

AVResearcher: Exploring Audiovisual Metadata

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ABSTRACT

In this demonstration we present AVResearcher, a prototype aimed at allowing media researchers to explore metadata associated with large numbers of audiovisual broadcasts. It allows them to compare and contrast the characteristics of search results for two topics, across time and in terms of content. Broadcasts can be searched and compared not only on the basis of traditional catalog descriptions, but also in terms of spoken content (subtitles), and social chatter (tweets associated with broadcasts). AVResearcher is a new and ongoing valorisation project at the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this demonstration we present AVResearcher, a prototype aimed at allowing media researchers to explore the professional, content-based, and social metadata associated with a collection of hundreds of thousands of broadcasts. With the continuous online production and storage of audiovisual broadcasts, a challenge for media researchers has arisen. There is a large amount of archival metadata about broadcasts becoming available. In addition, metadata from additional sources is becoming available. For example, the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision has over 960,000 catalog entries, and has an archive of subtitles for a subset of television broadcasts going back to 1989. In addition, members of the public write about broadcasts on Twitter, in the Netherlands sometimes amounting to tens of thousand of tweets for an individual program. Our prototype addresses this challenge, allowing media researchers to examine the

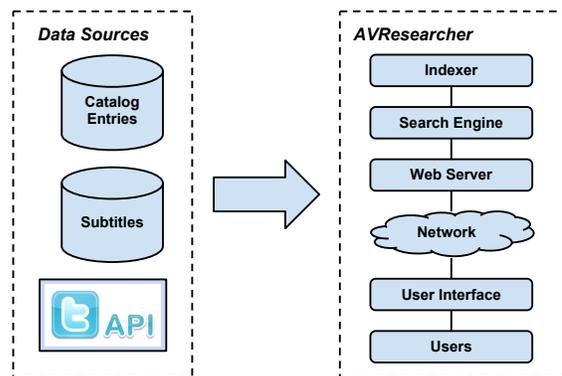


Figure 1: AVResearcher system overview.

metadata characteristics of sets of broadcast results.

AVResearcher is based on the Media Researchers Data Exploration Suite (MeRDES) [1], which was developed specifically to support media studies researchers to explore audiovisual catalog entries. In addition to the professional catalog entries supported by MeRDES, AVResearcher allows media researchers to explore social chatter in the form of tweets, and spoken content in the form of subtitles. In addition, the code of AVResearcher has been completely rewritten for improved speed and scalability. It is a new valorisation project at the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, and as such is under active development. It is undergoing iterative development using Agile methods: user feedback is used to determine the requirements and their prioritisation for each iteration. After the second iteration has been accepted the prototype will be made available to media professionals through an online portal of the archive. At DIR 2013 we will present the current version of the software.

2. AVRESEARCHER SYSTEM

An overview of the AVResearcher system is given in Figure 1. Here we briefly summarize the system in terms of the

