

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES OF HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS: DATA MINING, DATA VISUALIZATION, SEMANTIC ENRICHMENT

Facilitating Access for various Profiles of Users

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IFLA News Media Section
Lexington, August 2016



A True Story about the Researchers' Needs

- How can we help historian working on the creation and the development of Stock Market's section in French newspapers? (1800-1870)



Here...



and here



A True Story about the Researchers' Needs

- Obviously, he has to request the digital library catalog.

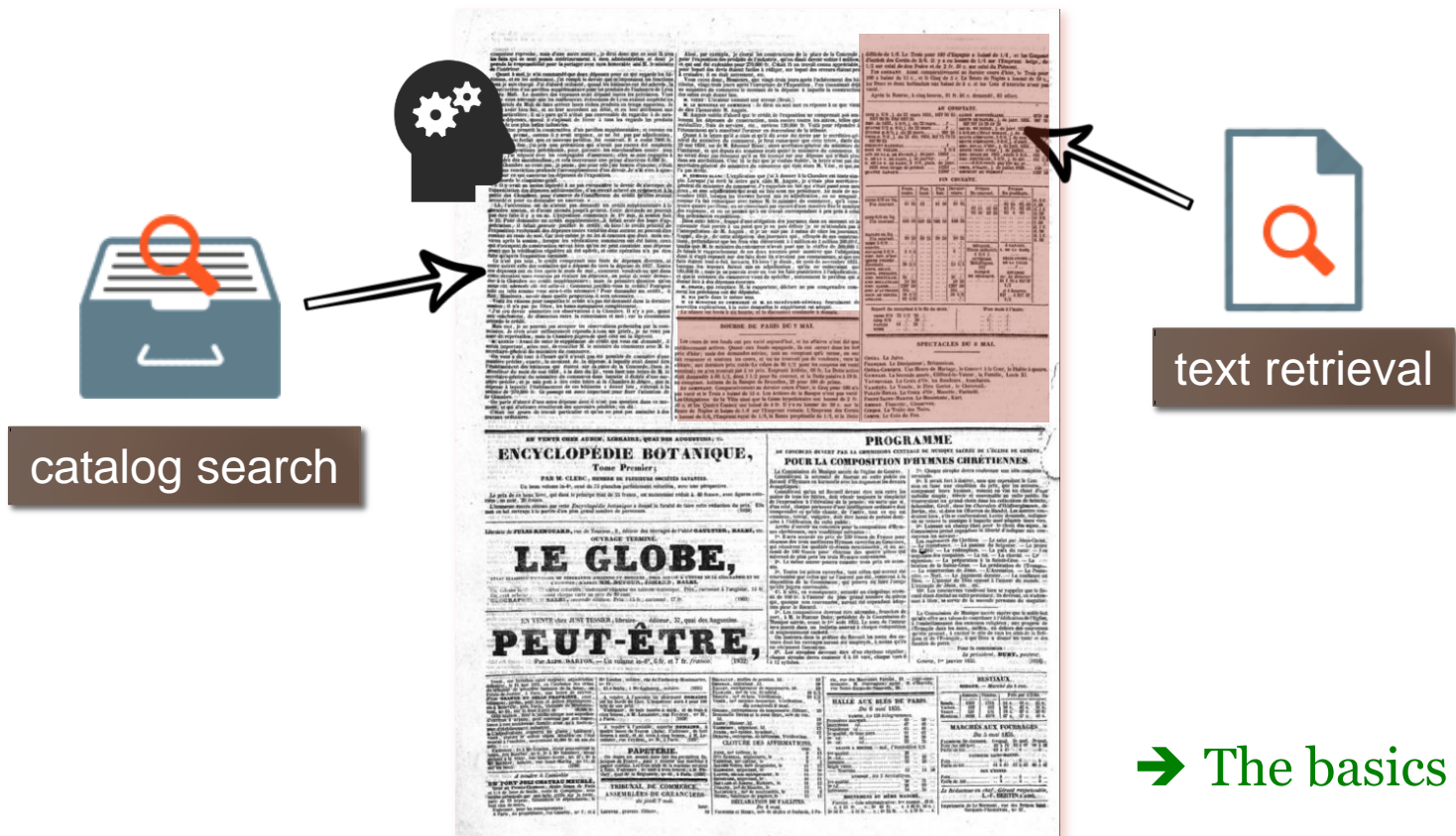


catalog search



A True Story about the Researchers' Needs

- And he needs a text retrieval functionality.



catalog search

text retrieval

→ The basics

A True Story about the Needs of Researchers

- But is it enough? Shouldn't we do better?



catalog search



text retrieval

- + Corpora Builder
- + Predefined qualitative and easy-to-use corpora

+ Advanced query on document Structure and Layout (to spot Stock Market section)

How to Satisfy Researchers' (and other DLs' Users) Needs?

Let's try to address this issue and let's focus on two questions.
Should we:

- Give end-users access to quantitative metadata describing documents structure and layout?
- Feed our DLs with semantically enriched documents?

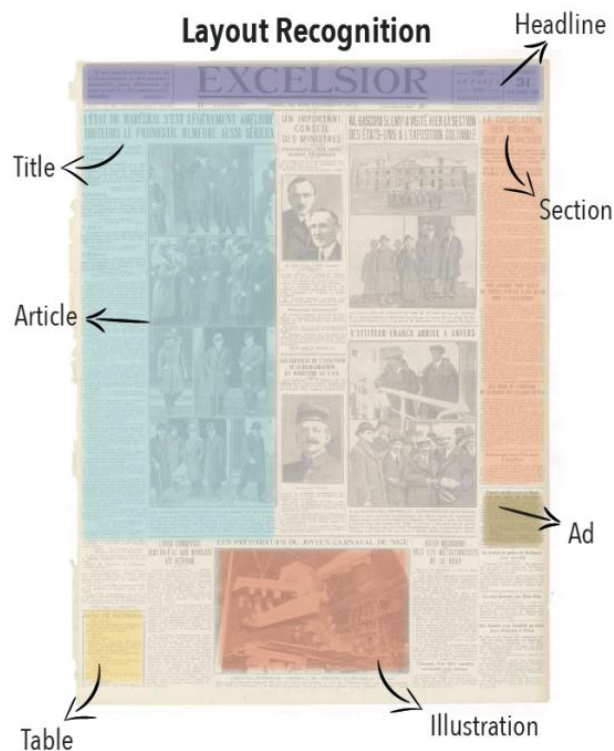
Plan

1. The Europeana Newspapers Test Bed: Data Mining Quantitative Metadata of Historical Newspapers
2. The RetroNews portal: Semantic Enrichment of Newspapers at Large Scale
3. Conclusion



EN: Enriching Digital Documents

- **Europeana Newspaper project** has enriched and aggregated millions of heritage newspapers pages with advanced refinement techniques like Optical Layout Recognition and Named Entities Recognition.



