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## Usage of Conventions in Twitter

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## Usage of conventions in Twitter

1. Authors: Emily Lee, Lauren Groeper, Hassanein Ahmed, Alec Siglin
2. Questions
  - a. Abstract: There are three conventions in Twitter to make Twitter more convenient for users. These conventions are the Hashtag (#), URL, and RT. Hashtag format is #. It describes the general topic of a twitter message. For example, if someone wrote a twitter message and put # Obama then that twitter message is written about Obama. Also as each Twitter message has a limit of 140 characters, twitter users use a URL to expand their stories from linked URL. RT means retweeting and this is quoting another twitter message. It is usually done by writing message @, someone's name, and original message. In this report we are going to describe the use of these three conventions in political messages v. non-political messages.
  - b. Concrete: First of all we compare one political topic (Obama) and two non-political topics (Aaliyah and Setembro) by the number of tweets they have in order to find the convention usage of each topic. Then, we calculate the percentages (convention/total # of tweets) to compare them.
3. Procedures
  - a. Search Engines:
    - We used [www.archivist.visitmix.com](http://www.archivist.visitmix.com) to get number of tweets of each topic.
    - We also used Google to find information about our non-political topics.
  - b. Language Search: English
  - c. Timing of Search: 09-10-2010, 10:30am~11:20am (50 minutes)
  - d. Anything else relevant:
    - Aaliyah was an American recording artist, actress and model. She died Aug 25, 2001.
    - Setembro is the independence day of Brazil commonly known as sete de Setembro.
4. Answer
  - a. First, we searched each topic's convention usage and then found the percentage of conventions usage per total tweets in order to compare topics. Table b contains the results. We also found that 18 different languages were used for the political topic, Barack Obama, and that many of the messages were about Sudan, the Political Act, and following Obama. In the non-political topics, Aaliyah's tweet contained seven different languages and the messages were centered on sympathy pertaining to her death. Four different languages were used in Setembro's messages and we could not understand the messages because there were no English messages included. Portuguese was the main language used.
  - b. Numbers

	Obama	Aaliyah	Setembro
Hashtags(#)	743/2635=66.1%	35/102=34.3%	2/20=10%
URL	754/2635=28.6%	9/102=8.8%	3/20=15%

RT(retweet)	$804/2635=30.5\%$	$23/102=22.5\%$	$3/20=15\%$
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- c. Our group's two non-political topics were not hot topics to compare with our political topic Obama. Therefore, the total number of tweets between our political topic, Obama, and non-political topics, Aaliyah and Setembro, contrasted. However, if we compare the percentages, Obama used almost fifty percent more hashtags than the two non-political topics. All three topics did not use URLs that much, but still the political topic used 13.6% more than Setembro and 19.8% more than Aaliyah. However, retweet results were a little different. Obama had 30.5%, compared to Aaliyah, with 22.5%, and Setembro, with 15%. Retweet results did not result in as much of a dramatic difference compared with the other conventions. Though, in conclusion, the political topic generally used more conventions such as hashtags, URL, and RT than the non-political topics.
5. Data file reference
- a. Wikipedia
  - b. Google search
  - c. Archivist