light_2017_managing_the_boundaries_of_taste_culture_valuation_and_computational_social_science

Year

2017

Author(s)

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Title

Managing the Boundaries of Taste: Culture, Valuation, and Computational Social Science

Venue

Social Forces

Topic labeling

Manual

Focus

Secondary

Type of contribution

Established approach

Underlying technique

Manual labeling

Topic labeling parameters

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Label generation

Topics are weighted collections of words. Therefore, we labeled each topic according to the words with the highest probabilities for each topic.

To construct the labels summarizing each topic, we accounted for the top terms on multiple measures, including FREX, and cross-referenced top-loading reviews.

Table 2. Topic Model Solution

#	Topic	Top 10 words (by FREX score)	Top Loading Review
1	Psychfolk	banhart, rose, cale, edward, springsteen, oasi, drake, chasni, devendra, dee	Gary Higgins: Seconds
2	Reggae/World	dub, funk, regga, definit, dubstep, style, dancehal, genr, blake, funki	Ikonika: Contact, Love, Want, Have
3	Emo/Punk	emo, cab, plan, oberst, morrison, chris, goat, coldplay, darniell, gibbard	Audioslave: Out of Exile
4	Techno/House	techno, disco, remix, danc, dancefloor, electro, hous, mix, club, synth	Ellen Allien: Watergate 05
5	Classic Indie Rock	flower, moor, youth, radiohead, mercuri, rev, trail, rainbow, kim, silver	Mercury Rev: Snowflake Midnight
6	Americana	countri, molina, cash, harvey, wilco, ward, steel, nelson, sand, fahey	Charlie Louvin: Charlie Louvin
7	Garage	adam, stroke, garag, pavement, pixi, surf, garagerock, weezer, lewi, malkmus	The Strokes: Is This It
8	Synth Pop	love, romanc, girl, relationship, lover, emot, breakup, lust, marshal, night	Tracey Thorn: Love and Its Opposite
9	Instrumental/Postrock	instrument, guitar, percuss, textur, violin, drone, organ, postrock, strum, layer	Doveman: With My Left Hand
10	Rap 1	hood, jay, kelli, pimp, nas, albarn, jone, guest, prison, neptun	Bernie Siegel: The Solution
11	Lyrics/Songwriter	steven, bird, stewart, muse, snow, finn, piano, stori, tale, narrat	Joseph Arthur: Our Shows Will Remain
12	Hip-Hop	hiphop, mcs, rhyme, dilla, flow, emce, doom, beasti, def, rap	MF DOOM: Mm… Food?
13	Postpunk/Euro Indie	smith, cure, fall, elliott, morrissey, anderson, anim, postpunk, bear, divis	The Cure: The Cure
14	Novelty	sex, merritt, movi, review, comedi, joke, beck, stereolab, gainsbourg, peach	Moistboyz: IV
15	Electronic/Drone	drone, piec, compos, loop, film, nois, score, electron, technolog, comput	Keith Fullerton Whitman: Generators
16	Antecedents	wilson, bowi, spoon, beatl, mccartney, costello, rocket, rem, miller, wire	The Beach Boys: Smiley Smile

#	Topic	Top 10 words (by FREX score)	Top Loading Review
17	Indiepop	pop, beach, saint, walker, summer, harmoni, indi, indiepop, etienn, hook	Liechtenstein: Survival Strategies in a …
18	Lofi	pollard, barn, robert, eleph, lofi, hart, appl, matador, schneider, barlow	Guided By Voices: Let's Go Eat the Factory
19	Alternative/ Experimental	cave, swan, seed, liar, war, pearl, gira, gang, horror, clinic	Flaming Lips: Embryonic
#	Topic	Top 10 words (by FREX score)	Top Loading Review
20	Compilations/ Reissues	disc, compil, version, reissu, bside, bonus, box, demo, set, concert	The Beatles: Stereo Box
21	Folk/Roots	dylan, folk, wait, guthri, diamond, simon, fox, blue, mitchel, singersongwrit	John Langford: Gold Brick
22	Jazz	jazz, davi, parker, tortois, sax, mile, improvis, trumpet, ensembl, zorn	Ornette Coleman: This is Our Music
23	Metal	metal, hardcor, riff, thrash, sabbath, lightn, doom, roar, boredom, bolt	Hatred Surge: Human Overdose
24	Rap 2	mixtap, wayn, gucci, rapper, diplo, rap, ross, kany, mia, tape	Lil Reese: Don't Like
25	Canadian Indie	wolf, parad, lake, spencer, mercer, sunset, eye, dan, krug, palm	Blackout Beach: Blues Trip

Motivation

Association of topics to individual movie genres

Topic modeling

STM

Topic modeling parameters

Non accessible Appendix?

Nr. of topics

25

Label

Manually assigned single or multi word label recognising a music genre.

Label selection

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Label quality evaluation

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Assessors

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Domain

Paper: Music
Dataset: Music

Problem statement

The proliferation of cultural objects, such as music, books, film, and websites, has created a new problem: How do consumers determine the value of cultural objects in an age of information glut?
We offer a theoretical approach emphasizing the dynamics of critics' valuation and classification.
Empirically, this analysis turns to Pitchfork.com, an influential music review website, to examine the relationship between classification and valuation.
We model the dynamics of valuation through genre and additional factors predictive of positive reviews and cultural consecration.
We use gold-record awards to study the relationship between valuation processes and commercial outcomes.

Corpus

Origin: Pitchfork.com
Nr. of documents: 14,495
Details:

- fourteen years of Pitchfork.com album reviews

Document

Content of a review + artist, score, album label and review date

Pre-processing

- limit our data to nouns.
- POS tagging
- remove stop-words and rare words (words that appear in 0.1 percent of all documents)
- remove the most ubiquitous words, such as "record," "album," and "track"

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@article{light_2017_managing_the_boundaries_of_taste_culture_valuation_and_comp
utational_social_science,
  abstract = {{The proliferation of cultural objects, such as music, books,
film, and websites, has created a new problem: How do consumers determine the
value of cultural objects in an age of information glut? Crowd-sourcing{\^a}
€''paralleling word-of-mouth recommendations{\^a}€''has taken center stage, yet
expert opinion has also assumed renewed importance. Prior work on the valuation
of artworks and other cultural artifacts identifies ways critics establish and
maintain classificatory boundaries, such as genre. We extend this research by
offering a theoretical approach emphasizing the dynamics of critics{\^a}€
{\texttrademark} valuation and classification. Empirically, this analysis turns
to Pitchfork.com, an influential music review website, to examine the
relationship between classification and valuation. Using topic models of
fourteen years of Pitchfork.com album reviews (n = 14,495), we model the
dynamics of valuation through genre and additional factors predictive of
positive reviews and cultural consecration. We use gold-record awards to study
the relationship between valuation processes and commercial outcomes.
Conclusions highlight the role of professional critics, alongside crowd-
sourcing and other forms of criticism, in the dynamic process of valuation and
encourage the continued exploration of fruitful ways to connect computational
and more canonical ways of conducting sociological research.}},
  author = {Light, Ryan and Odden, Colin},
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#Thesis/Papers/BS