What is OLR?

Identification of structural elements, like articles and sections.

Classification of types of content (ads, offers, novel, stock market...)

Europeana Newspapers project (2012-2015): 11,5M OCR'ed pages, 2M OLR'ed pages from 14 European libraries



Document Analysis Technique like OLR Produce Quantitative Metadata

The good news is that OCR and OLR files are full of interesting objects marked up in the XML:

- **OCR** (ALTO) is a source for quantitative metadata: number of words, illustrations & tables, paper format...
- **OLR** (METS) is a valuable source too for quantitative metadata on high level informational objects:
 - Articles, sections (group of articles), titles, etc.
 - Content types (ads, judicial review, stock market...)

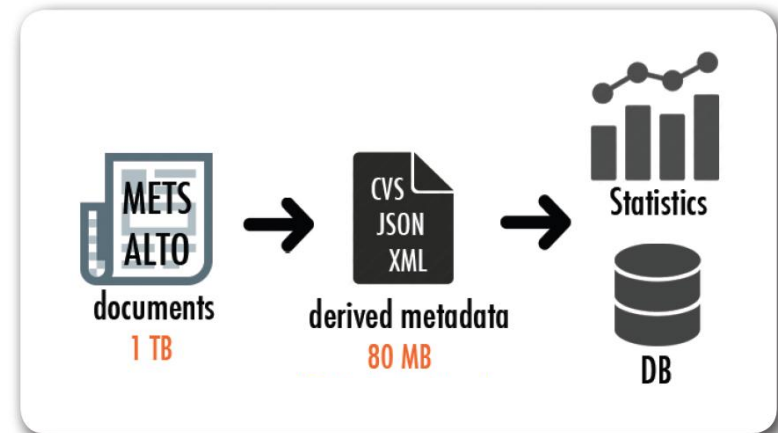


Huge amount of valuable data for historians!

How to Build such Datasets?

- We have to count the number of objects in each page of the collection (7 metadata at issue level, 5 at page level).
- We need to package and deliver these datasets to end-users (XML, JSON and CSV formats).

Europeana Newspapers project@BnF: 880,000 OLR'ed pages from BnF newspapers collection, 6 titles, 1814-1944



Pros:

- Rich dataset: 5,5 M of metadata
- Give to users light derived datasets, not TB of XML files!
- No copyright issue (no text, no image)
- It's not rocket science. It's fast (optimized NoXML parsing script)

No Cons!

Who are the End-Users of such Metadata?

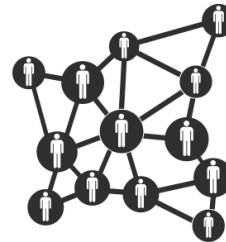
Various profiles of users will benefit from this quantitative metadata, inside and outside the digital library.



General Public



Researchers
(Digital Humanities,
History of Press,
Information Science)



**Digital Curators
& Mediators**



**Digitization Program
Managers**

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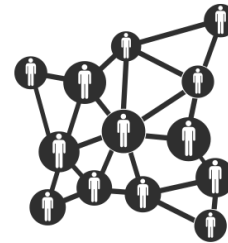
DL Users



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Researchers
(Digital Humanities,
History of Press,
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Researchers
(Digital Humanities,
History of Press,
Information Science)

DL Professionals



**Digital Curators
& Mediators**



**Digitization Program
Managers**

Digitization or IT People might be Interested by those Metadata

Statistical information on digitized content for project managers and IT teams.

- **Automatic correction of noisy OCR:** What is the average density in words of the press collection ?
 - x digital documents/day received by the DL from its service providers, y pages/document, z words/page
 - n words per day to process
 - **computing power to provide for a real-time post-processing of the OCR**

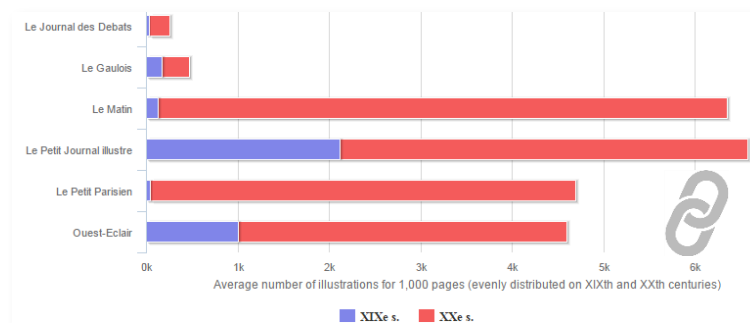


tools

1	51
2	21 57
3	18 26 51
4	01 18 26 51
5	01 18 26
6	03

➔ Better knowledge of the collection

- **Images bank:** What titles contain illustrations? What is the total number of images one can expect?

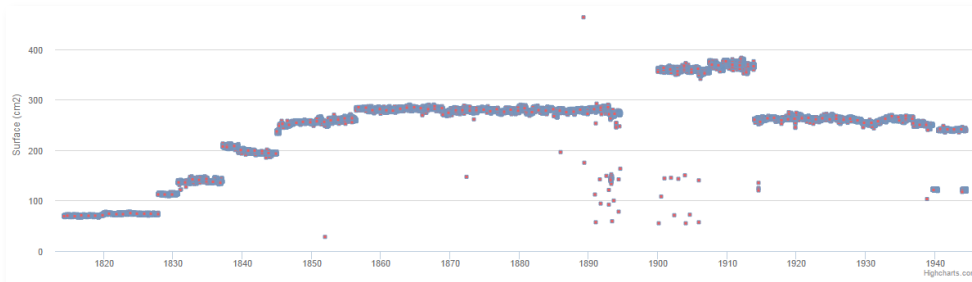


Discovering Knowledge through Visualization

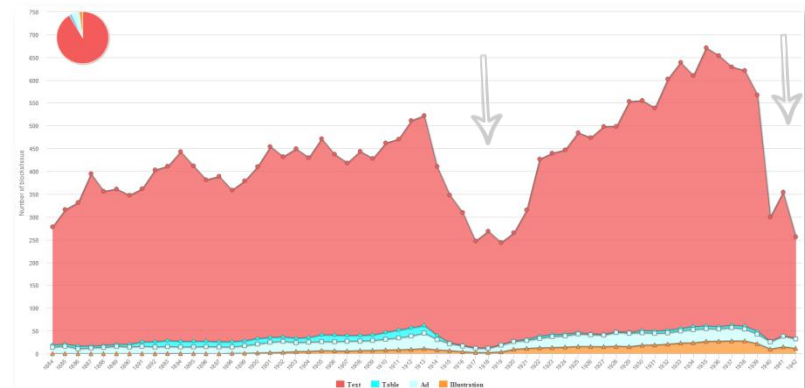
Data visualization allows researchers to discover meaning and information hidden in large volumes of data



