

THE IRISH TIMES

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THE IRISH TIMES

YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ



- **Ireland's leading quality daily newspaper**
- **150+ year history**
- **Online since 1994**
- **Print circulation <100,000 and falling at industry average annually**
- **Page views per week: 10 million, users: 2m**
- **Digital subscription introduced in February 2015**

Building new in an old world 1859 setting – can it be done?



2015



Insight

Innovating for the Future of News

200 researchers

8 institutions

30 partners



The Irish Times and Insight



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A Rubik's cube is shown with various social media icons on its faces. The visible icons include the Twitter bird, LinkedIn 'in' logo, YouTube play button, Facebook 'f' logo, Instagram camera, RSS feed symbol, and a purple logo. The text "Taking a problem-solving approach to innovation" is overlaid in the center in a bright pink color.

**Taking a problem-solving
approach to innovation**

Taking a problem-solving approach to innovation

...solving past or current problems

.... with a view to developing a technique to solve a previously unsolved problem

Which projects?

Networks of Sources

Focus on developing tools for specific tasks to support and streamline the work of journalists around social media sources

Example: Networks of sources

Problem: How can journalists monitor Twitter more effectively to detect breaking news?














Story detection

- Breaking news often indicated by... sudden increase in tweet volume
- Sudden collapse in the diversity of tweet content
- Bursts of activity, with tweets containing place names or keywords ("crash", "earthquake", "explosion")

Story detection

Search  

Source	News Article Headline (Reuters, BBC, DW, IrishTimes, Independent)	Hashtag	Tweets	DateTime	Favorite
Reuters	North Carolina man arrested for Homecoming shooting on university campus		134	2015, Nov 02, 23:32	
Reuters	Dismissal of Chicago retiree healthcare lawsuit in hands of judge		16	2015, Nov 02, 23:30	
Reuters	U.S. orders girls' locker room access for transgender Illinois student		50	2015, Nov 02, 23:29	
Reuters	Ex-Kentucky jail deputies indicted on federal civil rights charges		13	2015, Nov 02, 23:26	
BBC	Lewis Hamilton: Mercedes being 'extra warm' to Nico Rosberg		84	2015, Nov 02, 23:25	
BBC	Simon Cowell presented with music industry award		2109	2015, Nov 02, 23:15	
BBC	Fitbit triples revenue on popularity of activity tracking		118	2015, Nov 02, 23:04	
BBC	UK police officer leaves force after rape joke		242	2015, Nov 02, 22:58	



Example: Networks of sources

Problem: Can we monitor and recommend Twitter hashtags in real time for use with our own tweets?

Example: Networks of sources

+ New User Article

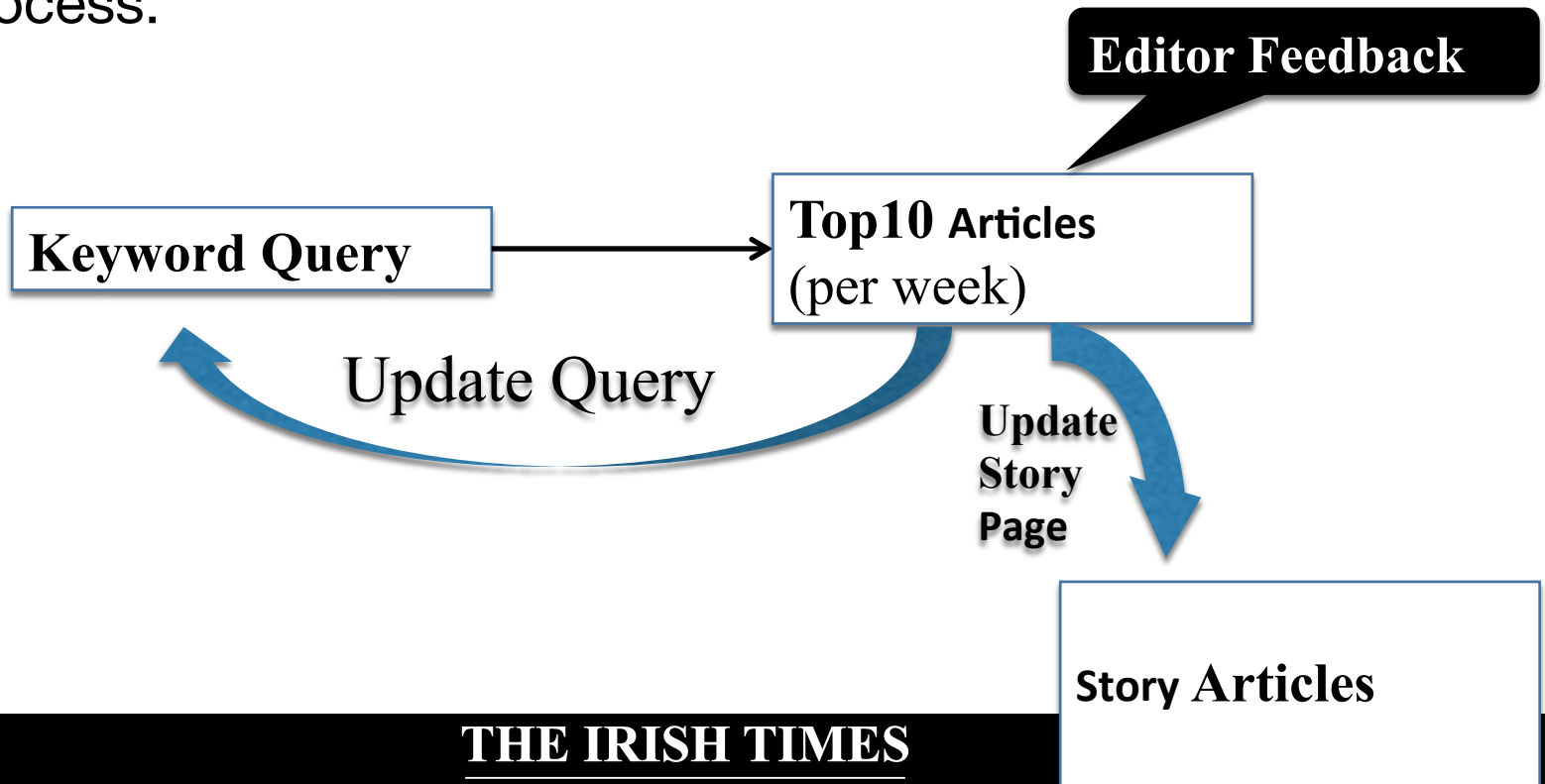
Search [] [] []

