gathered together and prioritized on one URL. You can now quickly navigate between news articles, opinion pieces and features without long waits for pages to load.

#### Easy to explore

Each story has an evolving summary of current developments as a well as an interactive timeline of critical events. Stories can be explored by themes, significant participants or multimedia.

#### Smarter reading

Updates to the story are highlighted each time you come back, and older news is summarized.

### Get started

Just click on one of the headlines to the left to begin reading Living Stories.

### What's behind Living Stories?

Read more about the partnership behind Living Stories [here](#).

### Have a question?

livingstories.googlelabs.com

**The New York Times**

Friday, August 12, 2011

**World**

Search All NYTimes.com

Go

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL **JOBS** REAL ESTATE AUTOS

AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EUROPE MIDDLE EAST

WORLD &gt; COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES &gt; SYRIA

Report an Error

**Syria — Protests (2011)**

✉ E-MAIL

Advertise on NYTimes.com



Mustafa Ozer/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Updated: Aug. 12, 2011

The wave of Arab unrest that started with the Tunisian revolution of January 2011 reached Syria in mid-March, when residents of a small southern city took to the streets to protest the torture of students who had put up anti-government graffiti.

President Bashar al-Assad, who inherited Syria's harsh dictatorship from his father, Hafez al-Assad, at first wavered between force and hints of reform. But in April, just days after lifting the country's decades-old state of emergency, he launched the first of what became a series of withering crackdowns, sending tanks into restive cities as security forces opened fire on

demonstrators.

Neither the violence nor Mr. Assad's offers of political reform — rejected as shams by protest leaders — brought an end to the unrest. Similarly, the protesters have not been able to withstand direct assault by the military's armored forces.

The conflict is complicated by Syria's ethnic divisions. The Assads and much of the nation's elite, especially the military, belong to the Alawite sect, a small minority in a mostly Sunni country.

**Headlines Around The Web**

What's This?

**UN DISPATCH**

AUGUST 12, 2011

**Protests Met With Gunfire in Syria****HAARETZ.COM**

AUGUST 12, 2011

**Syria uprising may lead to regional war****FINANCIAL TIMES**

AUGUST 12, 2011

**Reports of 13 killed as thousands defy Assad - FT.com****BUSINESS WEEK**

AUGUST 12, 2011

**Clinton Urges Syria's Allies to Get on 'Right Side of History'****THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

AUGUST 12, 2011

**Clinton presses world to shut tap on Syrian oil**

More at Blogrunner »

**Multimedia****MOST POPULAR**

E-MAILED BLOGGED SEARCHED

1. Timothy Egan: Rick Perry's Unanswered Prayers
2. Lobster Salad, but a Key Ingredient Was Missing
3. Op-Ed Columnist: The Hijacked Crisis
4. Op-Ed Columnist: Rachel's Last Fund-Raiser
5. Hot Chemotherapy Bath: Patients See Hope, Critics Hold Doubts
6. Movie Review | 'The Help': 'The Maids' Now Have Their Say
7. Well: How Tanning Changes the Brain
8. What Happened to Obama?
9. Protests Force Israel to Confront Wealth Gap
10. The Pragmatist: Almost Time to Change the Bulb

Go to Complete List »

**Q.&A. with Bank of America's chief**

topics.nytimes.com

linking to other sources





WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

Article Discussion

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# 2011 England riots

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
(Redirected from [2011 London Riots](#))

*Not to be confused with [2011 United Kingdom anti-austerity protests](#).*



**This article documents a current event.** Information may change rapidly as the event progresses.

In August 2011, widespread rioting occurred in parts of England. The riots began in [Tottenham](#), North London, following a peaceful protest sparked by the [fatal shooting of Mark Duggan](#) there by officers of the [Metropolitan Police Service](#) on 4 August 2011. The ensuing [looting](#), arson, burglary, robbery and disorder spread across London and to other areas of England, with the worst disturbances mostly centred on a small number of major cities.<sup>[12][13][14][15]</sup>

