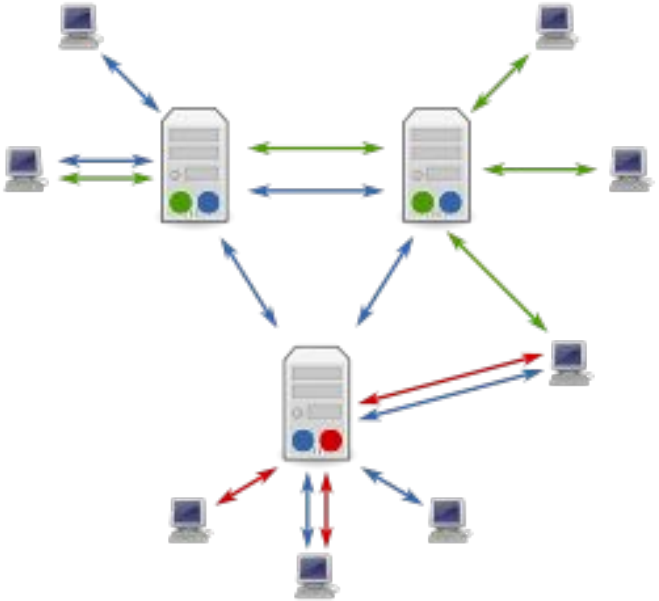
Improving Usenet Archives: How to Process Metadataless Materials

Kurt Lemai and Brian Mmari

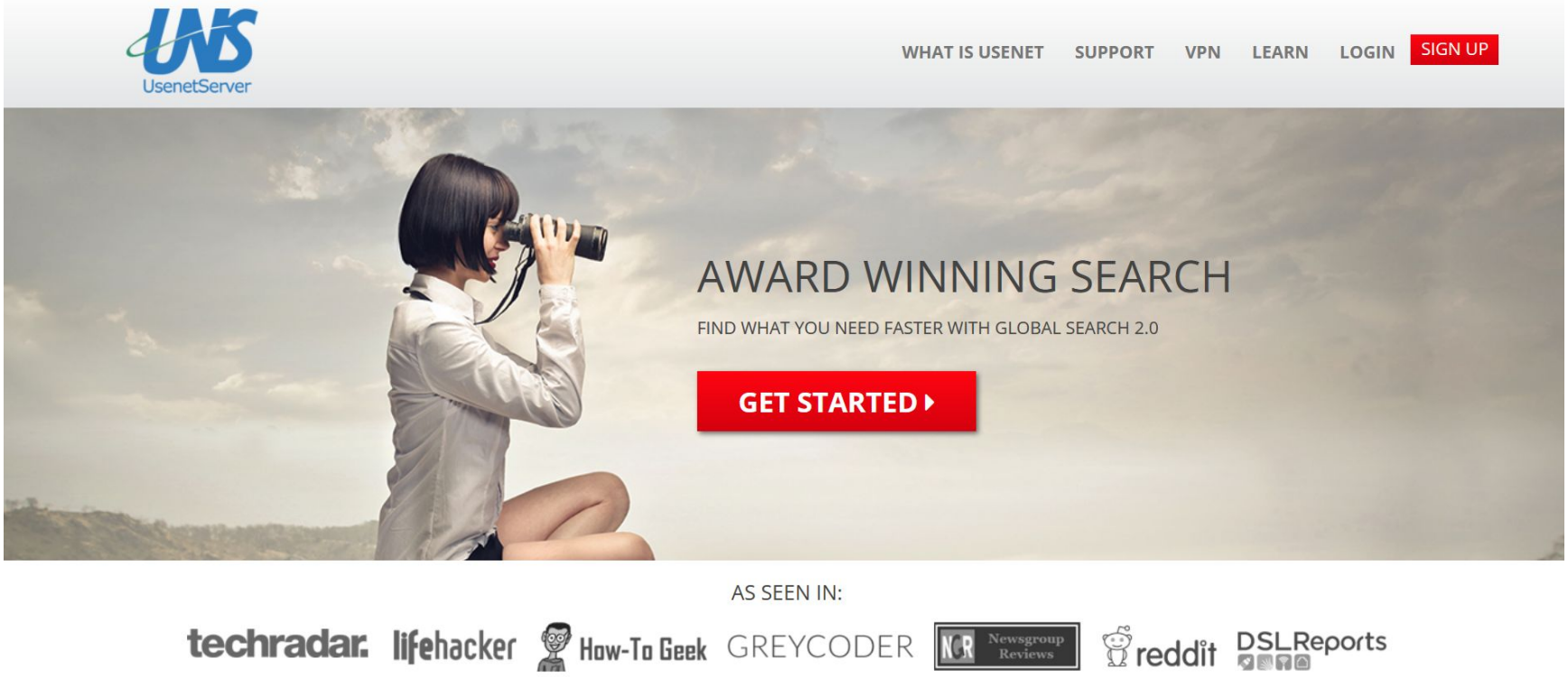
What is Usenet?