- **History of press/page format:** Digital archeology of papermaking and printing. Source: [page dimension@OCR](#)



- **History of press/activity:** Dataviz of types of content shows the impact of the Great War on the economical activity and assesses the period of return to pre-war level activity (roughly 10 years). Source: [types of content@OLR](#)



© Highcharts



Discovering Knowledge through Visualization

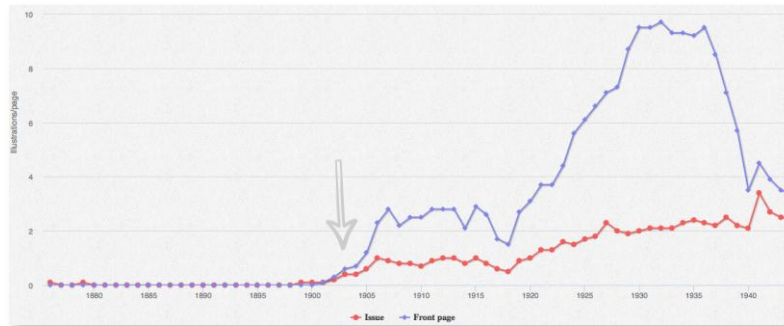
Data visualization allows researchers to discover meaning and information hidden in large volumes of data



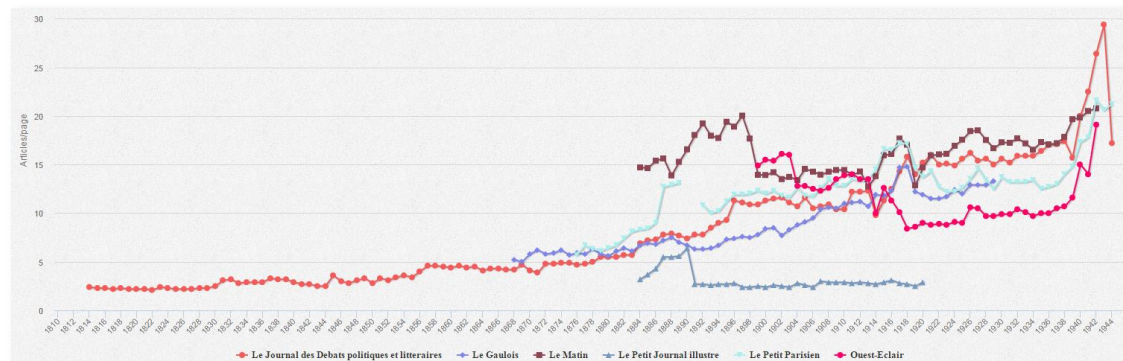
tools



- History of press/illustration:** Dataviz demonstrates the growing importance of illustration (blue: front page, red: inside pages). Source: illustrations count@OCR



- History of press/layout:** Visualization of the articles density per page reveals the shift from XVIIth “gazettes” to modern dailies and their complex layout. Source: articles count@OCR



The True Story (cont'd): unhappy Ending

“Stock Market quotes in French Newspapers (1801-1870)”

PhD in Communication and Information Science (P.-C. Langlais)

- **The creation of his corpus was very painful:**

1. The historian had to script the DL (Gallica) to extract text and metadata from multiple newspaper titles.
2. Then he had to refine/structure his text corpora.

More than 100 Python scripts were needed!



Historians generally prefer to focus on research, not on writing scripts...

The True Story (cont'd): Could we Have Helped him?

OLR facilitates the corpus creation task 😊

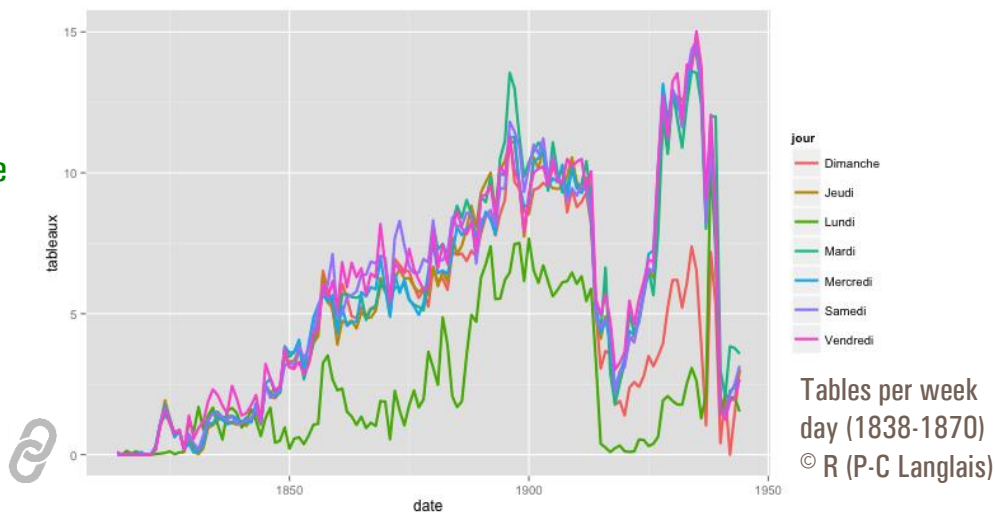
→ Content Types classification, Section identification



Types of content are tagged, like Stock Market

The quantitative dataset is of a great help 😊

“Tables” in newspapers are predominantly used in Stock Market section → **instant** use of this metadata!



→ Easy to make graphs (from the 80 Mb high level dataset, compared to 1Tb of raw XML OCR)



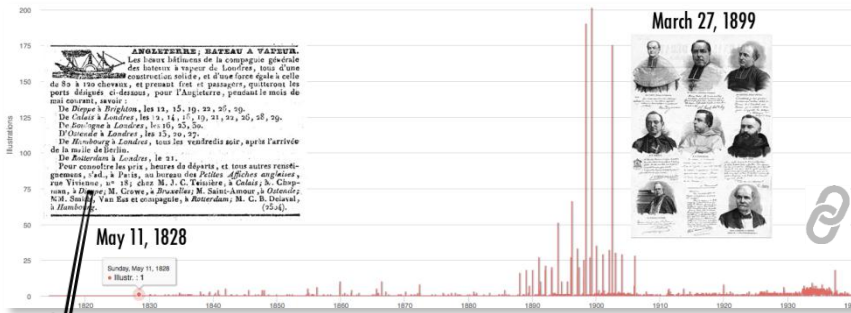
Engaging new Audiences with Dataviz

Data visualization facilitates rediscovery and reappropriation of heritage documents (by the general public)

- Data visualization of illustrations density can reveal trends or outliers, like highly illustrated issues (illustr. suppl.) or the first published illustration in a title.



tools



Facts extracted thanks to dataviz can then enrich other digital objects like timelines.