On 6 August 2011, about 200 people, including Duggan's relatives and local residents, marched in Tottenham. After receiving only limited information concerning Duggan's death, several in the crowd became violent and rioting broke out. In the following days, disturbances occurred in other areas of London, including [Wood Green](#), [Enfield Town](#), [Ponders End](#), [Walthamstow](#), [Islington](#) and [Brixton](#).<sup>[16]</sup> Vandalism, arson, looting and violent disorder also were reported in several [boroughs of London](#), extending as far south as [Croydon](#). At least 186 police officers were reported injured.<sup>[9]</sup> On 8 August, rioting and looting occurred in [Birmingham](#), [Liverpool](#), [Nottingham](#), [Bristol](#), [Medway](#) and [Leicester](#). More than 1,100 people have been arrested since the start of the disruption.<sup>[17]</sup> A total of [five civilians have been killed](#): police shot a man on 8 August,<sup>[4]</sup> three men were run over by a car driven by another man on 10 August,<sup>[5]</sup> and [an elderly man beaten in Ealing](#) on 8 August succumbed to his injuries on 11 August.<sup>[18]</sup>

In response to the incidents, [Prime Minister David Cameron](#), [Home Secretary Theresa May](#), [London Mayor Boris Johnson](#) and [Opposition Leader Ed Miliband](#) cut short their holidays to return to London. [Parliament](#) was recalled on 11 August to debate the situation.<sup>[19]</sup> By this time, disturbances and unrest had largely abated and thousands

## 2011 England riots



Firefighters douse a shop and apartments destroyed by arson during the initial rioting in [Tottenham](#), [North London](#)

**Date** 6 - 10 August 2011

**Location** Several districts across [Greater London](#), [Greater Manchester](#), [Merseyside](#), [West Midlands](#), [West Yorkshire](#), [Bristol](#) and several other areas.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

## Reported fatalities and injuries

5 deaths<sup>[4][5]</sup>

18 injuries<sup>[6][7][8]</sup>

wikipedia.org

concerning globally important events, wikipedia often has good, well-updated writeups. more local events are hardly ever well-covered though.

# How news finds me



- 1) self-chosen sources
- 2) social networks
- 3) relatively-open relevancy filters

fields i don't know and i don't know would interest me

# How to understand (better)

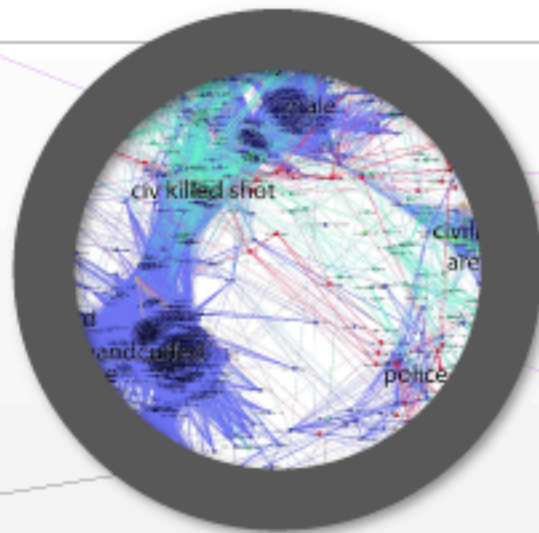
how can i have context? infographics? intro videos? explaining terms?  
economic crisis -> horrible job?

one big part of it is:



# data .

governments and organizations release bigger and bigger dumps of data  
(of their own free will due to FOIA or due to leaks)  
that need to be processed and analyzed



# ve

## THE PROJECT

About

FAQ

Get involved!