Source	Headline	Hashtag	Tweets	DateTime	Tweet	Remove
Irish Times	Volkswagen chief says recall to start in January	#volkswagen,#news	1629	2015, Oct 07, 10:11		
Irish Times	Facebook will launch satellite to provide internet access to Africa	#africa,#facebook,#internet,#innovate,#technews,#tech	4704	2015, Oct 06, 12:41		
UserContent	Greece news today	#greece	2623	2015, Aug 17, 10:33		
UserContent	greece greek	-	0	2015, Aug 17, 10:33		
Irish Times	Number of CAO courses needing 500 points up by 25%	#cao	513	2015, Aug 17, 05:00		
Independent	Nato hosts emergency session in relation to IS threat to Turkey	#turkey,#nato	4728	2015, Jul 28, 09:22		
TheJournal.ie	Tory MP defends claiming 9p for 321 meter journey · TheJournal.ie	#news	1514	2015, Jul 21, 11:31		
UserURL	Pasok in discord over ailing prime minister	-	0	1996, Jan 04, 00:00		



Further potential: Story Tracking

- Problem: Track a **known story**
- Setting: Given **input keyword query**, semi-automatically produce & update **output story page (articles)** over time.
- Process:



Story tracking

Articles currently indexed by keywords + entities

Example:

Article: [Greek crisis: Euro zone rules out talks until after referendum](#)

Indexed by: greek, crisis, euro, referendum (+ meta-tags: location, etc)

Query=“[greece crisis exit euro](#)” retrieves articles with “crisis euro” keywords

Weaknesses:

1. Can miss articles that don't have these exact keywords
2. Can return too many bad/irrelevant results

Social Indexing:

Index articles by [keywords](#) + [#hashtags](#)

Article: [Greek crisis: Euro zone rules out talks until after referendum](#)

Indexed by: greek, crisis, euro, referendum, [#greece](#), [#grexite](#), [#greferendum](#)

Query=“[greece #grexite](#)” retrieves articles that need not contain these exact keywords

Semi-automatic Story Tracking

1. Build on Hashtagger recommendations as a form of **Social Indexing** of news
2. **Social indexing** allows to retrieve news articles for queries that mix keywords and #hashtags (e.g., **greece #grexit**)
3. **Map query to Top10 Articles (core technical part)**
4. **Editor gives feedback on Top10 articles**
5. Good articles are used to **automatically** update story-page and query
6. Bad articles are used as feedback to improve query → Articles mapping

Track a story here! (beta version)

Insert keywords to retrieve weekly set of articles related to the story.

Just drop some words like in Google search... punctuation will be ignored

Select tracking period:

Please select ▼



[TrackedNews](#) shows all the RSS feeds news tracked and no of tweets for each article in 24 hours

[MyArticles](#) shows all the user articles tracked so far and the number of tweets retrieved for each article

[Hashtags](#) shows the most popular hashtags over the entire set of tracked articles

Example: Imagecropper

Problem: The Irish Times requires photographs and images to be treated in different ways to fit various target resolutions. Can this process be automated, to make the best crop of the image, rendering at optimal quality?

Example: Imagecropper

Imagecropper software intelligently analyses the content of the an input image

Identifies salient regions and automatically crops so that the resulting crop contains the most salient parts of the image



Imagecropper



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News Media and Horizon 2020 Workshop

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