Homework: Ross Ruchti

Data Project Name: Internet Banging by Desmond Patton

**Focus:** Community violence and social media- focusing on the ways in which youth and young adults of color navigate violence in their communities and on social media platforms.

Describe the Algorithm:

Utilizes qualitative and computational methods- e.g. interview based studies, collaborative projects with data scientists- to examine how youth and young adults living in violent urban neighborhoods experience, navigate and respond to community violence in their neighborhood as well on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Two current projects: 1) Mixed method study utilizing qualitative interviews with Chicago youth to develop algorithms to detect “ Internet Banging” and other forms of trauma on social media; and 2) Analyzing a corpus of social media data from Chicago neighborhoods to examine how street life moves online.

Links that describe results and its data sources (up to 3):

<http://www.vice.com/read/this-algorithm-will-try-to-predict-which-gang-threats-on-twitter-turn-into-irl-violence>

<http://thegrio.com/2016/09/15/professor-algorithm-social-media-gang-violence-chicago/>

<https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/uncg/f/T_Washington_Social_2014.pdf>

Provide one sentence descriptions to 3 problems they faced with data, and give a one sentence solution they found for each one.

1. Challenge: There is a lack of investigation into ways in which social media not only facilitates but also enhances traditional violence.
2. Solution: They have begun creating a structure into which online communication instances can be recorded.
3. Challenge: Electronic communication is not yet ubiquitous and is constantly evolving. This means data collected today in a specific format may not be structurally compatible with communications vehicles of the future.
4. Solution: Maintain as much of the original message as possible, not just the key indicators that will be used in the algorithm. Context may be just as important when comparing future communication vehicles to present day vehicles.
5. Challenge: What type of online activities are predictive of real world violence or exploitation
6. Solution: This won’t be solved right away. Cooperation with law enforcement to match crimes to the list of communications may provide this insight.

Provide a one sentence example of why or why it did not work or is or is not working overall.

This study may help determine what types of communication indicate a violent event may soon occur, but law enforcement cannot and should not be Big Brother watching everyone’s accounts; this approach will help social workers identify potential problems ONLY if they are sufficiently plugged in to at risk individual’s social media accounts.