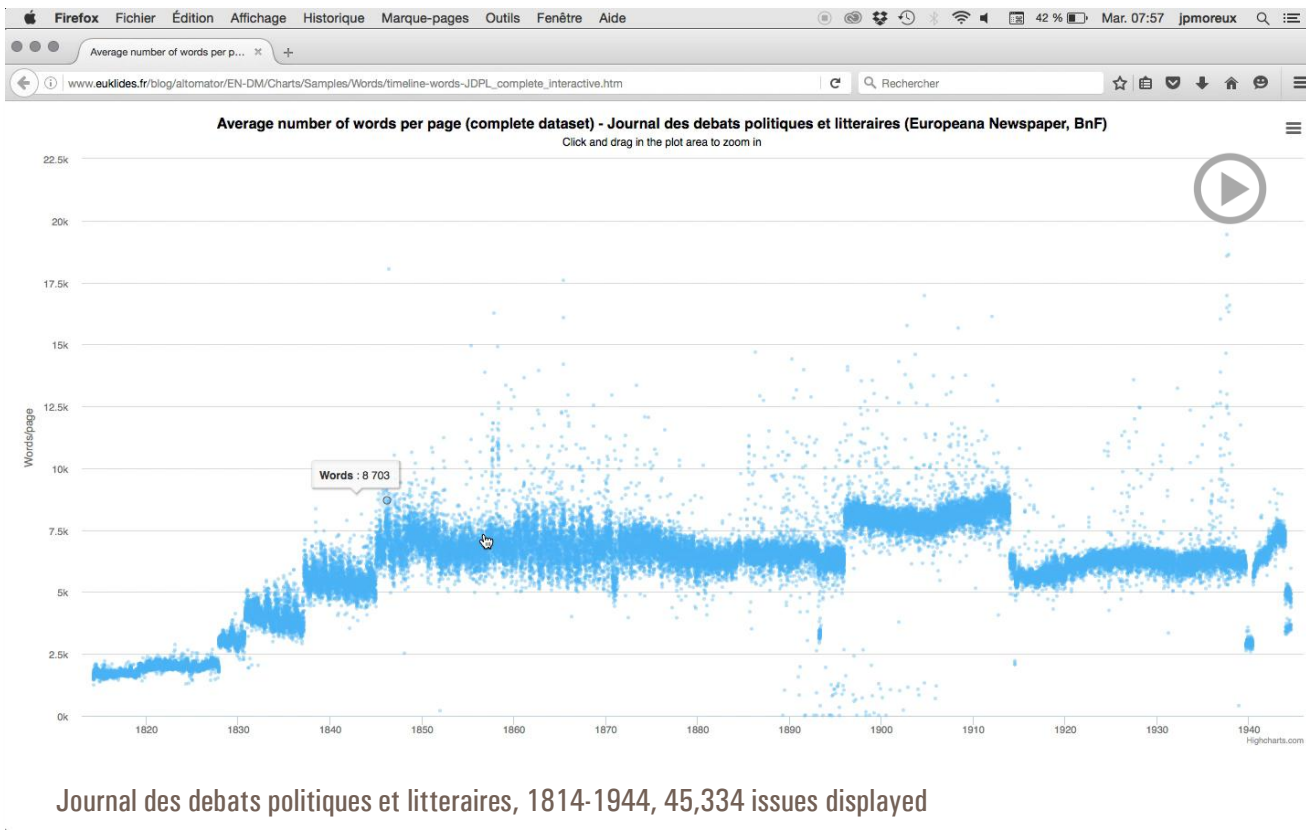


1789 — 1944
Journal des débats et des décrets
 Qui deviendra *Journal de l'Empire* en 1805, puis *Journal des débats politiques et littéraires* en 1814.
 EN SAVOIR PLUS



Engaging new Audiences with Dataviz

- Interactive chart of the word density reveals breaks due to changes in layout & paper format, outlier issues...



→ Go beyond keyword spotting and page flip!

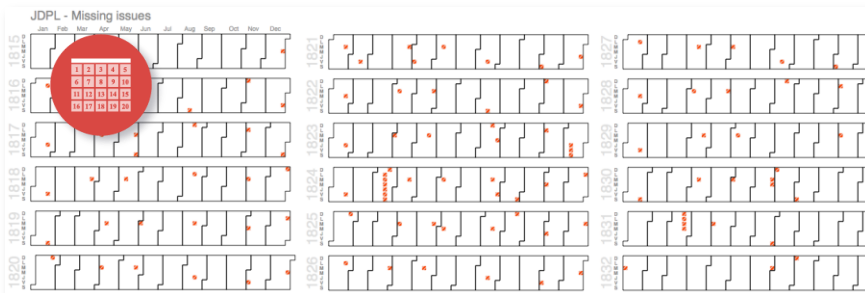
→ Some users would like to play with those charts!



Are my Data Representative?

The quality of datasets affects the validity of the analysis and interpretation. Irregular data in nature or discontinuous in time may introduce bias. A qualitative assessment should be conducted. Data vizualisation can contribute to quality control.

- A calendar display of a title data shows rare missing issues, which suggests that the digital collection is representative.

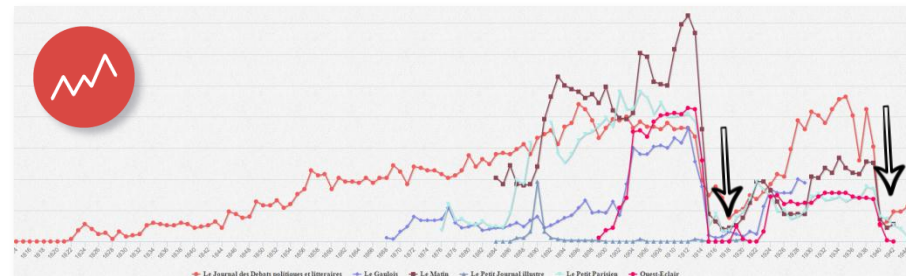


© Google Charts API



➔ "Inform end users about data quality!"

