

Developing a Social Media Archive at ICPSR

Libby Hemphill
Director, Resource Center for Minority Data



SOMAR Goals

- Evaluation
- Replication
- Novel analysis
- FAIR data principles

SOMAR Audiences

- Sociotechnical researchers studying social media
- SBE researchers using social media data
- Social science methodologists
- Digital archiving and curation researchers
- · Researchers in the future

SOMAR Challenges

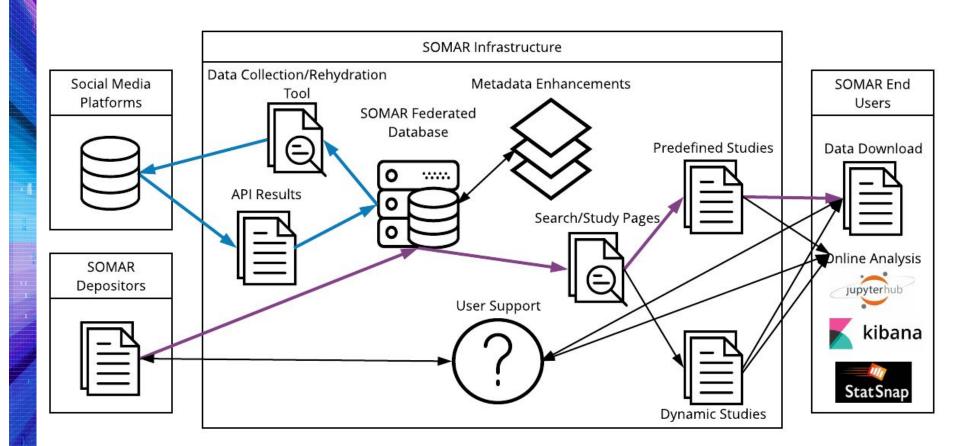
- Technical infrastructure
- Ethical and legal infrastructure
- Metadata enhancements
- Adoption

