

SoMe Tools for Social Media Research

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Abstract

The Social Media Lab at UW (SoMeLab.net) has been collecting tweets related to the Occupy Movement since October 2011. This poster presents the challenges that we as well as other social scientists have faced when conducting social media research. These unique challenges span technical, methodological, and ethical issues that are not often foregrounded in the academic literature. We describe our progress and experiences addressing these issues and describe the development of our data collection, processing, and analysis toolkit. The SoMe Lab was recently awarded a \$1 million NSF grant to develop an open source toolkit to make it feasible for non-technical researchers to conduct similar social media research.

Keywords: social media, big data, methods, open source, Twitter