Social Media before social Media!

```
slrn 0.9.8.0 ** Press '?' for help, 'q' to quit. ** Server: localhost
 1! -    5   53:[Peter Flynn ]  2 Re: Confused
 2  D        6:[Christian Ga]    cool part
->  D  100   15:[David Kastru]     └>
 4  -        20:[Christian Ga]       ├>
[692/698 unread] Group: comp.text.tex                        — 9/222 (4%)
From: David Kastrup <dak@gnu.org>
Newsgroups: comp.text.tex
Subject: Re: cool part
Date: 24 May 2004 22:06:31 +0200

Christian Gammelgaard <cgammelXXX@stud.auc.dk> writes:

> Hello there
> Does anyone have a smart way to make a cool \part{} page?
> I have a boring one, where the number is reprecentet in roman..... and
> nothing else...

\usepackage{graphicx}
\renewcommand{\thepart}{\reflectbox{\Roman{part}}}

should be very cool.

--
David Kastrup, Kriemhildstr. 15, 44793 Bochum
UKTUG FAQ: <URL:http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html>
~
1252 : Re: cool part                                         — 1/20 (All)
SPC:Pgdn  B:PgUp  u:Un-Mark-as-Read  f:Followup  n:Next  p:Prev  q:Quit
```



How can we access usenet today?



Usenet Archives

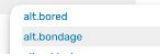
Alt Comp Microsoft Misc Net News Rec Sci Soc Talk

Posts Groups

search subjects & author names

ALTERNATIVE GROUPS

alt.bored
alt.bondage
alt.cable-ip
alt.bullshit
alt.business
alt.biz.misc
alt.bitterness



INTERNET ARCHIVE

WEB TEXTS VIDEO AUDIO SOFTWARE IMAGES

ABOUT BLOG PROJECTS HELP DONATE CONTACT JOBS

Usenet

Usenet Archive

Usenet is a worldwide distributed Internet discussion system. It was developed from the general purpose UUCP dial-up netw
Truscott and Jim Ellis conceived the idea in 1979 and it was established in 1980. Users read and post messages (called artic
categories, known as newsgroups. Usenet resembles a bulletin board system (BBS) in many respects, and is the precursor t

More...

COLLECTION ABOUT

79,449 Results

Search

Search metadata

Search text contents (no results)

> Filters

Sort by: Weekly views Title Date published Creator

Giganews Usenet Collection

25,328 items
3.7 terabytes

Usenet Historical Collection

1,019 items
646.1 gigabytes

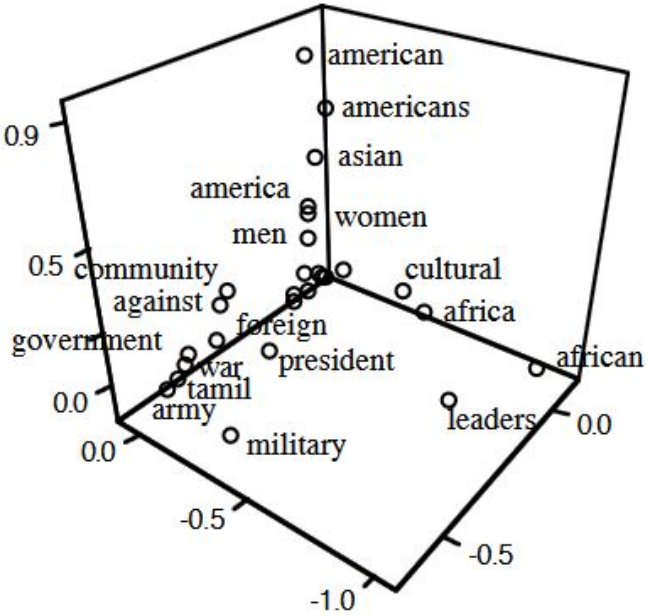
Usenet groups within alt.sex from giganews.com

107 10 0

Usenet grou
comp.lang f
giganews.c

97

What have other people done?