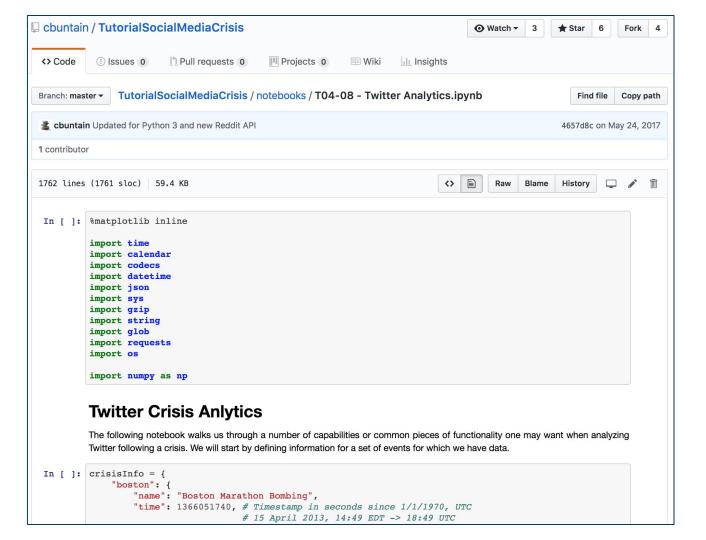
Ethical Considerations

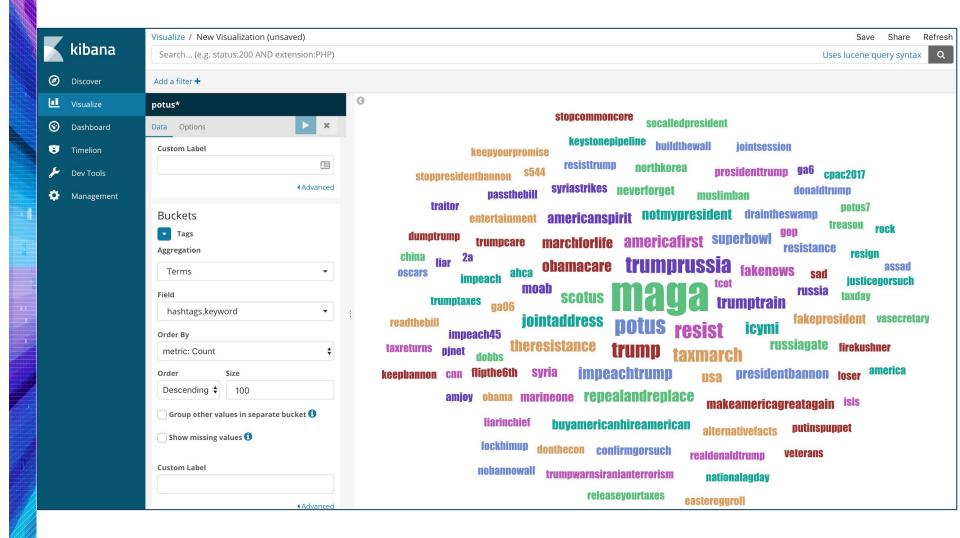
Table 4. "How Would You Feel If a Tweet of Yours Was Used in a Research Study and" (n=268).					
	Very uncomfortable	Somewhat uncomfortable	Neither uncomfortable nor comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Very comfortable
you were not informed at all?	35.1%	31.7%	16.4%	13.4%	3.4%
you were informed about the use after the fact?	21.3%	29.1%	20.5%	22.0%	7.1%
it was analyzed along with millions of other tweets?	2.6%	18.7%	25.5%	30.0%	23.2%
it was analyzed along with only a few dozen tweets?	16.5%	30.3%	24.0%	20.2%	9.0%
it was from your "protected" account?	54.9%	20.5%	13.8%	6.0%	4.9%
it was a public tweet you had later deleted?	31.3%	32.5%	20.5%	10.4%	5.2%
no human researchers read it, but it was analyzed by a computer program?	2.6%	14.3%	30.5%	32.3%	20.3%
the human researchers read your tweet to analyze it?	9.7%	27.6%	25.0%	25.4%	12.3%
the researchers also analyzed your public profile information, such as location and username?	32.2%	23.2%	21.0%	13.9%	9.7%
the researchers did not have any of your additional profile information?	4.9%	15.4%	25.1%	34.1%	20.6%
your tweet was quoted in a published research paper, attributed to your Twitter handle?	34.3%	21.6%	21.6%	13.1%	9.3%
your tweet was quoted in a published research paper, attributed anonymously?	9.0%	16.8%	26.5%	28.4%	19.4%
Note. The shading was used to provide a visual cue about hi	gher percentages.				

Social Media Ethics Framework: Does your research involve social media data? Yes Legal etc. Have you consulted the terms and conditions of the specific platform? Yes Have you consulted the relevant disciplinary, funding, legal or institutional guidelines? Yes Privacy and risk Can the social media user reasonably expect to be observed by strangers? Yes Are the research participants vulnerable? (i.e. children or vulnerable adults) No Is the subject matter sensitive? No Re-use and Will the social media user by publication anonymised in published outputs? Yes Can you publish or share the dataset?

Townsend and Wallace 2016







SOMAR Open Questions

- What about content that's integral but not native to the social media post (e.g., links, images, videos)?
- What are the right metadata enhancements?
- How should SOMAR fit/model data management practices?
- How should we connect to existing collections and tools?
- How should we sustain the enterprise?

SOMAR Next Steps

- SFM test bed on ICPSR infrastructure
- Tweet Sets test bed on ICPSR infrastructure
- Reddit harvester for SFM
- Automate rehydration loop
- Kibana exploration
- Jupyter connector to ElasticSearch
- URL expansion and web archiving

More Resources

- ICPSR Data Management and Curation
- FAIR principles for scientific data management
- Documenting the Now
- Social Feed Manager
- Tweet Sets
- GESIS Twitter Dataset example
- GETAR