Team

## SEARCH

Search for:

Search

## FOLLOW OVERVIEW

Via RSS

On Twitter

## Overview is hi

by Jonathan Stray on 06/17

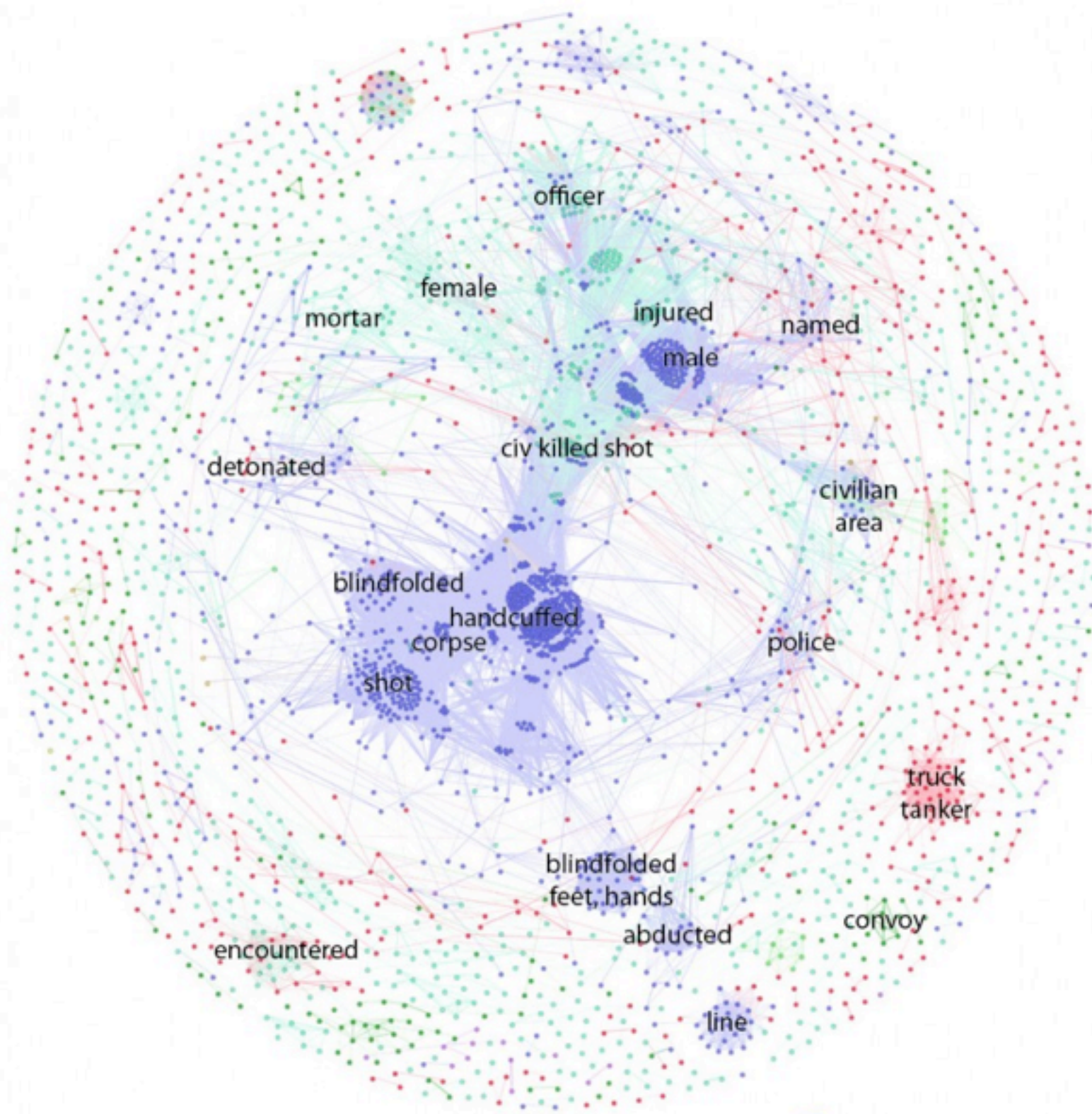
We need two Java or  
Overview, and lead th  
global headquarters in  
large document sets.

