1.

I believe that we as citizens are a bit out of sync with our communities.

Digital connection and AI applications have, in some ways, broadened our horizons to discover new people, music, activities, and places – using previous interests to predict what we will like.

But between these global medias and the sheer scale of people in our neighborhoods, it is difficult to keep track of what is, has, and will happen in our physical surroundings.

2.

We as digitally adept users are already trained to manipulate the spatial, temporal, and thematic attributes of databases such as AirBnB, GoogleMaps, UberEats, Glovo, Vagamundos, etc.

3.

Yet this functionality is noticeably absent from our news media. To search, we are provided only keywords or general categories. We cannot see distributions of news incidents for a given timeframe, and rarely is there even a context map to situate the potentially nuanced contents of a particular news story.

I propose to create a proof of concept webapp that tackles this void. The goal is to select a study area (Lisbon) and map the contents of news for a given study period (Q3), news source (Público), and section (local).

To do this, a suite of tools for input and manipulation must be developed to investigate if this kind of product can provide additional citizen insight, stronger research resources, and/or official monitoring of an area to substantiate further development.

Because it is at a sub-city level, automatic extraction will likely not be appropriate to define location in many cases, and I anticipate that many areas will require custom definitions. It will also require a mix of point and polygon spatial data types.