Final Project Description

Michael Beswetherick & Joe Kohlmann

CSE 512, Winter 2014 · 17 February 2014

The current approaches to generalized browsing of news articles over time, especially those related to a specific person or organization, could greatly benefit from improved visualizations. For example, the New York Times has a Semantic API, which exposes human-readable pages for each person, organization, location, and subject descriptor in the taxonomy. These views amount to little more than walls of text, however, and they only extend to the articles associated with a particular term without any interlinking of concepts, unlike, say, Wikipedia's deeply cross-referenced articles.

We propose a visual system in which semantically relevant content is displayed in an interactive timeline that affords multiple modes of exploration. In particular, we envision a feature in which humans can not only browse the "root" timeline for a semantic concept, such as a person, but can also dynamically transition to a new timeline based on the links between a node or nodes in the root timeline and nodes elsewhere in the New York Times database. The system may also support rapid transitioning between multiple related timelines in a single session. Finally, the system may also incorporate visual summaries of article nodes to support the visual display of hundreds, if not thousands of elements.