Text and Document Visualization 1

CS 7450 - Information Visualization March 15, 2011 John Stasko

Text is Everywhere

• We use documents as primary information artifact in our lives

- Our access to documents has grown tremendously in recent years due to networking infrastructure
 - -WWW
 - Digital libraries

- ...

Big Question

 What can information visualization provide to help users in understanding and gathering information from text and document collections?

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Tasks/Goals

 What kinds of analysis questions might a person ask about text & documents?

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Example Tasks & Goals

- Which documents contain text on topic XYZ?
- Which documents are of interest to me?
- Are there other documents that are similar to this one (so they are worthwhile)?
- How are different words used in a document or a document collection?
- What are the main themes and ideas in a document or a collection?
- Which documents have an angry tone?
- How are certain words or themes distributed through a document?
- Identify "hidden" messages or stories in this document collection.
- How does one set of documents differ from another set?
- Quickly gain an understanding of a document or collection in order to subsequently do XYZ.
- Find connections between documents.

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Related Topic - IR

- Information Retrieval
 - Active search process that brings back particular/specific items (will discuss that some today, but not always focus)
 - I think InfoVis and HCI can help some...
- InfoVis, conversely, seems to be most useful when
 - Perhaps not sure precisely what you're looking for
 - More of a browsing task than a search one

Related Topic - Sensemaking

- Sensemaking
 - Gaining a better understanding of the facts at hand in order to take some next steps
 - (Better definitions in VA lecture)
- InfoVis can help make a large document collection more understandable more rapidly

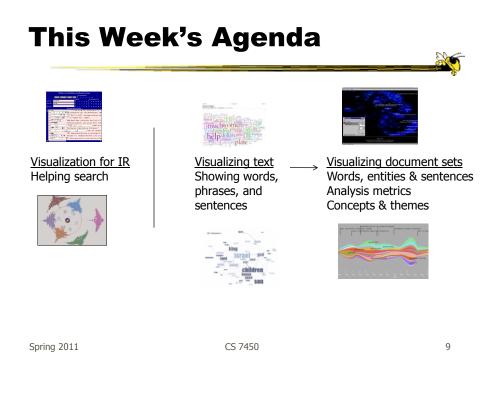
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Challenge

- Text is nominal data
 - Does not seem to map to geometric/graphical presentation as easily as ordinal and quantitative data
- The "Raw data --> Data Table" mapping now becomes more important

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4





- Can InfoVis help IR?
- Assume there is some active search or query
 - Show results visually
 - Show how query terms relate to results

- ...

Improving Text Searches

- What's wrong with the common search?
- Visualizing the results of search operations is another big area in text infovis

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What Hearst Thinks is Wrong

- Query responses do not include include:
 - How strong the match is
 - How frequent each term is
 - How each term is distributed in the document
 - Overlap between terms
 - Length of document
- Document ranking is opaque
- Inability to compare between results
- Input limits term relationships

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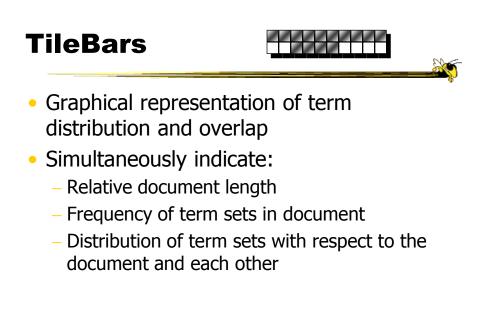
TileBars

Goal

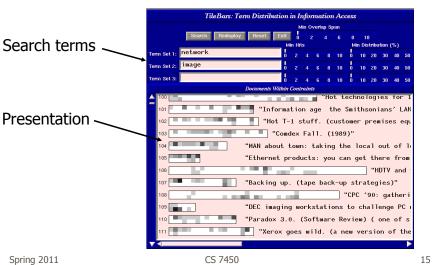
 Minimize time and effort for deciding which documents to view in detail