The exact responsibil  
be more focused on u  
heavy lifting — though  
on a distributed cluste  
high-performance Op  
no time to fight techn  
references, and expa

You will work closely v  
application serves the  
visualization experts a  
lead for the open-sou



WikiLeaks Iraq SIGACTS (redacted) - Dec 2006



3,051 nodes (26.3% of 11,616 documents)  
106,660 edges (above 0.6 cosine similarity)  
17,608 terms

Criminal Event	(44.61%)
Enemy Action	(29.47%)
Explosive Hazard	(16.72%)
Friendly Action	(6.06%)
Threat Report	(1.18%)
Other	(1.11%)
Non-Combat Event	(0.52%)
null	(0.29%)
Suspicious Incident	(0.03%)

overview.ap.org



# Haiti

The 2010 Earthquake in Haiti

Ushahidi-Haiti



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

Search Reports Here:



DOWNLOAD REPORTS (3608)



REPORTS RSS



## Transitioning to Noulah

Our local partner, Haiti-company Solutions, has the most up-to-date reports for first responders — please visit their site for the most current data.

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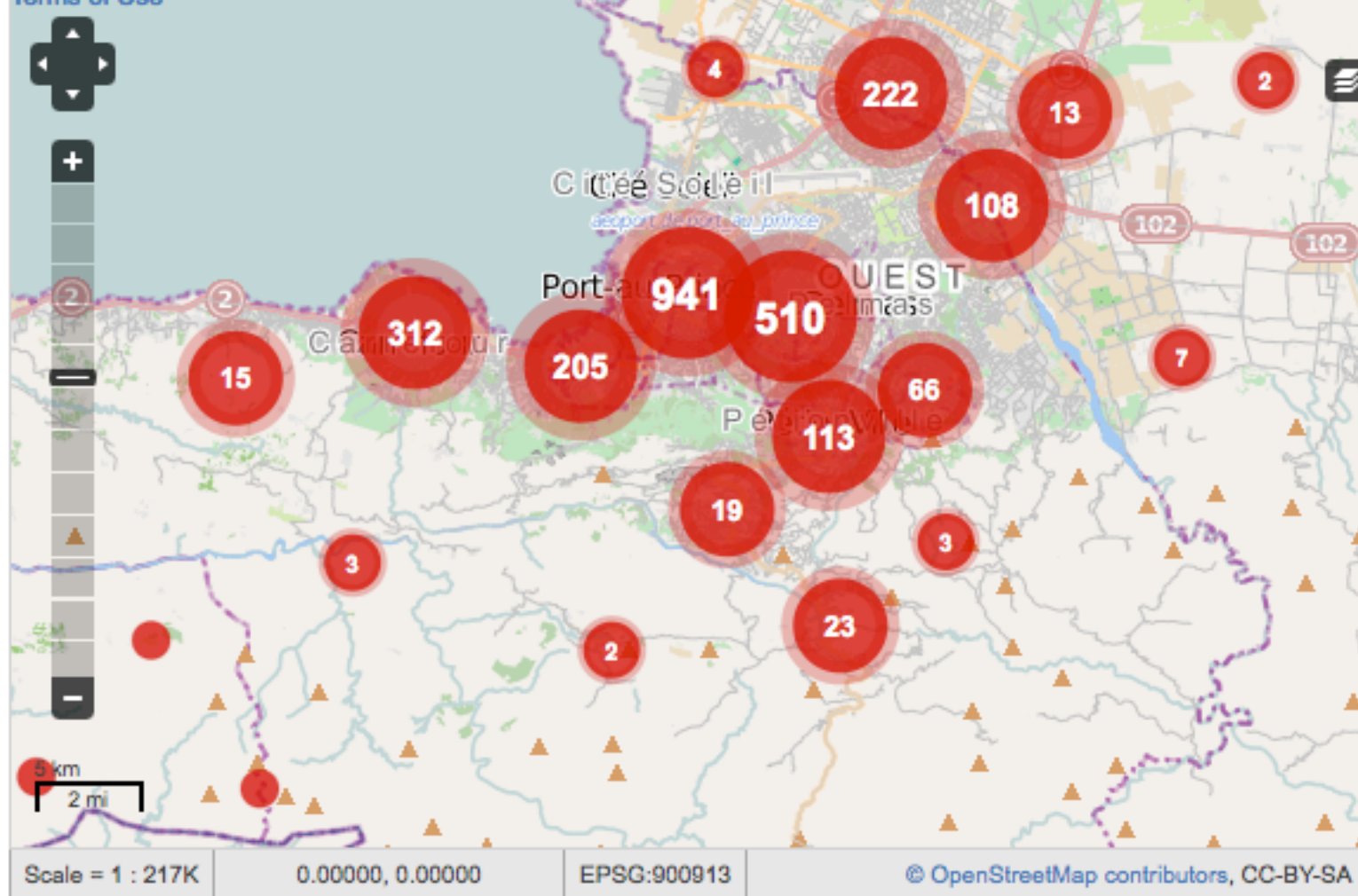
TODO

