NewsConnect

A visual news experience
by Meghana Bhat and Karleigh Moore
What’s Wrong With News?

Why Tehran Fears the Iraqization of Iran on Nuclear Inspections

Ayatollah Khamenei has said repeatedly that Libya gave up its nuclear program, helped the United States in its confrontation with terrorism, and yet it was attacked by NATO and the United States.

Is a PEN Mightier Than an AK-47?

As the object of repeated death threats during my PEN presidency, I can testify from personal experience that in times of violence, solidarity among writers is paramount.

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40 Migrants Feared Dead in Latest Sinking in Mediterranean
By JIM YARDLEY and ELISABETTA POGUE
A merchant ship was able to rescue people on one boat, but some on another boat drowned. Italian officials reported rescuing thousands over the weekend.

Lawmakers in France Move to Vastly Expand Surveillance
By ALISSA J. RUBIN
A measure would give the intelligence services the right to gather potentially unlimited electronic data from internet communications, and to tap cellphones and capture text messages.

Charlie Hebdo Editor Seeks to Distance Newspaper From Anti-Islam Causes
By RICK GLADSTONE 7:16 PM ET
The editor, Gérard Biard, rejected parallels between the Jan. 7 attack on the newspaper and the Sunday assault on an anti-Islam art contest in Tunisia.

Nepal’s Young Men, Lost to Migration, Then a Quake
By ELLEN BARRY
Healthy young men were leaving to find work in great waves before the quake. Now, even before the dead
What Do We Want To Do About It?

- Make a web app that allows a more visual interface for viewing news
- Facilitate intuitive ways of finding the news you want to read, and make it easy to avoid news that you don’t
- Visually represent national connections presented in world news articles
Background Research

Death of Unarmed Black Man in Police Custody Sparks Unrest in Baltimore

NA > UNITED STATES > BALTIMORE, MARYLAND - 04 MAY 2015

Waves of protests regarding the death of a Baltimore man who died from injuries sustained during an arrest in April 2015 turned into celebrations when six police officers were charged with homicide in connection to the death. Freddie Gray, 25, died April 19, a week after he was found unconscious...

Earthquake Devastates Nepal

AS > NEPAL > KATHMANDU - 01 MAY 2015

On April 25 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, causing landslides and avalanches that killed more than 6,000 people. Officials fear that the number of dead could increase to about 15,000 once the rescue search is finished. The earthquake hit the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu especially hard, destroying much of...

Rebel Forces Launch Attack in Northeast Myanmar

AS > MYANMAR > LUAKHAKO - 30 APR 2015

A rebel group in Myanmar killed at least 43 soldiers in the Kokang region of the country’s northeast on February 9. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, which borders China and Thailand, is also referred to as Burma. The Kokang region sits along the Myanmar-China border. The conflict between...
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Nepal
2015-05-02
Aid agencies issue urgent appeals for Nepal relief - CNN.com
Involved countries: Cuba, Palestine, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal
Source: CNN
Christie Ally Expected to Plead Guilty in George Washington Bridge Lane-Closing Case - NYTimes.com

2015-05-01
Involved countries: United States of America, Cameroon
Graphic: Chris Christie and the Lane Closings: A Spectator's Guide
The exact charges Mr. Wildstein would plead guilty to were not immediately clear. Typically, he would appear in court to answer a series of questions confirming the details he was acknowledging in his plea. That plea will be heavily watched for what Mr. Wildstein indicates about what role — if any — Mr. Christie had in the lane closings, which gridlocked the town of Fort Lee, N.J., over four days, stranding emergency vehicles, commuters and school buses. Mr. Wildstein told several people in the Christie administration that he had discussed the lane closings with the governor as they were happening, an assertion the governor denies. And through his lawyer, Mr. Wildstein has said that other “evidence exists” that Mr. Christie knew about the closings as they occurred. The lawyer, Alan Zegas, did not return calls and emails seeking comment this week. Mr. Wildstein resigned as...
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Demo

connectthenews.herokuapp.com
Who Would Use This App?

- Researchers of international relations over time
- People with very specific news interests e.g. region or topic
Enabling Tech

Data Scraping
webhose.io

Server
Heroku + Flask

User Interface
Leaflet + Geopy + jQuery
Looking Ahead

- more sources
- information on article popularity
- heatmap on world
- double click for news in a specific country
- interface bug fixes
- more filters, e.g. filter for news sources or date ranges
News text

[1234 rating like Netflix]
Double click on a region and more region-specific news will pop up!
Thank You!

- Digital Humanities classmates, Andy Stuhl, and Prof Kurt Fendt for their invaluable feedback!

- Liam Andrew for taking the time to meet with our group to offer advice and encouragement to focus on the UI, not data.
Questions?