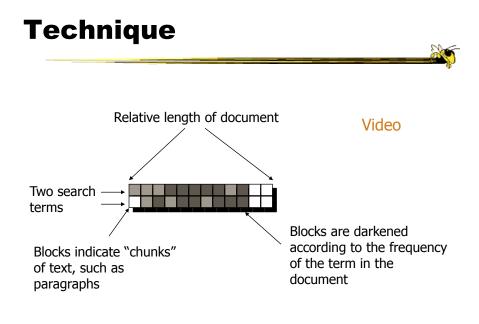
- Idea
 - Show the role of the query terms in the retrieved documents, making use of document structure

Hearst CHI '95
13



Interface





Issues

- Horizontal alignment doesn't match mental model
- May not be the best solution for web searches
 - Non-linear material
 - Images? Java apps?
- Anything else?

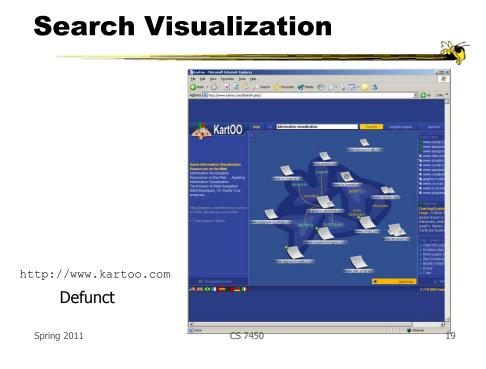
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Generalize More

- How about the "holy grail" of a visual search engine?
 Hot idea for a while
- My personal view: It's a mistake in the general case. Text is just better for this.

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Sparkler

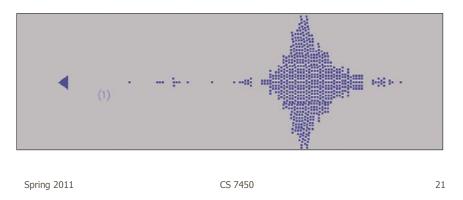
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- Abstract result documents more
- Show "distance" from query in order to give user better feel for quality of match(es)
- Also shows documents in responses to multiple queries

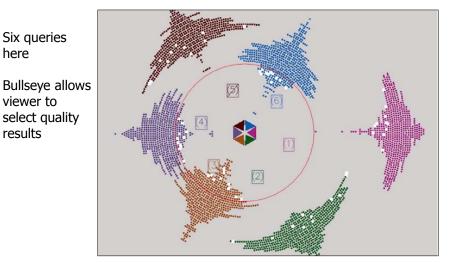
Havre et al InfoVis `01

Visualizing One Query

- Triangle query
- Square document
- Distance between query and documents represents their relevance



Visualizing Multiple Queries

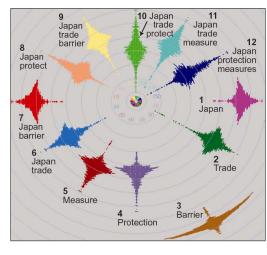


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Test Example



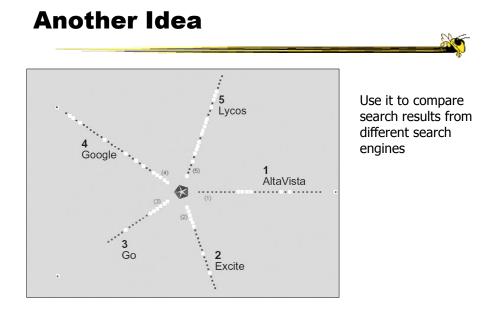
- Text Retrieval Conference (TREC-3) test document collection
- AP news stories from June 24–30, 1990
- TREC topic: Japan
 Protectionist Measures
- Sparkler found 16 of 17 relevant documents