VIEWS →

CLUSTERS

↓ CATEGORY FILTER

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## ALL CATEGORIES



1. URGENCES | EMERGENCY



2. URGENCES LOGISTIQUES | VITAL LINES



3. PUBLIC HEALTH



4. MENACES | SECURITY THREATS



5. INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE



6. NATURAL HAZARDS



7. SECOURS | SERVICES

ushahidi.com

guardian.co.uk

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News Datablog A-Z Datastore Data search COINS US Wikileaks Aid data Open Platform Twitter Flickr Facebook

# DATA.BLOG

Facts are sacred

Webfeed

Friday 12 August 2011

## UK riots: the list of magistrate cases and convictions so far



Posted by  
Simon Rogers 18.15 BST

### On News

Most viewed

Zeitgeist

Latest

#### Last 24 hours



1. Big Brother isn't watching you

2. UK riots aftermath: live updates

3. UK riots: in courtrooms across country, there was little room for leniency

4. UK riots: police round on government

5. Falcon HTV-2 is lost during bid to become fastest ever plane

More most viewed

#### Top topics on this site

Wikileaks war logs, Afghanistan & Iraq

Coalition government

Factfile UK

Government data

MPs expenses

#### Sites we like

Flowing Data

Infostethics

Everyblock

Visual Complexity

Many eyes

guardian.co.uk/news/datablog

# How to make sense of public contributions

measure sentiment? aggregate reactions?  
forum / comment threads -> how to better consume?  
polls on news sites -> expand them?  
comments, poll votes, tweets; they can be worthwhile

reddit up/down?  
blog trackbacks?



 **reddit** **REDDIT.COM** **what's hot** **new** **controv**

↑

1 1519

↓

Hypocrisy: you're making it right.

(imgur.com)

submitted 8 hours ago by zilcea

271 comments share

↑

2 750

↓

Then PUNCH him in the FACE!

(l.imgur.com)

submitted 8 hours ago by aCuriousParty

43 comments share

16 Responses to “Measuring and improving accuracy in journalism”

# [Measuring and increasing accuracy in journalism | Daniel Bachhuber's weblog](#)  
Apr 2011 at 4:48 pm

[...] and increasing accuracy in journalism Posted on April 20, 2011 by Daniel BachhuberMeasuring and increasing accuracy in journalism. Jonathan Stray outlines one approach. I think we need to throw more computing power at it. This [...]

# [Steve Buttry](#) on 21 Apr 2011 at 5:28 am

Jonathan,  
  
Excellent research and thoughtful observations and suggestions on one of the most important issues in journalism. I should note that my accuracy checklist was inspired by Craig Silverman's. Craig and Rosenberg have a great idea with the Report an Error Alliance: <http://reportanerror.org/>

# [story board » Just the facts: tips on identifying and fixing errors](#) on 21 Apr 2011 at 5:28 am

[...] day and in preventing future mistakes? Jonathan Stray, journalist and computer guy, has written a comprehensive post on his blog about accuracy and error reporting in journalism, and he offers some interesting [...]

