

# hagen\_2019\_open\_data\_visualizations\_and\_analytics\_as\_tools\_for\_policy\_making

## Year

2019

## Author(s)

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## Title

Open data visualizations and analytics as tools for policy-making

## Venue

Government Information Quarterly

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## Topic labeling

Fully automated

## Focus

Secondary

## Type of contribution

Established approach

## Underlying technique

Probability-based method (LDAvis relevance threshold)

## Topic labeling parameters

weight parameter  $\lambda$ : 1 and 0.6

## Label generation

We then developed visualizations for these LDA topics using LDAvis, an open source topic modeling visualization tool

we labeled each topic based on the LDAvis visualization results.

The topic words were sorted in descending order based on the estimated term frequency within the selected topic, which informs topic words that are highly relevant to the specific topic. The relevance of a term to topic is given by a weight parameter  $\lambda$ . Topic words displayed in Fig. 3(a) are acquired using  $\lambda = 1$ . Topic words displayed in Fig. 3(b) are results from using  $\lambda = 0.6$ ,

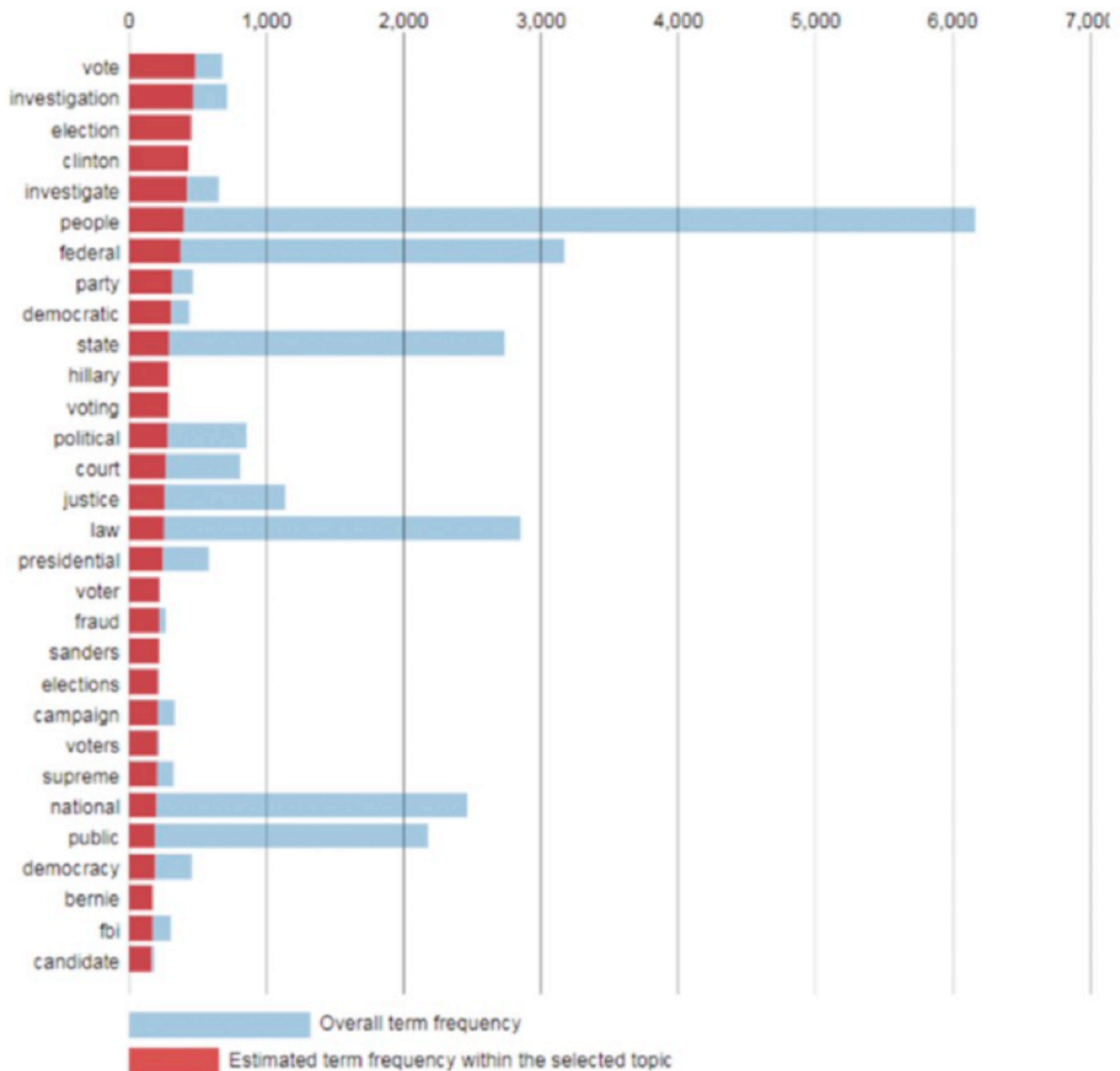
labels are selected from the top 10 topic words (except Police & BLM) displayed by LDAvis (relevance parameter  $\lambda = 0.6$ )

