



THRESHER VENTURES

FIND THE WORDS THAT MATTER.

Lead investigator

- Dr. Patrick Lam: Harvard-trained data scientist; specialist in causal and statistical inference, and machine learning

Team

- Dr. Gary King: Harvard University Professor and Director of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science
- Rebecca Fair: Thresher Ventures CEO and former CIA analytic manager and management consultant



Thresher Ventures' Software:

- Improves query expansion for unstructured text in any language where search and web logs are unavailable or irrelevant (i.e. automated and interactive query expansion).
 - No machine translation required.
 - Can identify related documents in different Arabic dialects.
- Combines old and new natural language processing techniques with machine learning to create a novel approach to keyword recommendation designed specifically for expert analysts in high volume data sets.
- Has patent-pending technology at its core with new methods developed by Dr. King and Dr. Lam based on customers' needs.



Thresher Ventures Offers:

- A product that has been used to improve queries to mine unstructured text in English, Arabic, Chinese and Farsi to find all of the relevant posts on a targeted topic.
 - The tool works particularly well in helping expert analysts identify slang, code words or creative language that signifies relevant discussions.
 - Example: Chinese authors used characters that looked almost identical to freedom to evade automated review.
 - 自由 “Freedom”
 - 目田 “Eye field” (nonsensical)
 - See King, Pan, and Roberts 2014. Reverse-engineering censorship in China: Randomized experimentation and participant observation, *Science* 345, no. 6199.
- A diverse team with experience in data science, forecasting international conflict, multiple languages, and intelligence.



Thresher Ventures Seeks to...

...use our software to help teams find words that will:

- help teams narrow down the input data to a usable set.
- help teams ensure they have all of the relevant data for their predictive models.

Thresher's team also has experience in methods for forecasting, including for civil war, state failure and international conflict. We are willing to assist teams in model design.

- See bit.ly/1FkaHnf



Contact Information

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