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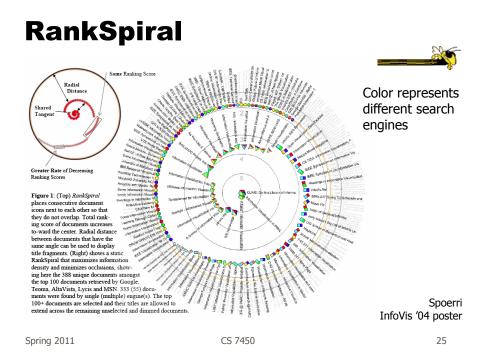
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23

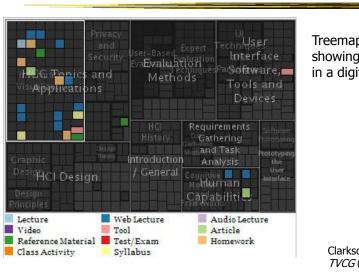


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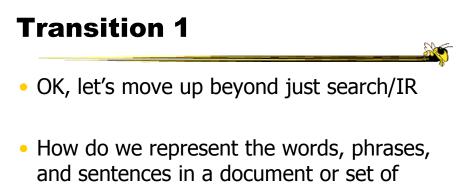


Treemap-style vis for showing query results in a digital library

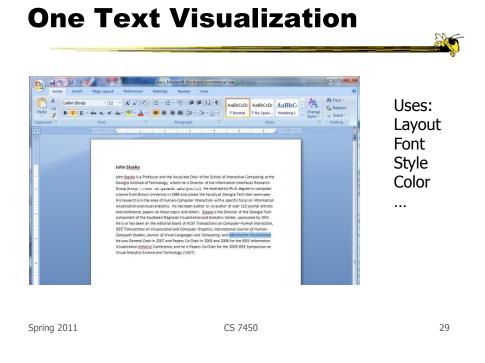
> Clarkson, Desai & Foley *TVCG* (InfoVis) '09

To Learn More

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documents? – Main goal of *understanding* versus search





- Currently very "hot" in research community
- Have proven to be very popular on web
- Idea is to show word/concept importance through visual means
 - Tags: User-specified metadata (descriptors) about something
 - Sometimes generalized to just reflect word frequencies

History

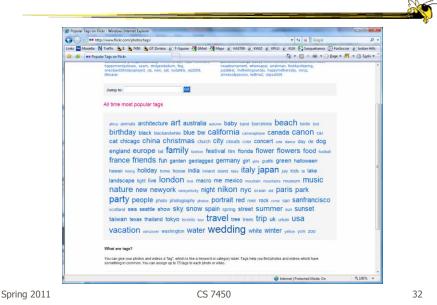
- 90-year old Soviet Constructivism
- Milgram's `76 experiment to have people label landmarks in Paris
- Flanagan's '97 "Search referral Zeitgeist"
- Fortune's '01 Money Makes the World Go Round

	Viégas & Wattenberg interactions `08
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31

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Flickr Tag Cloud





Alternate Order





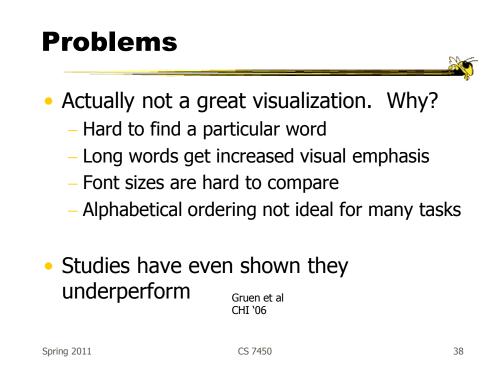
Sidenote

There are other types of info about a document on Amazon

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Syllables per Word:	1.8	76% have fewer	24% have more		
Words per Sentence:	17.9	59% have fewer	41% have more		
Number of					Ŧ
Characters: 7	788,463	84% have fewer	16% have more		
Words: 1	123,074	84% have fewer	16% have more		
Sentences:	6,883	79% have fewer	21% have more		
Fun stats					
Words per Dollar:	2,080				
Words per Ounce:	3,344				