Slide to adjust relevance metric:<sup>(2)</sup>

$\lambda = 1$

0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

### Top-30 Most Relevant Terms for Topic 5 (4.2% of tokens)



1. saliency(term w) = frequency(w) \* [sum<sub>t</sub> p(t | w) \* log(p(t | w)/p(t))]; see Chuang et. al (2012)

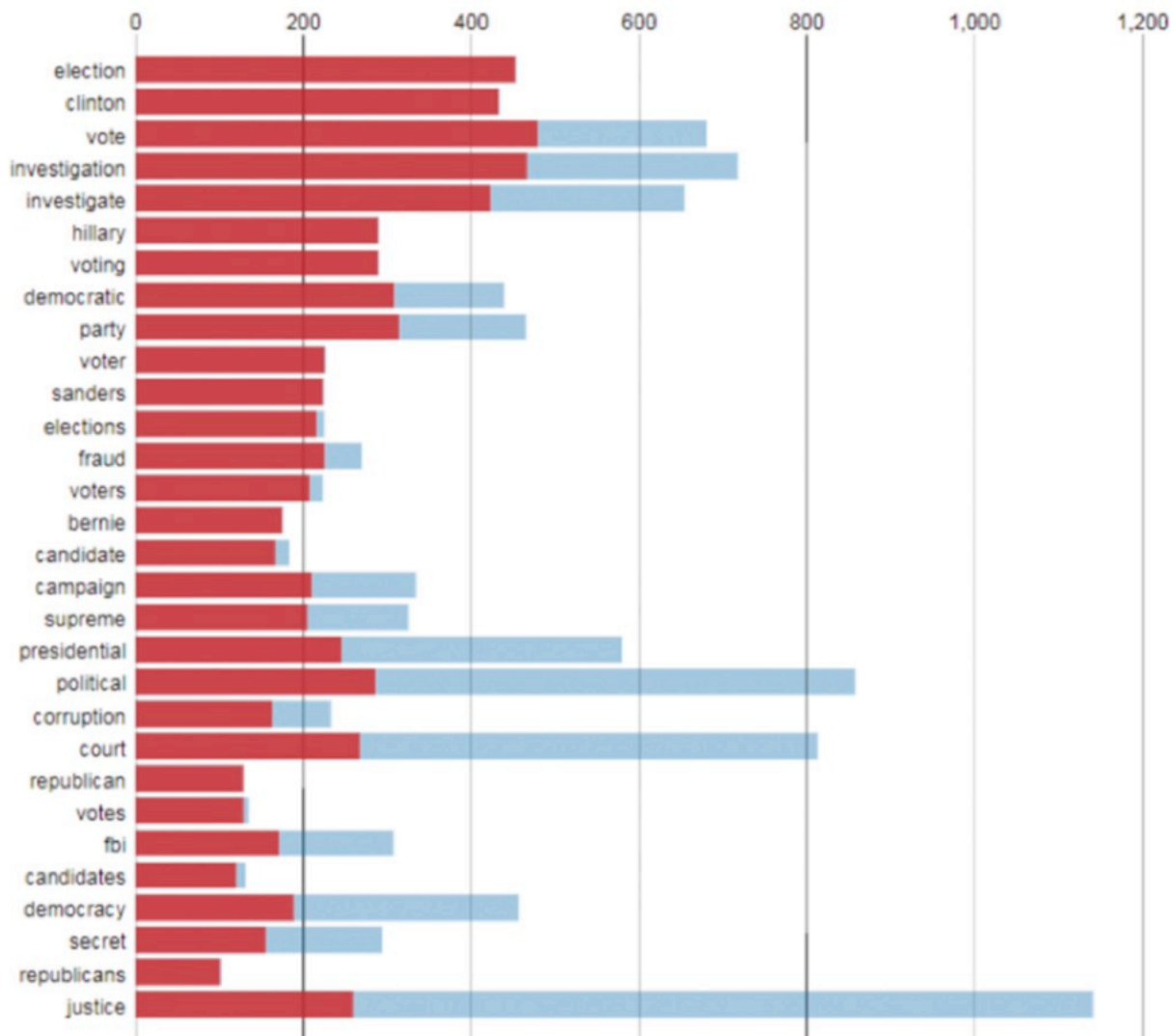
2. relevance(term w | topic t) =  $\lambda$  \* p(w | t) + (1 -  $\lambda$ ) \* p(w | t)/p(w); see Sievert & Shirley (2014)

