CS 6474 Social Computing: Social Media Sites

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Week 4 | September 14, 2016

Project Pitches

"Why we twitter: understanding microblogging usage and communities"

- The first archival, peer-reviewed paper on Twitter
- Investigation of the purposes behind microblog use
- Findings:
  - Users with similar intentions and interested form communities, or are "clustered"
  - People either talk about daily activities, or seek or share information – finer roles were examined compared to the Naaman et al paper: Daily Chatter, Conversations, Information Sharing, News

- Twitter's growth showed monotonic increase over time for the dataset analyzed, and its user retention was consistent
- In-degree and out-degree distributions followed expected hevay tailed distributions

"Is It Really About Me?: Message Content in Social Awareness Streams"

- Analysis of communication patterns on Twitter (tweet content analysis)
- Both qualitative (hand coding of messages) and quantitative methods used
- Findings indicate the presence of two kinds of individuals: "meformers" and "informers"
  - Meformers garner more mentions, informers garner more retweets
  - Informers have more followers, meformers are more women and mobile users

Java et al. talk about Twitter's social network being clustered. What benefits does a clustered network bring to its members? What are its pitfalls?

Java et al. also talk about the different roles and intent of content seeking and sharing on Twitter. What are some of those intentions?

Why is it useful/important after all, for us to learn about different uses of Twitter?

How accurately do "meformers" and "informers" capture intent behind information sharing on Twitter? *Point to note: the paper is from 2010-11, could other intent have emerged over the years? Examples: media sharing, Q&A*

With the emergence of smartphones, Instagram etc., people are likely to take moment-to-moment pictures of things happening around them. Does it mean we are seeing emergence of information-sharing "meformers"?

Is taking "selfies" meforming?

Micro assignment: What is a social networking site?