

Third PROGRESS REPORT August 8th 2007

Regional Level Community Engagement – A collaborative e-democracy through the use of technology driven Visualisation and Advanced Computational Tools

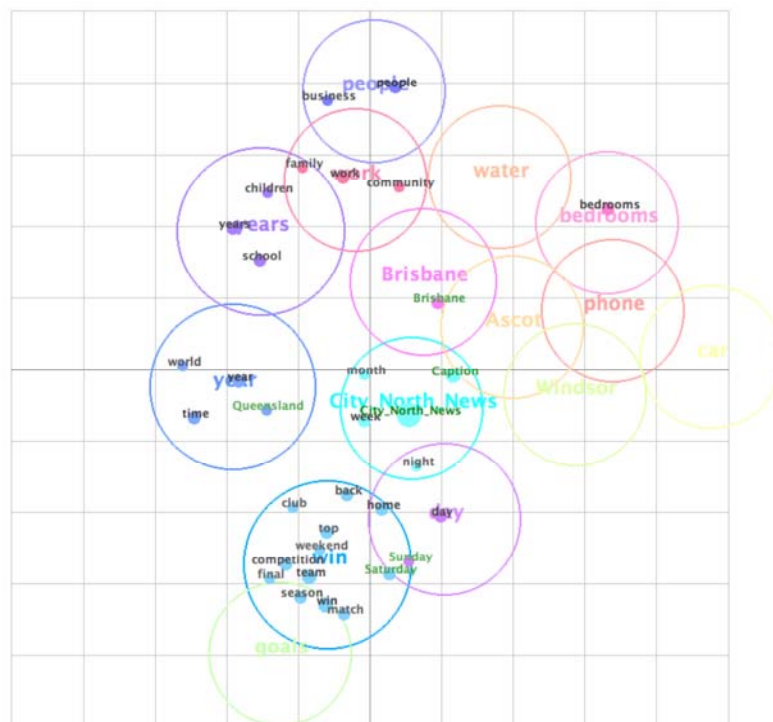
Introduction

This report is the third progress report for this pilot project.

Progress update

1. To validate and triangulate thematic results and key concepts we have negotiated access to 2007 data from Quest Brisbane. A visual audit of 6 months of the community newspapers will provide data to compare with the computer based results.
2. Analysis continues using a variety of methods, C code on the supercomputer, SAS TextMiner, Leximancer, TextAnalyst and Wordstat.
3. As an example themes from the City North News can be seen below. Sport, community and children, water, real estate are seen regularly. The profiles of each paper seem quite different and on first analysis seem to reflect the demographic differences of each catchment.

Iterations = 1000



4. Work continues on socio-economic demographic data with the distribution and readership data as a comparative analysis across the various publication catchments and the overlay of this with text mining results.
5. Underpinning mapping data and images to allow visualisation stages.

6. The Project team is working well and has been meeting regularly. Tim Davis has been incapacitated following surgery and will be on reduced duties for several months. Associate Professor Nasir Butros is taking a project management role for the group. Wayne Delaforce is away from August 2007 to January 2008 this may have an impact on the final report submission date.
7. The project team is preparing to submit a paper on this project to the Convergence, Citizen Journalism & Social Change: Building Capacity Conference at UQ March 2008 to report on the findings.
8. Student internship funding is in place through QUT-HPC. Research Assistance is being managed via ACU.

Timeline

Timeline as detailed below has been delayed and is behind schedule. We are currently at stage 3. It is anticipated that final completion will be in the first quarter of 2008. This will take account various staff illness and absences and the continued work with Quest and Newslimited to deliver a quality product and published findings.

Stage 1 (Months 1 - 6)

Model development and testing with historical documents as a test base for thematic analysis and visualisations.

Stage 2 (Months 3 – 6)

Pilot the use of software tools for the purposes of facilitating participation and expansion of data collection using Quest Newspapers as the forum.

Stage 3 (Months 6 –11) **current Aug 07**

Review and analyse the results of Stages 1 & 2 in the context of the overall project and beta-test the model through a limited trial through a series of single paper distributions through the Northside Quest papers. Including triangulation of data results.

Stage 4 (Months 11 -12)

Compile project report. Explore possibility to extend the overall project concepts data and text mining tools and techniques for theme extraction informing multiple discipline level journal articles. Investigate potential conference presentations and further funding sources such as NCRIS or ARC Linkage Applications.

Budget

Research accounts are operational
Research monies distribution

ACU – technology and research assistance	\$20,000	Completed
QUT – HPC Internship, Data Prep extraction technology and research assistance	\$10,000	Completed
Administration, Meeting costs, workshops, stakeholder training	\$6,363.63	Ongoing
Sub Total of QCIF grant excl gst	\$36,363.63	Completed
Participant In kind (from project applicants)	\$100,000	Ongoing
Web Programmer	Utilising Quest	
Systems-Analyst		Ongoing
BNDF		Ongoing
Data mining technology support		Ongoing
Equipment In-kind	\$ 15,000	Ongoing
Office space In-kind	\$ 30,000	Ongoing
Total	\$181,363.63	