Slide to adjust relevance metric:<sup>(2)</sup>

$\lambda = 0.6$

0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

Top-30 Most Relevant Terms for Topic 5 (4.2% of tokens)



Overall term frequency

Estimated term frequency within the selected topic

1. saliency(term w) = frequency(w) \* [sum\_t p(t | w) \* log(p(t | w)/p(t))] for topics t; see Chuang et. al (2012)

2. relevance(term w | topic t) =  $\lambda * p(w | t) + (1 - \lambda) * p(w | t)/p(w)$ ; see Sievert & Shirley (2014)

## Motivation

To help the interpretation and further analyses

# Topic modeling

LDA

## Topic modeling parameters

Nr of topics: 30

## Nr. of topics

26 (making sense for human interpretation)

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## Label

Single word extracted from LDAvis

## Label selection

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## Label quality evaluation

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## Assessors

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## Domain

Paper: Policy

Dataset: Policy

# Problem statement

This article reports opinions found in “We the People” petition data using topic modeling and visual analytics. It provides an assessment of the usability of the visual analytics results for policy making based on interviews with data professionals and policy makers. Major contributions of this study include: (1) suggesting viable visualization tools for analyzing textual data for policy making, and (2) suggesting how to lower barriers to adoption by increasing usability.

## Corpus

Origin: WtP website

Nr. of documents: 4985

Details:

- between September 22, 2011 (the initiation date), and July 12, 2016

## Document

petition title and its corresponding rationale

WE THE PEOPLE ASK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE AN EXISTING ADMINISTRATION POLICY

## Divest or put in a blind trust all of the President's business and financial assets

Created by H.B. on January 20, 2017

In keeping with tradition and to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest, corruption, and violations of the emoluments clause of the US Constitution, President Trump should divest his financial and business holdings or have them administered by a truly blind trust.

GOVERNMENT & REGULATORY REFORM

Sign This Petition

Needs 0 signatures by February 19, 2017 to get a response from the White House

360,327 SIGNED 100,000 GOAL

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email Address \*

☒ THE WHITE HOUSE MAY SEND ME EMAILS ABOUT THIS AND OTHER POLICIES

**Fig. 1.** An example of an WtP petition.

Note: The first two lines (bold and large font) are the title of the petition, and the rest of the text is the rationale of this petition.

## Pre-processing

- converted all texts to lower case
- normalized white spaces

- eliminated punctuations
- non-al-phanumeric characters
- removed short words of only one or two characters

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@article{hagen\_2019\_open\_data\_visualizations\_and\_analytics\_as\_tools\_for\_policy\_making,

abstract = {Government agencies collect large amounts of structured and unstructured data. Although these data can be used to improve services as well as policy processes, it is not always clear how to analyze the data and how to glean insights for policy making, especially when the data includes large volumes of unstructured text data. This article reports opinions found in ``We the People'' petition data using topic modeling and visual analytics. It provides an assessment of the usability of the visual analytics results for policy making based on interviews with data professionals and policy makers. We found that visual analytics have potentially positive impacts on policy making practices. Experts also articulated potential barriers regarding the adoption of visual analytics tools, and made suggestions. Potential barriers included insufficient resources in government agencies and difficulty integrating analytics with current work practices. The main suggestions involved providing training and interpretation guidelines along with the visual analytics tools. Major contributions of this study include: (1) suggesting viable visualization tools for analyzing textual data for policy making, and (2) suggesting how to lower barriers to adoption by increasing usability.},

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