(a) Factor loadings of topic words

Figure 2.6: Example of conversation map interface

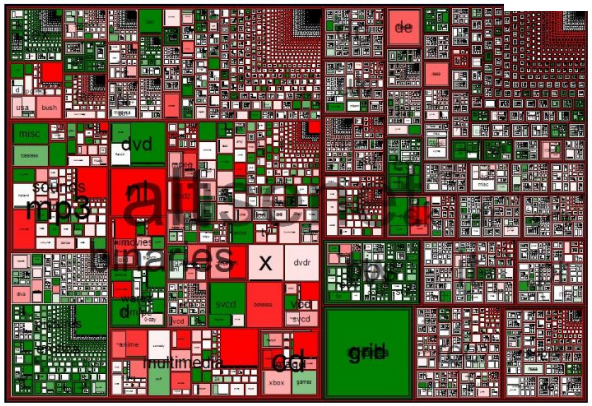


Figure 2.9: Sample tree map [63]

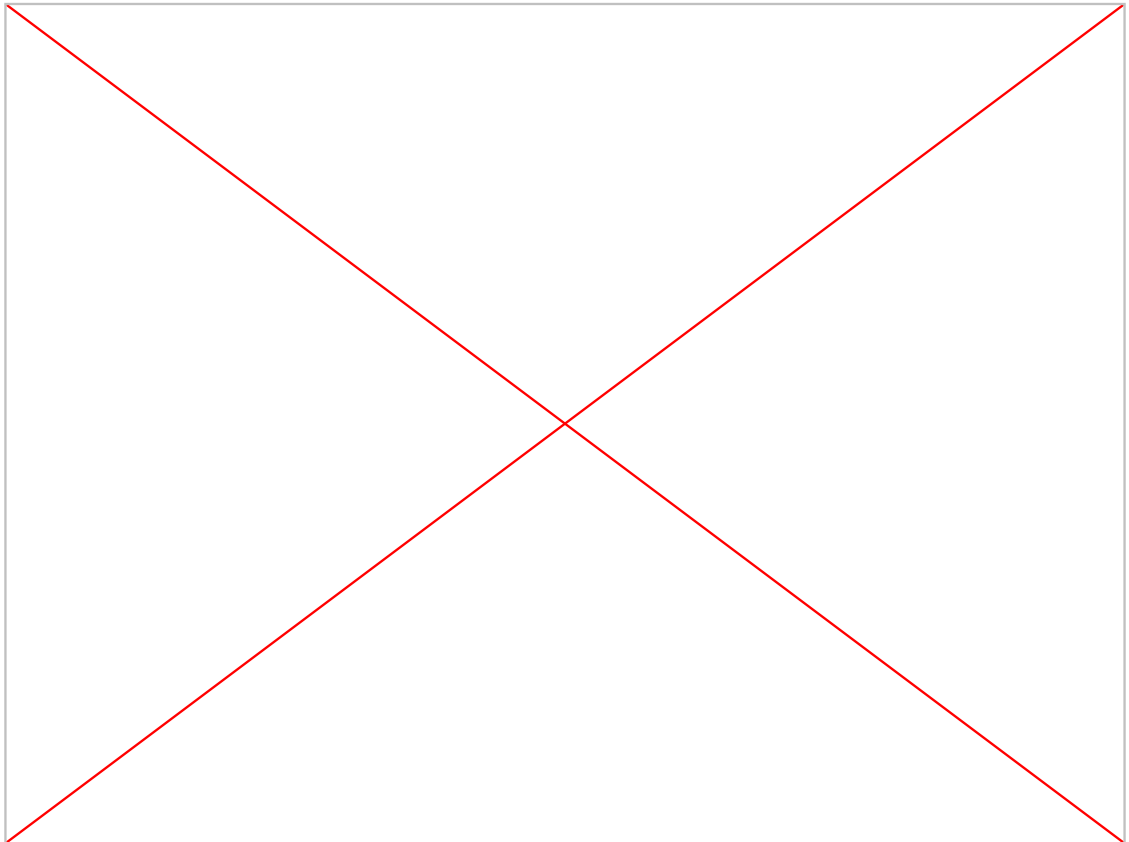
What are our goals?

- Find better ways to search usenet
- Visualize usenet with contemporary methods
- Enable new ways of browsing usenet

