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Exploring Patterns of Uncertainty in Crowdsourced Crisis Information

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The humanitarian community is reluctant to use reports from social media when responding to a crisis event, as it fears the costs of untrustworthy and inaccurate information.

Organisations such as Ushahidi use crowdsourcing to identify reliable reports, but this introduces further uncertainty.

Our prototype software allows us to explore the spatial and temporal distribution of crisis event reports gathered in the wake of the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

A standard ellipse provides a convenient summary of the spatial distribution of reports from a given time period.

By identifying interesting spatio-temporal patterns, we can begin to hypothesise about the completeness of the information.

By incorporating text mining techniques we hope to investigate the relationship between locality descriptions and geographic coordinates.

Example report

id 15

title Karibe Hotel Collapsed

date 2010-01-13 10:57:00

location Karibe Hotel, Juvenat 7...

description The Karibe Hotel and adjoining apartments...

category 5a. Structure effondres...

latitude 18.51933

longitude -72.301626

approved YES

verified NO

Most locality descriptions (values of the location attribute) refer to features, such as named places, rather than to distances and directions from features.

Completeness: The degree to which the information is comprehensive [1].

Consistency: The degree to which the components of the information agree [1].

References


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