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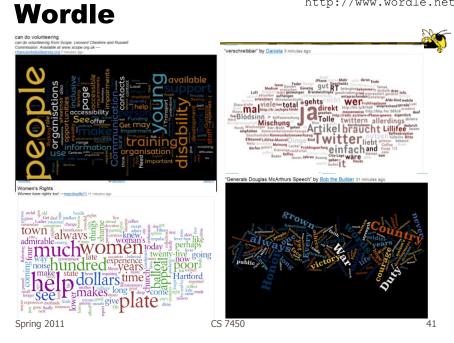
Why So Popular?

- Serve as social signifiers that provide a friendly atmosphere that provide a point of entry into a complex site
- Act as individual and group mirrors
- Fun, not business-like

		earst & Rosner ICSS '08
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http://www.socialsignal.com/system/files/images/2008-08-01-tagcloud.gif

http://www.wordle.net



Wordle

• Tightly packed words, sometimes vertical or diagonal

- Word size is linearly correlated with frequency (typically square root in cloud)
- Multiple color palettes
- User gets some control

Viegas, Wattenberg, & Feinberg TVCG (InfoVis) '09

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Layout Algorithm

Details not published

• Idea:

- sort words by weight, decreasing order for each word w
 w.position := makeInitialPosition(w); while w intersects other words: updatePosition(w);
- Init position randomly chosen according to distribution for target shape
- Update position moves out radially

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Fun Uses

- Political speeches
- Songs and poems
- Love letters (for "boyfriend points")
- Wedding vows
- Course syllabi
- Teaching writing
- Gifts

2-day Survey in Jan. 09

- 2/3 respondents were women
- Interest came from design, visual appeal, beauty
- Why preferred over word clouds:
 - Emotional impact
 - Attention-keeping visuals
 - Organic, non-linear
- Fair percentage didn't know what size signified

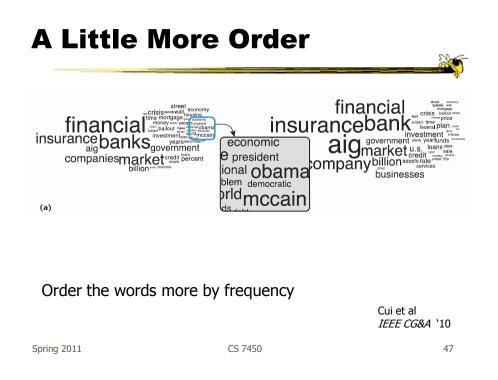
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Wordle Characteristics

- Layout, words are automatic
- If you had some control, what would you like to change or alter?

Mani-Wordle

- Start with nice default algorithm
- Give user more control over design
 - Alter color (within a palette)
 - Pin words, redo the rest
 - Move and rotate words
 - Smooth animation and collision detection for tracking changes

	Koh et al <i>TVCG</i> (InfoVis) `10
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Video



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Analytic Support

- Note: Word Clouds and Wordles are really more overview-style visualizations
 - Don't really support queries, searches, drilldown
- How might we also support queries and search?

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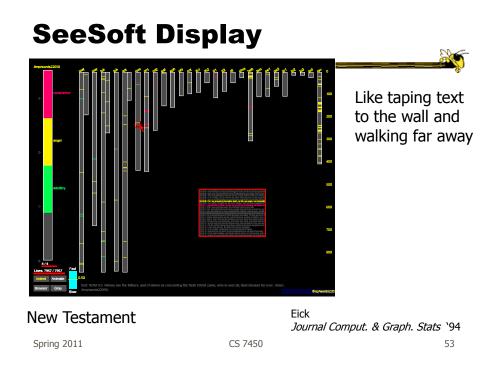
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Overview & Timeline

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Beyond Individual Words

 Can we show combinations of words, phrases, and sentences?