- Stock Market quotes study based on the content tagged "table": one can empirically validate this hypothesis by the sudden inflections recorded in 1914 and 1939 for all titles, being known and established the historical fact of the virtual halt of trading during the two World Wars.



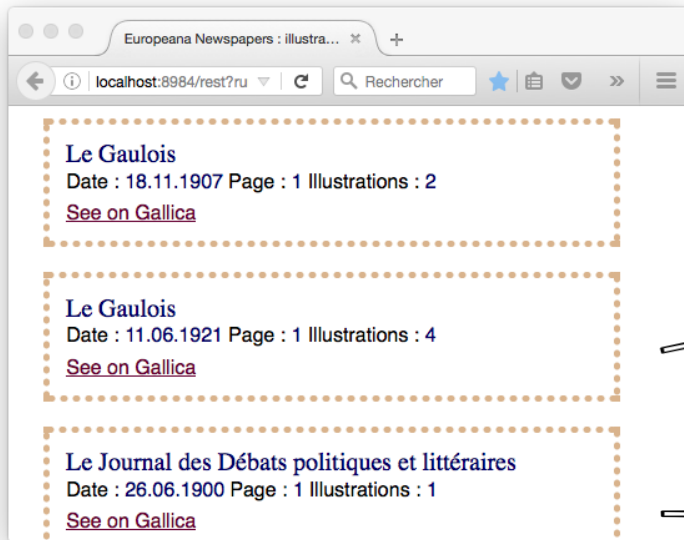
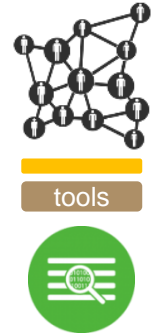
© Highcharts



Querying the Dataset

Those datasets can be requested with dedicated tools (statistical environments, NoSQL or XML databases...)

- **Images search solution used by Gallica Mediation Dpt:**
A XQuery HTTP API identifies “graphical” pages, that is to say both those poor in words and including (large) illustrations.



➔ "As a digital mediator, seeking for illustrations in our xM pages newspaper collection is a nightmare..."



```
http://localhost:8984/rest?run= findIllustratedPages.xq&fromDate = 1900-01-01&toDate = 1
```

➔ Let's remember that newspapers are full of illustrations not described in our catalogs!

Advanced Search Mode for Newspapers

- Feeding the Search Engine with layout and structural metadata allows DL users to perform **advanced mixed queries**:

? articles from 1886 where title OR subtitle contains "bartholdi" OR "statue" & "liberté"

? articles with table in *Le Matin* where title contains "metal prices" and body contains "gold"



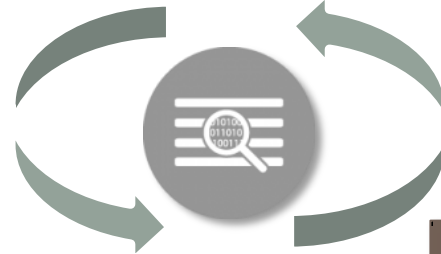
Le Matin, Oct. 29th 1886



text retrieval



catalog search



structural MD

layout MD

COURS DES METAUX à Londres	
LA TONNE DE 1.016 KILOGS	0 Février
Antimoine comptant ordinaire.....
qualité spéciale.....
Cuivre comptant.....	35 17/6.....
trois mois.....	36 5/.....
Best selected.....	40/..../..
électrolytique.....	40 10/.....
Etain comptant.....	209 15/.....
trois mois.....	212 5/.....
Plomb anglais comptant.....	16 12/6.....
étranger comptant.....	16 13/9.....
étranger liv. éloignée.....
Zinc comptant.....	15 13/9.....
livraison éloignée.....	16/..
Argent comptant (l'once).....
deux mois.....
Or (l'once).....
mercure.....



Advanced Search Mode for Newspapers

• **Trove** (@Australia) example:

→ Trove Advanced Search

? articles from 1886
title OR subtitle con
"statue & liberté"

Article Category

Return only items in these categories

- Article
- Advertising
- Detailed Lists, Results, Guides
- Family Notices
- Literature

Article Length

Limit responses to articles of a particular length

- All
- <100 Words
- 100 - 1000 Words
- 1000+ Words

Illustrated Articles

Limit to articles with or without illustrations

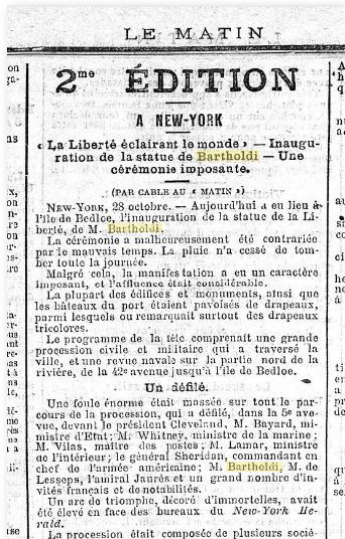
- All
- Restrict to illustrated articles only
- Restrict to articles without illustrations

Sort Order

Select how you would like your results sorted

By Relevance

<http://trove.nla.gov.au>



Le Matin, Oct. 29th 1886

catalog search

structural MD

layout MD



tools



in *Le Matin*
metal prices"
old"

COURS DES METAUX à Londres	
LA TONNE DE 1.016 KILOGS	0 Février
Antimoine comptant ordinaire.....
qualité spéciale.....	35 17/6.....
Cuivre comptant.....	36 5/8.....
trois mois.....	40/..
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Zinc comptant.....	15 13/9.....
livraison éloignée.....	16/..
Argent comptant (l'once).....
deux mois.....
Or (l'once).....
Mercure.....



Advanced Search Mode: Looking for Images

- Newspapers are full of illustrations. But where? **OCR** tells us.
- What are those illustrations about? **OCR gives us the text** around the illustrations, sometimes the illustrations' caption.



tools



?illustrations after 1885 where caption contains “statue&liberté”

➤ **Gallica** search on bibliographic metadata only: **15** docs (photos, drawings) in a 400k images collection

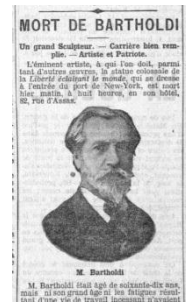
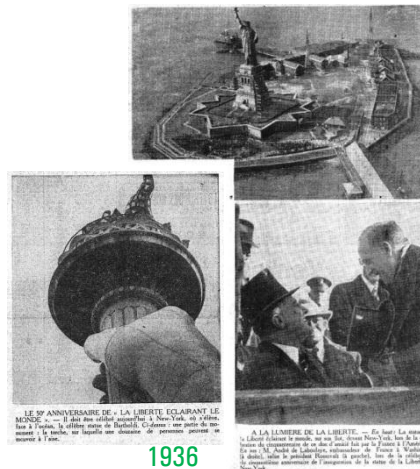
➤ **OCR/OLR helped API search: 11** hits in the (small) EN test bed (850k pages)

