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Professor Flann

Independent Study

Extra Findings

I decided to look at the code from a different perspective. We had discussed how to modify this code when I first got this project and wanted to see if this code could be altered to predict other things, such as diseases or other interests. I thought I would try and see if the code could be utilized just for that.

I started with the scrape-date.js file and changed the queries to just a simple word, cats. I was somewhat surprised to see that it would scrape the same as using the previous queries. What I did find interesting is when I tried Zika Virus it still came up with 10 articles containing that phrase, even if a couple of the articles were not in English. The scrape-data.js file is modifiable to query many other things. I’m sure someone could type in something as simple as cat or a sequence of phrases that they wanted to research on.

From there the data would need to be exported from the database and saved to a file within the program. After that the process-data.js file could do its part. The only problem I could see someone running into is when the process-data is needing the clean-change-data.js file. It contains each of the specified queries from scrape-data.js and each of those has every date during the week of last year. Someone could modify this and incorporate a system very similar. Each field in clean-change-data.js does have a corresponding 0 or 1 that I never could figure out what it represented. My best guess would be that a 0 is a day that the stock was low and a 1 is when the stock was high. If someone were to try this, say with Zika virus, they could correspond a 0 to a low number of infected persons and a 1 as a high number of infected persons. After that file is created to the needs the rest of the project could be utilized in the same manner.

From this I can conclude that yes this file can be modified to predict other things but it is not as simple as just changing the queries, one would need to decide exactly what they are looking for and modify a few things to accomplish just that.