



Only the Good Emotional News Mapping

Introduction

Only the Good is an “emotional news mapping” service which attempts to algorithmically sort every major news story into either **good** or **bad** categories.

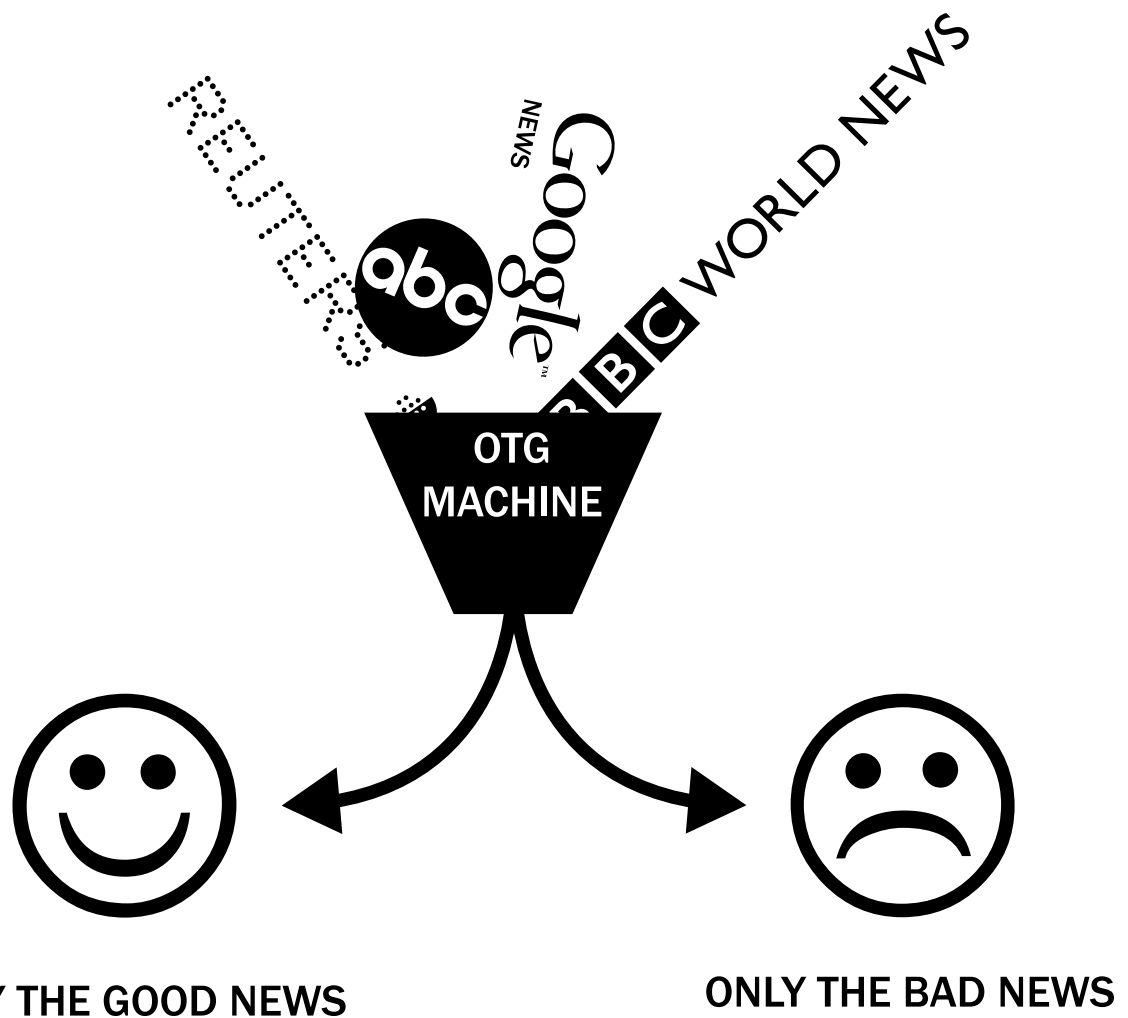
The OTG service helps sidestep a system of increasingly autocratic media production which depends on the emotional hit of a story to compete for readership, blurring the difference between news and entertainment.

The reader can choose to immerse him or herself into **Only the Good** or **Bad** news as desired, emotionally preparing ourselves for each flow: **Only the Good** provides obvious and immediate comfort, while **Only the Bad** feeds our macabre fascination with the misfortunes of strangers or distant disasters, perhaps making our own lives appear more fortunate.



On a broader and long term scale the project allows us to catch a glimpse of the emotional landscape we inhabit through the graphic visualization of an Emotional News Map which shows roller-coaster hills of “good” and valleys of “bad” news. It is this *relative emotion* of one article after another that exerts the most power over the reader – a sudden slide into bad news is suddenly followed by the climb of good news.