1. **Statue de la Liberté à New York** (Keystone) [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé **Statue de la Liberté à New York** (Keystone) [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé 1925
Sujet: New York (N.Y.) - Statue of Liberty

2. **Statue de la Liberté à New York** (Keystone) [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé **Statue de la Liberté à New York** (Keystone) [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé 1925
Sujet: New York (N.Y.) - Statue of Liberty

3. **La Statue de la Liberté à New York** [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé **La Statue de la Liberté à New York** [photographie de presse] / Agence Rodé 1917
Sujet: New York (N.Y.) - Statue of Liberty

4. **Statue de la Liberté à Paris** [photographie de presse] / Agence Meurisse **Statue de la Liberté à Paris** [photographie de presse] / Agence Meurisse 1936
Sujet: Paris (France) - Statue de la Liberté



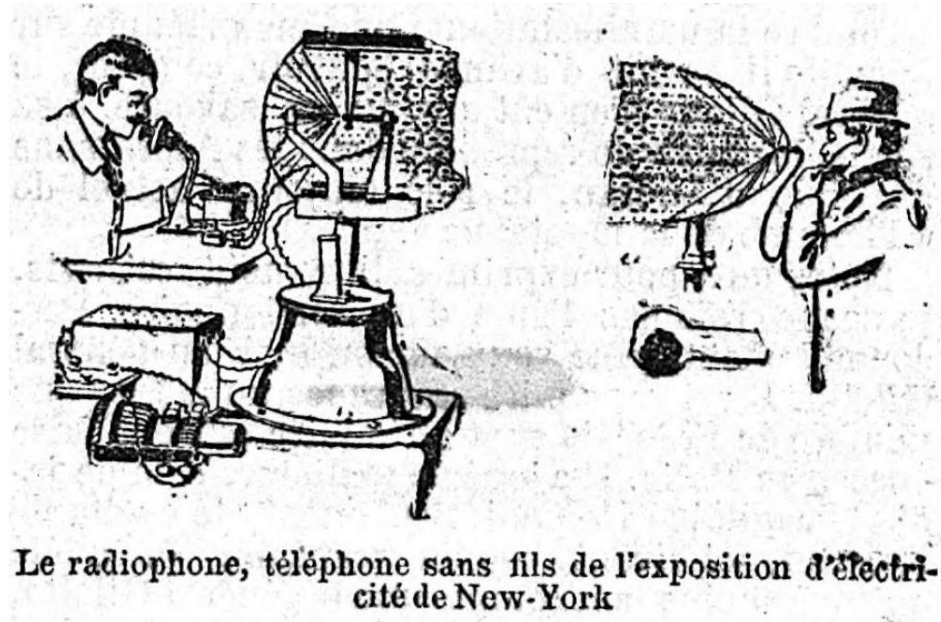
http://localhost:8984/rest?run=findCaptionedIllustrations.xq&fromDate=1886-01-01&keyword=statue.*liberte

Advanced Search Mode: Looking for Images

- After 1890, newspapers are a rich iconographic source regarding historical events but also everyday life, popular culture... We need to give our users the tools to use it!



Fireman (NY police),
Le Matin, 1932



Wireless Phone (Graham Bell), New York Electricity Exposition,
Le Gaulois, July. 12th 1899



Jacqueline Cochrane
(jet pilot), *Le Matin*, 1938

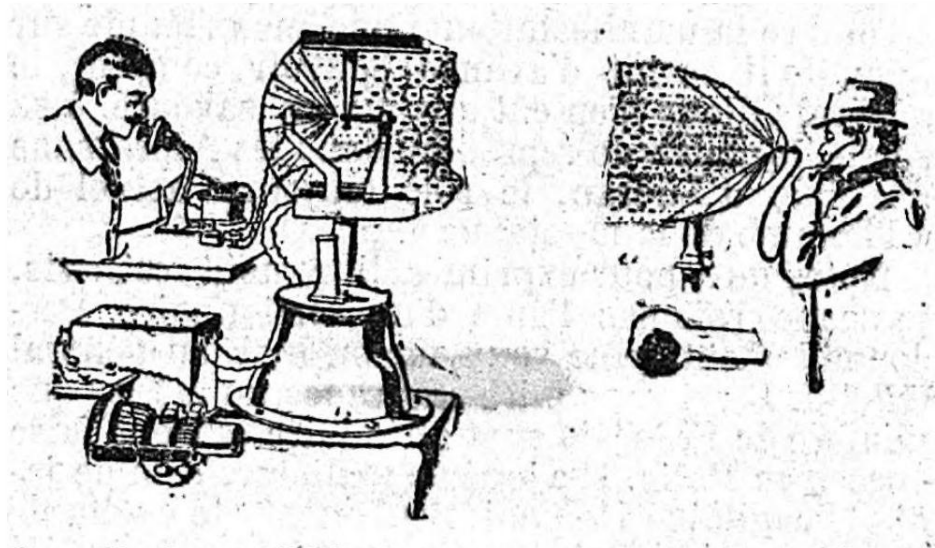
→ And illustrated articles are more likely to hold important content...

Advanced Search Mode: Looking for Images

- After 1890, newspapers are a rich iconographic source regarding historical events but also everyday life, popular culture... We need to give our users the tools to use it!



Jean-Philippe



First IFLA remote presentation at the BnF (1899)



Caroline



Retronews.fr's Aims



Retronews covers 3 centuries of French Newspapers (1631-1945).
A dynamic process is on to search, find and share a better understanding of these times and bring connections to nowadays.

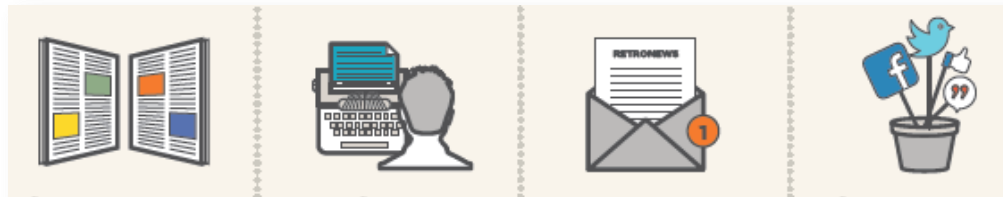
We aim at:

- ✓ Improving the access to the newspapers with the latest online functionalities.
- ✓ Helping to find and better understand many topics.

