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Critique about article:

ThemeRiver: Visualizing Theme Changes over Time

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Problem of document topic comparison in time was not successful in the past. Thus, theme river was a new challenge to master information **complexity and comprehensibility** not only in regard to time, but also to other **document topics**. A **new data presentation form** was created, which was more comprehensible and overwhelming than the previous graphical representations. Despite of a new presentation form, the **dimensions** of presentation **are the same** (time and topic axes).

The above-mentioned article touches upon document topic visualisation with help of theme river. The investigated objects were **temporarily associated documents** and **strength** of their depicted topics in time. Theme river enabled graphical representation of topics and their intensity in time.

The vivid **benefits** of theme river are **user-friendliness**: **intuitive understanding**, **data visualisation** on access, **data encapsulation**. User-friendly means that we can obtain necessary documents on demand as well as get precise values of topic strength on access. Moreover, we the data can be obtained on demand, what makes the graphical representation more concise. Data are **encapsulated** in graphical representation and can be accessed for example on mouse over, leaving more space for visualisation itself. **Theme river can be used for approximate trend estimation**.

Of course, every model has both benefits and **drawbacks**. The visualized data refer to the little number of documents. Thus, we **cannot represent thousand documents** with hundreds of different topics on one page without compressing the data presentation. To access the precise value of topics, the user must be careful with his mouse on moving mouse over the topics. The context of such data visualisation can be lost or misinterpreted. Only **data with constant regularity** (which occurs in regular periods) can be displayed. Other **information topics which occur not regularly cannot be displayed** as theme rivers visualized according to the constant time units. Data topics with similar strength integrity will be displayed in the same way, thus we need topics with a priori different strengths. Focus on time axis makes it constrained in usage. **No data correlation** is displayed.

No prediction of future topics possible. The topics selected for analysis should be popular, as rare topics will be only constrained. Topics are displayed regardless of context. Only topics occurrence in regard to time is displayed. Topics are examined in regard to time, not in regard to topics dimension.