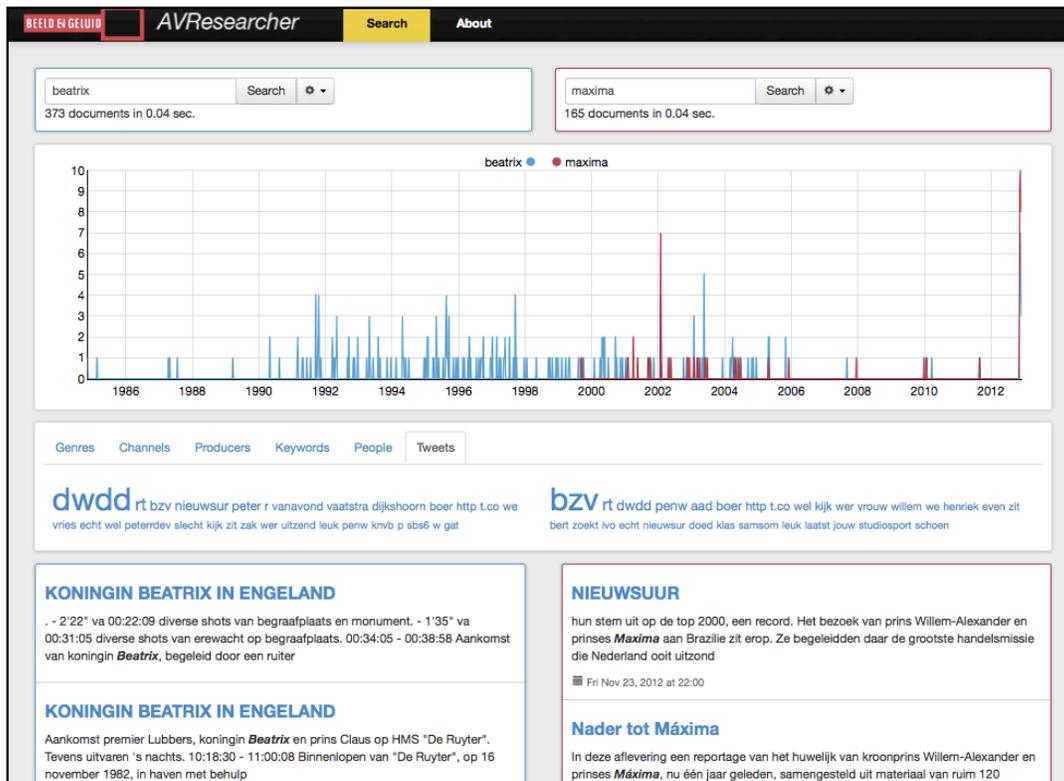


Figure 2: Main result exploration screen of AVResearcher, with two queries compared side-by-side.

underlying data set, architecture, and visualization.

Data Set Catalog descriptions of the broadcasts are obtained from the archive of the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision: at the time of writing the collection consists of just over 960,000 broadcasts. Subtitles are obtained through an agreement with the Netherlands public broadcasters from November 2012 onwards. In the future we also plan to incorporate a legacy database of subtitles dating back to December 1989. Tweets about programs also date from November 2012 onwards. They are obtained using the Twitter Streaming API¹: we monitor a collection of official hashtags for 25 Dutch television shows, obtained from the website <http://hekjeplekje.nl>. If a tweet occurs during a television broadcast, it is associated with that broadcast.

Architecture Data for television broadcasts is collected from the three different sources: catalog entries maintained by the archive, subtitles obtained from the Netherlands Public Broadcasting system, and tweets from Twitter. The data is stored and indexed for use by an open-source search system.² The user interface is made available on the web-server. Users can interact with the interface over a secure network connection.

Visualization The AVResearcher interface, shown in Figure 2, allows users to issue two search queries and compare the results side-by-side. For each query the user can view:

- The number of broadcasts containing the query terms on a timeline. The hits for each query are visualised on the same timeline, and given a different color. This

¹<https://dev.twitter.com/docs/api>

²We use the Elasticsearch search engine, <http://elasticsearch.org>, which scales to our needs.

allows researchers to see how two given topics (represented by queries) have evolved over time.

- Term clouds of frequently occurring terms in the results, divided into facets from the catalog entries (genres, channels, producers, keywords, and people), as well as words frequently occurring in subtitles and tweets.
- The list of search results used to generate the timeline and term cloud. When users click a search result they can see more details for that particular broadcast.

3. CONCLUSION

AVResearcher is a prototype that addresses the problem of exploring different kinds of broadcast metadata on a large scale. It allows media studies researchers to explore and compare metadata for two different topics in a collection of hundreds of thousands of broadcasts. It includes subtitles and tweets, as well as professional catalog data, and in this way allows media studies researchers to explore spoken content and social chatter about broadcasts. The system is under active development, and will be used to perform user studies aimed at improving archival access. At DIR 2013 we will present the current version of the prototype.

4. REFERENCES

- [1] M. Bron, J. van Gorp, F. Nack, M. de Rijke, and S. de Leeuw. A subjunctive exploratory search interface to support media studies researchers. In *SIGIR '12: 35th international ACM SIGIR conference on Research and development in information retrieval.*, pages 425–434, Portland, Oregon, 2012. ACM, ACM.