In term of volume, this means today 3M pages; 15M articles are available on the web site. The double amount will be available in 2018.
(At the BnF, 5 % of the press collections are digitized.)

Specific Key Points

- The documents are enriched and structured with thematics, topics, named entities... This means the largest directory book of people.
- This brings both the possibility to go deeper into a research and, to enlarge the research when it is in a dead-end.
- Users also enjoy specific tools to work with the content and be able to insert it into their academic works (with saved queries, personal selection, extraction of content, etc.).
- The portal is editorialized with chronicles: daily "Echos", thematic folders, the timelines of the newspapers in France.



RetroNews

Contenu Retrenews Configuration Mes brouillons

484 résultats

TRIER PAR PERTINENCE

FILTRER VOTRE RECHERCHE

- Par titre de presse
- Par type de presse
- Par périodicité
- Par date de publication
- 1914-1916
- 1914 (402)
- 1915 (33)
- 1916 (49)
- Par lieu de publication

SERVICES PREMIUM
AFFINER VOTRE RECHERCHE

- Par thématique
- Par évènement
- Par sujet
- Par personne
- CAILLAUX (237)
- CALMETTE (101)
- POINCARÉ (88)
- LABORI (70)
- JOURÉS (65)
- +++ Plus de personnes

LE GAULOIS
N° 13430 P.1
22 JUILLET 1914

...prie mon excellent collaborateur M. Félix Belle de donner la physionomie de l'audience. Jus- qu'au prononcé du verdict, je rougirais d'écrire une ligne qui fût de nature à impressionner le jury. Après le verdict, nous aurons tout le temps d'en dire ici notre sentiment.

Mais le spectateur n'a pas les mêmes devoirs impératifs que la neutralité impose à l'homme politique. Une chose m'a frappé à l'audience d'hier : c'est le subit apparat que le président des assises a fait déployer pour la comparution de M. Caillaux. Les postes ont été doublés ; des instructions très sévères ont été données au lieutenant de la garde républicaine ; le greffier a reçu l'ordre de lire un texte visant la répression de toute manifestation qui viendrait à se produire. Je sais bien qu'il fallait faire respecter la majesté du prétoire. Cela n'en créait pas moins une exception qui n'avait rien d'absolument démocratique et marquait bien aux yeux des jurés qu'un personnage d'importance dans la république allait être entendu. Ceux qui en auraient encore douté n'ont eu qu'à voir la dé-

LE MATIN
N° 10984 P.1
25 MARS 1914

M^{me} Caillaux raconte le...

LE JOURNAL
N° 7843 P.1
18 MARS 1914

Après le Meurtre de M. Calmette

L'ÉCHO DE PA
N° 10935 P.1
22 JUILLET 1914

galère ?
M. Albelan croyait conjurer les mauvais é- sions et tous les tumul- tion qui fait honneur. président. Par la voix Wilhmès, il avait exorc sordre et de l'indiscipli

Faceted search on bibliographical and semantical criteria

RETRONews

RECHERCHE CAROLINE HASENCK

PERSONAL SPACE

Mes sélections (6)

- PARIS-SOIR 15 août 1944
- LE JOURNAL 10 octobre 1926
- L'ACTION FRANÇAISE 24 août 1944
- LE PETIT JOURNAL 22 août 1921
- PARIS-SOIR 7 août 1944

LE NAUFRAGE DE LA MÉDUSE EN 1816

Chronologie de la presse

Journal des débats et des décrets

1789 - 1944

Qui deviendra Journal de l'Empire en 1805, puis Journal des débats politiques et littéraires en 1814

EN SAVOIR PLUS

Timeline showing various newspapers from 1789 to 1944.

Timelines, Folders

VOIR TOUS LES DOSSIERS

DOSSIER ACCIDENT DE TRANSPORT

LE NAUFRAGE DE LA MÉDUSE EN 1816

LE 2 JUILLET 1816, LA FRÉGATE LA MÉDUSE S'ÉCRASAIT SUR LES CÔTES SÉNÉGALAISES. 152 HOMMES S'EMBARQUÈRENT ALORS SUR UN RADEAU DE FORTUNE...

DOSSIER PROCÈS DÉFENSE POLITIQUE INTERIEURE

LA MORT DU MARÉCHAL NEY (7 DÉCEMBRE 1815)

LE 7 DÉCEMBRE 1815, LE « BRAVE DES BRAVES », LE MARÉCHAL NEY EST FUSILLÉ. JUSQU'À LA CHAMBRE DES PARISS, IL EST LE BOULÉVARDIER DE LA DROITE ROYALISTE MAIS DEVIENT LE...

Enriching the Content with Semantic

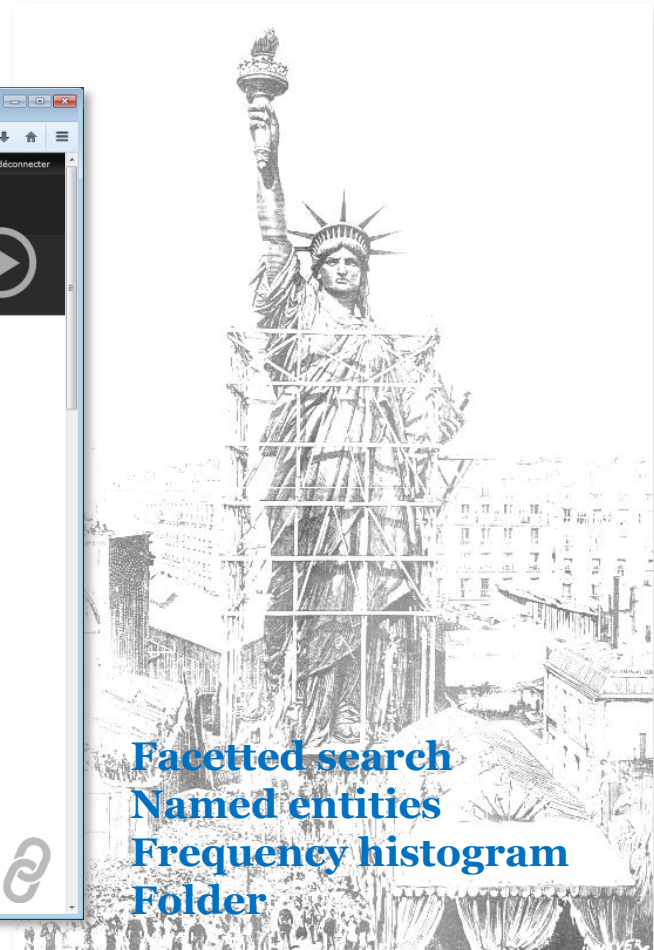
RetroNews uses four concepts to enrich the text with semantic annotations:



- *Named entities* (3 categories: people, places, organizations): NE recognition is driven by linguistic grammar-based techniques and authorities files.
- *Themes* (14 top level themes, 231 second level): derived from the IPTC classification and refurbished for heritage press. A lexica has been created for each theme, and the text corpus is indexed according to these lexica.
- *Events* (147): closed list of historical events defined by experts of the editorial team, each event associated with a lexica and with dates.
- *Topics' modelling* uses Wikipedia articles' titles and a list of the most frequent queries expressed by users on the BnF's DL.