Concordance



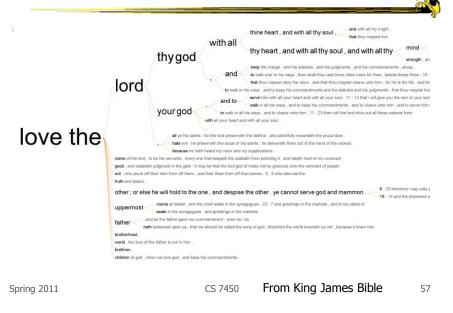
Concordance in Text

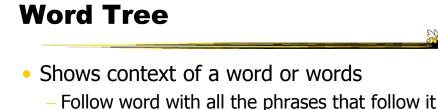
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AT-HAZE	6	These I would choose my	heart	to lead	After-Dinner F	17
EAT-HAZE		Time in his little cinema of the	heart		Time and Space	Index
EATS	1	This petrified	heart	has taken,	A Stone Churc	×
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http://www.concordancesoftware.co.uk

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Word Tree

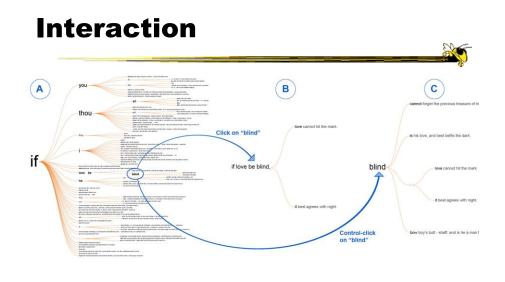




- Font size shows frequency of appearance
- Continue branch until hitting unique phrase
- Clicking on phrase makes it the focus
- Ordered alphabetically, by frequency, or by first appearance

Wattenberg & Viégas *TVCG* (InfoVis) '08

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Many Eyes' WordTree

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In Many Eyes now

Phrase Nets



- Examine unstructured text documents
- Presents pairs of terms from phrases such as
 - X and Y
 - -X's Y
 - X at Y
 - X (is|are|was|were) Y
- Uses special graph layout algorithm with compression and simplification

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van Ham et al *TVCG* (InfoVis) '09 61

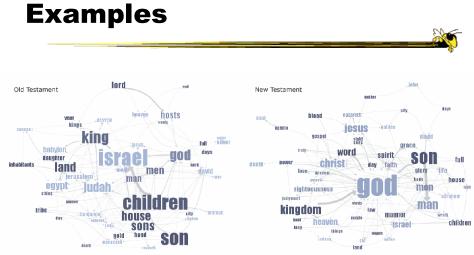


Fig 4. Matching the same pattern on different texts. Here we used the pattern "X of Y" to compare the old and new testaments. Israel takes a central place in the Old Testament, while God acts as the main pattern receiver in the New Testament.

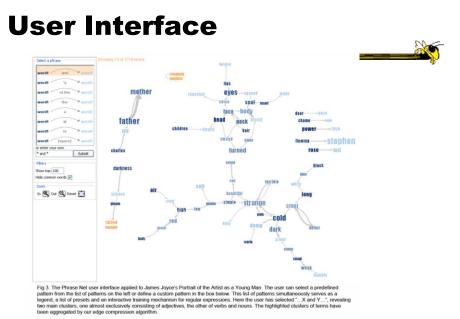
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Examples



Fig 5. Matching different patterns on the same text. Here we analyzed Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* with "X and Y" and "X at Y" respectively. The left image shows relationships between the main characters amongst others, while the right image shows relationships between locations.

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Another Challenge

- Visualize an entire book
- What does that mean?
 - Word appearances
 - Sentences

- ...

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http://textarc.org

TextArc

 Item for the other interaction of the ot

Next Time

- More about collections of documents and showing other characteristics of documents
 - Analysis metrics
 - Entities
 - Concepts & themes

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Upcoming

Text and Documents 2

 Reading

Keim & Oelke '07

• Spring Break

Visual Analytics 1

 Reading
 Keim et al `08



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References

- Marti Hearst's i247 slides
- All referred to papers

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