# [Popular on Twitter: News.me stage 1, measuring accuracy in journalism and the impact of Amazon's server problem » Nieman Journalism Lab » Pushing to the Future of Journalism](#) on 21 Apr 2011 at 12:10 pm

[...] Jonathan Stray considers how to measure accuracy in journalism [...]

better trackbacks?

# How to empower readers to act upon information

“now what?”

give people tools to effect change in the world  
(coordinate volunteer responses?)

send traffic somewhere else?



# How to make it sustainable

financially  
do less better.  
people are looking into crowdsourcing the data gathering part of the news process.  
micropayment providers also help independent players join the conversation.  
maybe no business model?

# How to empower & protect journalists

internet in a suitcase, tor project, “hacker satellite”.  
people need to know the dangers they’re facing. especially because they’re likely not to know about the virtual ones.  
protect sources.

**3**

Lux

**4**

Getting started

# internships studies

internships are the traditional entry point for journalistic activities  
the mozilla drumbeat project, among other things, distributes a few journalism fellowships  
for their challenge winners.  
basically, you'll work with teams in newsrooms all over the world.

some universities have started offering Data Journalism / Computational Journalism  
curriculums, even providing scholarships for programmers embarking on these



## ADMISSIONS

### Knight Foundation Scholarships



#### Coders Wanted

#### Journalism scholarships available for programmers/developers

**Are you a skilled programmer or Web developer?** Are you interested in applying your talents to the challenge of creating a better-informed society? Do you think technology can improve journalism -- or, maybe, believe that journalism is behind the curve technologically?

**If your answers are "yes,"** you may be interested in journalism. You can earn opportunities that might help you win a fully funded scholarship.

**boingboing**

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#### Why you should consider

### Turning coders into journalists (hint: add spellcheck, subtract Skittles)

Posted by Xeni Jardin on Thursday, May 24th at 7:11am

People who understand coding and journalism are in great demand now -- at traditional media companies as well as startups. Media companies want people who can build better systems for news production and distribution. Newsrooms want journalists who can help figure out the best way to present data-driven stories on digital platforms. Startup companies want developers who understand how people use and consume information. And there are endless opportunities to

[www.medill.northwestern.edu/...](http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/)

<http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/admissions/page.aspx?id=58645>

# Knight-Mozilla News Technology Partnership (MoJo)

Web developers and designers around the world collaborating to invent the future of news.



Put your best ideas in front of luminaries, big thinkers and journalists shaping journalism's future.



Earn a trip to a Berlin hackfest, where we'll help take your idea from napkin sketch to prototype.



Spend a year in one of the world's most exciting newsrooms as a paid Knight-Mozilla fellow.

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## News



### Hacks and hackers meld minds

When I'm thinking poetically, I imagine MoJo as a massive hacks and hackers mind meld. Developers and journalists working together in a gritty, real-world, open-to-the-public lab. Answering each other's silly questions. Playing together. And making news differently. Six months in, this melding is upon us. Or, at least, folks in ...

[#MozNewsLab week three: Five tips on collaborating in the](#)

## 2011 challenges winners



People  
powered  
news



Beyond  
comments

[drumbeat.org/en-US/journalism/](http://drumbeat.org/en-US/journalism/)

more journalists to understand technology  
more technologists to understand journalism

# grants

there are many local journalism grants, most seem to be targeted at news\_paper\_s though.  
(some interesting papers get grants in austria)  
big international tech-journalism grant programs are

knight news challenge

IPL news contest

# bootstrap!

citizen journalism has been on the rise ever since you've been able to reach big audiences via the internet.  
kickstarter makes it easy to collectively fund projects.

# Hacks/Hackers

## COLLABORATORS

a network of journalists (“hacks”) and technologists (“hackers”) who rethink the future of news and information.



collides

# what now?

tomorrow 1:30pm / in front of hackcenter

&

collid.es