Advanced Query and Discovery

The screenshot shows the RetroNews website interface. The search bar contains the query "bartholdi statue liberte". The results are displayed in a grid of newspaper snippets. The first row includes "LE PETIT JOURNAL" (N° 8708 P1, 29 OCTOBRE 1886), "LE MATIN" (N° 978 P2, 29 OCTOBRE 1886), and "LE CONSTITUTIONNEL" (N° 298 P2, 30 OCTOBRE 1886). The second row includes "LE PETIT JOURNAL" (N° 8710 P1, 31 OCTOBRE 1886), "LE GAULOIS" (N° 1518 P2, 28 OCTOBRE 1886), and "L'UNIVERS" (N° 6955 P2, 28 DECEMBRE 1886). The interface includes navigation menus, filters, and a search bar.



The quality of the data

- For datavisualization, as well as for semantic enrichment, some qualities of the data are required to bring valuable results: Are the data representative enough and numerous enough?

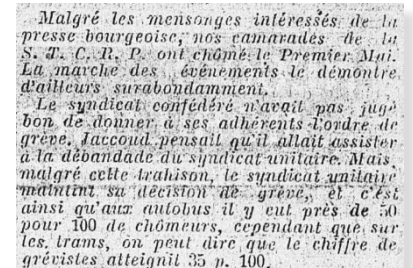
EX. Is the time length of the newspapers long enough to bring meaningful results?

- OCR quality of historical documents can be an obstacle to semantic enrichment processing.

EX. Does it make sense to apply NER on bad to medium OCR quality?

- For some semantic enrichment tasks, article segmentation level is needed (OLR).

EX. Topic modelling or events recognition at page level is almost useless.



Malgré les mensonges intéressés de la presse bourgeoise, nos camarades de la S. T. C. R. P. ont chahuté le Premier Mai. La marche des événements le démontre d'ailleurs surabondamment.
Le syndicat confédéré n'avait pas jugé bon de donner à ses adhérents l'ordre de grève. Jaccoud pensait qu'il allait assister à la débâcle du syndicat unitaire. Mais, malgré cette trahison, le syndicat unitaire maintint sa décision de grève, et c'est ainsi qu'aux autobus il y eut près de 50 pour 100 de chômeurs, cependant que sur les trams, on peut dire que le chiffre de grévistes atteignit 35 p. 100.

The quality of the enrichment

- Semantic enrichment may need reference corpus, which are difficult to build for heritage content.

*EX. Using Wikipedia content for reference will introduce anachronism...
Contemporary NE authorities won't adapt to historical newspapers. Etc.*



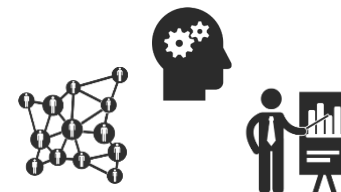
- Do the semantic facettes embody the different aspects of the reality I focus on?

EX. The building of thematics such as Women, Education also need to go through the channel of Religion in the XIXth c. in France.

- And finally, evaluation of semantic enrichment results is a challenging task.

EX. How to evaluate topic modelling results? One needs a complex approach to build ground truth... and automation to compute rates.

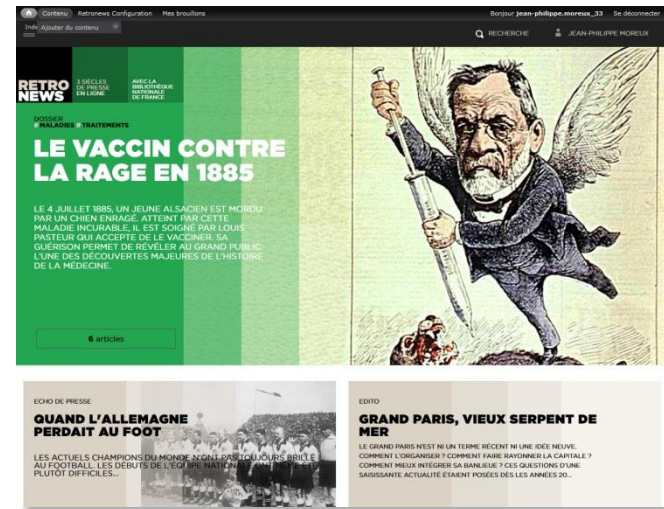
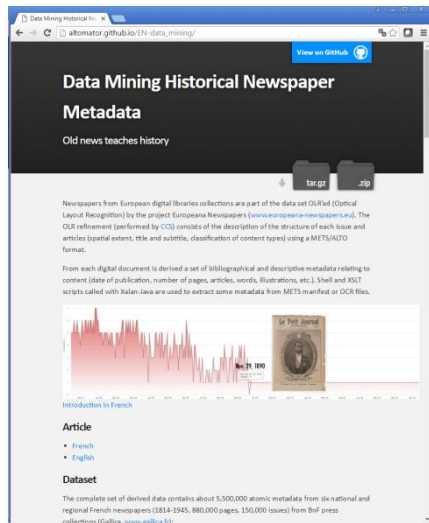
Conclusion



- Quantitative metadata are relevant for all DLs' users: scientists, general public, institutions' employees.
- OLR enrichment provides a rich source of information for researchers, through web portals or ready-to-use datasets. Such datasets, possibly crossed with the OCRed text, usually provide a fertile ground for research hypotheses. Only basic data mining & dataviz methods and tools are needed to exploit such datasets.
- Semantic enrichments helps DLs users to cope with amounts of information ever larger, from innovative perspectives.
- Quantitative metadata combined with OLR and semantic enrichments enhance the global information retrieval capacities of DLs' users.

Thank you for your attention!

- Datasets (CSV, XML, JSON) and charts are publicly available. Just play with it!
- Retronews is freemium. Try it!



http://altomotor.github.io/EN-data_mining

<http://www.retronews.fr/>



Thanks to all the Europeana Newspapers partners!



Staatsbibliothek
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