News for the people?

Mor Naaman
Rutgers SC&I
“A squirrel dying in front of your house may be more relevant to your interests right now than people dying in Africa.”

-- Mark, age 24
Does social media help news generation and consumption in a way that is an improvement to society?

Why do we need journalists?
What did journalists do for me lately?
Gathering and sharing information
Making sense of the world
Deciding about what matters
Giving light to information in a way that supports democracy
Real news—reporting done for citizens instead of consumers—is a public good.

-- Clay Shirky
Journalists in social media

Reporting
Verification
Context
Analysis
Tools that allow participation
Editors in social media

Guidance

Selection
Tools for journalism

Detecting and covering breaking events
Filtering tools
Validating information
Finding and evaluating sources
Help dissemination and discussion

...
Event tools for journalism

What would a journalist ask of Twitter?

E.g., in event context

  Tendency to cover “decisive moments”, divergent points of view, audience criticism/applause

Newsworthiness: favors surprising, unusual, good / bad
earthquakes
Keywords: earthquake
Event dates: Aug. 9, 2010, 7:18 p.m. - Sept. 6, 2010, 6 p.m.

Message Frequency

Relevant Tweets
Suffering from floods in Pakistan could exceed total in 3 disasters the 2004 tsunami, 2005 earthquake & 2010 Haiti earthquake - United Nations

RT @SajjK: People suffering exceeds 13 million more than combined total of 2004 Tsunami, 2005 Kashmir Earthquake & 2010 Haiti Earthquake...

"Through the shake of an earthquake I will never fall... That's how strong my love is..."

Popular Links

Overall Sentiment
positive: 56.6%
negative: 43.4%
*Physical World* Events

#in10years vs. #jan25 vs...

@waxpancake

Andy Baio

If Twitter had trending topics for Portland, #rain would be our Justin Bieber.

(Becker et al., ICWSM 2011)
Filtering tools
In summary

We shape our tools, and thereafter our tools shape us.

-- Marshall McLuhan

“Everyone can speak but no one can be heard”

-- Yochai Benkler
mornaaman.com
@informor

With thanks to Nick Diakopoulos

socialmediainformationlab
http://sm.rutgers.edu