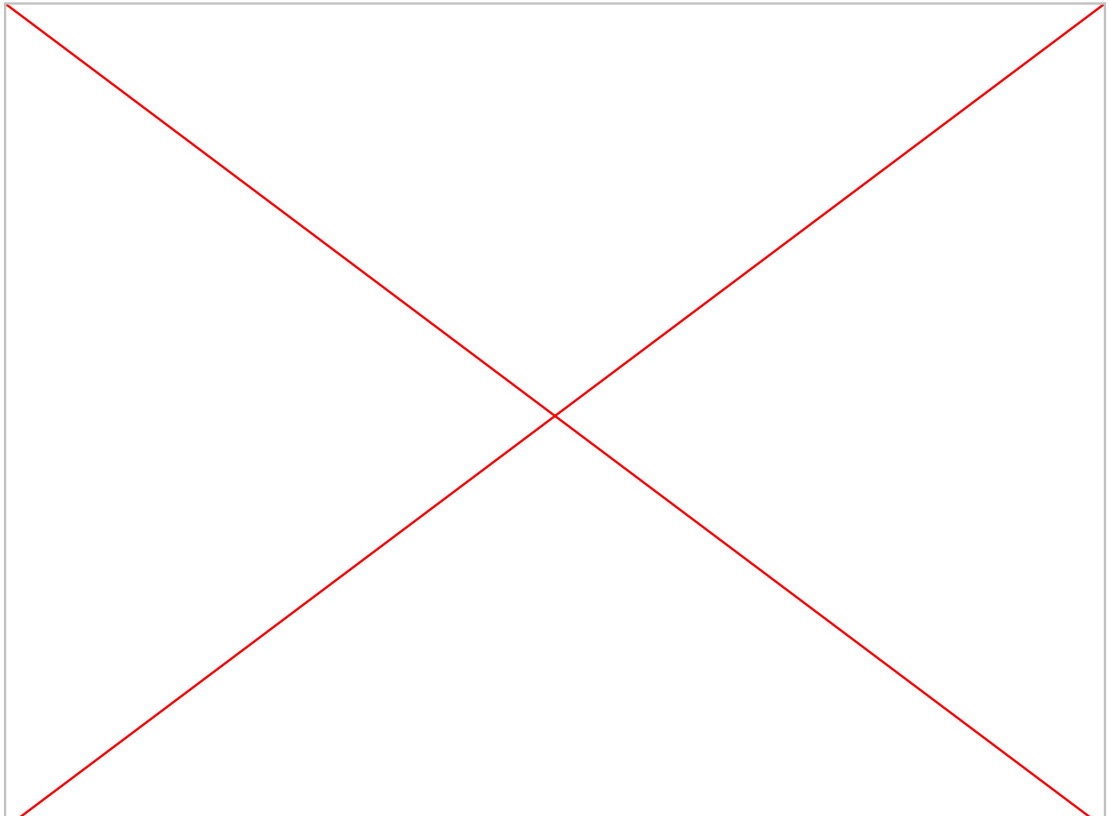
Methods

- 20 Usegroups Dataset cleaned from Huggingface
- Vectorize Messages (all-MiniLM-L6-v2)
- Store Vectors into a Vector Database (FAISS)
- 2D Projection (UMAP)
- Vector Search
- Retrieval Augment Generation (gpt-4o)
- Deploy on Dash App with ngrok as server

Vector Mapping With UMAP 2d Projection

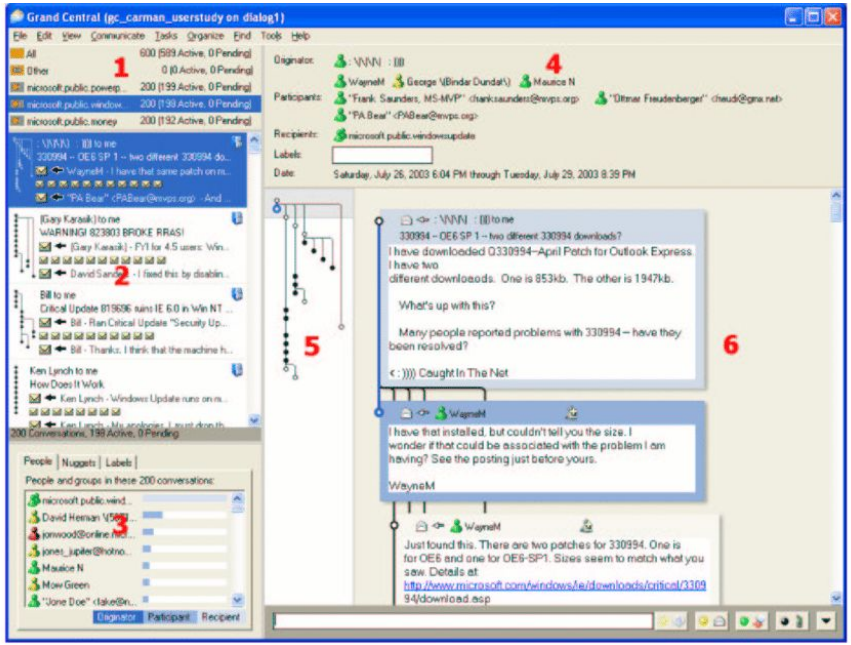


Vector Search and RAG



Limitations and Future Improvements

- This is not a system meant to be comprehensive – it is a heuristic
- Bias in vectorization
- Expand to a larger dataset
- Consider other forms of mapping
- Linking RAG Chat to texts



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