Emotional database: How does it work?



Only the Good is based on the automated **lexical analysis** of news headlines, essentially built around trained Bayesian filters which “read” each headline and return a statistical probability of the item registering either a “good” or “bad” emotional hit. A database, on which future predictions are based, is growing with each new headline categorized. The more the system “reads” and interprets permutations of the english language, the more accurate its classifications become. The inevitable mis-categorization occurring because of subtle nuances in language, word-plays, idioms or slang requires an occasional retraining. The ultimate aim is to achieve a system capable of taking in, interpreting and distributing data while self aligning to better serve the process.

Finally, established syndicated news delivery benefits from an intrinsic readers’ trust which in part is founded on shared notions of “objectivity”, but it is clear, observing outcomes of classified Good/Bad headlines that any assumed neutrality is fictional as language itself is constructed through emotional preponderance or prejudice.

The project began in public beta in 2011 and is programmed to function indefinitely, potentially mapping large scale emotional data from the following decade of news.



Images from KVN Neuhausen installation 2011

Technical Requirements



Only the Good is a self-running online web-application which allows for a number of custom feeds for various distinct installations. For example Point-of-sale printers (shown above) which print strips of thermal receipt paper with a selection of the most recent Only the Good or Bad headlines at pre-determined intervals in real-time.

In addition to POS printers, the project has a synthesized radio-voice broadcast, an **Only the Good/Bad** emoticon that can be served to a mobile app, and the Emotional News Mapping Graph for video projection.

Installation Requirement

1 x computer eg. laptop (Mac OR PC) with basic browser software and internet connectivity

Supplied

The artists can provide the POS printers and consumables (rolls of thermal paper)
(Thanks to the support of the KVN Neuhausen, Stuttgart)

Authors' Biographies

Karen ann Donnachie

Born in 1970, London (UK), lives and works in Australia

Donnachie's photographic works have been published in VOGUE (IT), FORM (DE), BABY BABY BABY (MX), ADD!CT (BE), TOKION (USA/JP), QVEST (DE) and many other publications. Exhibitions of photographic, video and algorithmic works include KVN (STUTT GART, DE), SENKO (Viborg, DK), WARM GREY (Paris, FR), UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (Irvine, USA), CCEC (Córdoba, AR), NETMAGE (Bologna, IT). Donnachie lives and works with her partner Andy Simionato in Perth, Western Australia where they publish and curate contemporary net-based art through their "This is a magazine" project and "Atomic Activity Books". She is currently undertaking a PhD (Art) at Curtin University of Technology, WA.

<http://www.thisisamagazine.com>

Andy Simionato

Born in 1968, Marghera (IT), lives and works in Australia

Simionato founded the award-winning experimental online and print publication "This is a magazine" (.com) with Karen ann Donnachie, a project first exhibited at the MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, Arnhem in 2002. Simionato's graphic works have been published in ARCHISTORM (FR), SPOON (FR), VISION (CH), and he has exhibited at SPENCER-BROWNSTONE (New York, USA) amongst others. With Donnachie, he has designed books for the POLITECNICO DI MILANO (IT) and HOCHSCHULE LIECHTENSTEIN (LI) and curated shows at FONDAZIONE MARZOTTA (Milano, IT), CARE/OF (Milano, IT) and SENKO GALLERY (Viborg, DK).

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Antonio Riello

Lives and works in Asiago (IT) and London (UK).

Exhibitions include: BALTIC (Gateshead/NewCastle UK), NGBK (Berlin D), MART (Rovereto I), MUSEE D'ART (Saint Etienne F), KUNSTHALLE WIEN (Vienna A), FONDAZIONE POMODORO (Milano I), PAC (Milano I), PALAZZO DELLE PAPERESSE (Siena I), NEUE GALERIE (Graz A), WOLFSBURG KUNSTVEREIN (Wolfsburg D), GALLERIA CIVICA ARTE CONTEMPORANEA (Palermo I), MUSEO PECCI (Prato I), FREIBURG KUNSTVEREIN (Freiburg D), KIEL KUNSTVEREIN (Kiel D), GALLERIA CIVICA ARTE CONTEMPORANEA (Trento I), BIENNALE ARTE TIRANA 2001 (Tirana AL), WIESBADEN KUNSTVEREIN (Wiesbaden D), BORUSIAN FOUNDATION (Istanbul TR), CHELSEA MUSEUM OF ART (New York USA) ELGIZ MUSEUM (Istanbul TR), XV QUADRIENNALE (Roma I), DER HAUS DER KULTUREN DER WELT (Berlin D), GLOBEGALLERY (NewCastle u Tyne, UK), GAM (Torino, I), 54 BIENNALE VENEZIA (Venezia I) and in many other art institutions and art galleries.

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