Walid Magdy
Qatar Computing Research Institute

Social Media as a Source of Unbiased News

News media are usually biased toward some political views. Also, the coverage of news is limited to news reported by news agencies. Social media is currently a hub for users to report and discuss news. This includes news reported or missed by news media. Developing a system that can generate news reports from social media can give a global unbiased view on what is hot in a given region. In this talk, the challenges for tracking topics related to news are discussed. An automatically adapting information filtering approach is presented that allows tracking broad and dynamic topics in social media. TweetMogaz, a news portal platform that generated news from Twitter, is demoed. TweetMogaz reports in real-time what is happening in hot regions in the middle east, such as Syria and Egypt, in the form of comprehensive reports that include top tweets, images, videos, and news article shared by users on Twitter.

Walid Magdy is a scientist at the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) in Doha, Qatar. Walid's main fields of expertise are information retrieval and natural language processing. He received his PhD in 2012 from the School of Computing in Dublin City University (DCU), Dublin, Ireland. Earlier, he received his BSc. and Msc. from the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University, Egypt in 2005 and 2008 respectively. He worked before as a research engineer in Microsoft and IBM. Walid has a list of publications in top tier conferences and journals, such as SIGIR, CIKM, EMNLP, ICWSM, ECIR, and TOIS. He also has a set of filed and issued patents from his time at IBM, Microsoft, DCU, and QCRI.

http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~nlp-lunch/