



Evaluating Visual Analytics Systems for Investigative Analysis: Deriving Design Principles from a Case Study

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Visual Analytics for Investigative Analysis

- Research focus on system building and techniques
- Challenges in evaluation

Related Work

- Utility evaluation for visual analytic tools (Bier et. al, 2008; Perer & Shneiderman, 2008)
- Qualitative study of intelligent analysis practices (Chin et. al, 2009; Robinson, 2008)
- Evaluation metrics and methodologies (Scholtz, 2006)



Goals

Can Visual Analytics assist investigative analysis

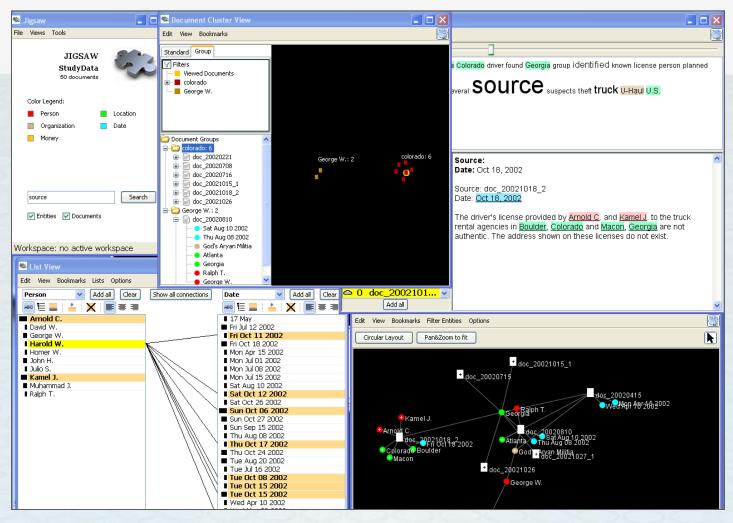
- How do people use systems?
- What characteristics matter?

Explore evaluation methods

- Utility evaluation
- What should we measure/observe?



Jigsaw





J. Stasko, C. Görg, and Z. Liu. Jigsaw: supporting investigative analysis through interactive visualization. *Information Visualization*, 7(2):118–132, 2008, http://www.cc.gatech.odu/gray/ii/iigsaw: 7(2):118–132, 2008. http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/ii/jigsaw

Study Design

Task and dataset

- 50 simulated intelligence case reports
 - Each a few sentences long
 - 23 were relevant to plot
- Identify the threat & describe it in 90 minutes

Source: doc017

Date: Oct 22, 2002

Abu H., who was released from custody after the September 11 incidents and whose fingerprints were found in the U-Haul truck rented by Arnold C. [see doc033] holds an Egyptian passport. He is now known to have spent six months in Afghanistan in the summer of 1999.

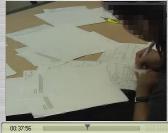
Study Design - Settings

1: Paper









2: Desktop









3: Entity









4: Jigsaw

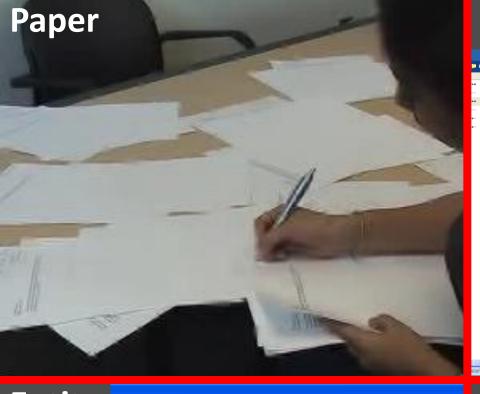


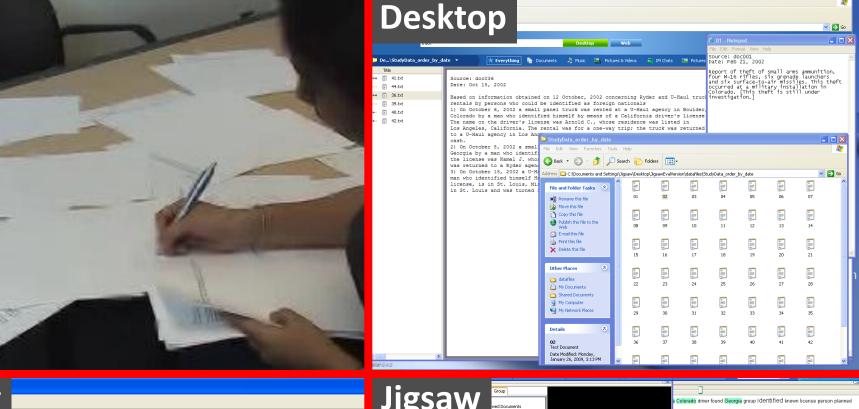














Source: Date: Oct 15, 2002

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2 doc 20021015.

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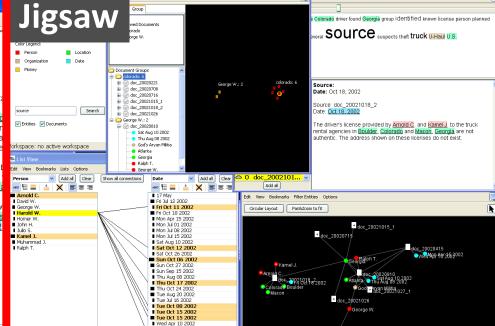
Date: Oct 15, 2002 Based on information obtained on <u>12 October, 2002</u> concerning Ryder and U-Haul truck renta

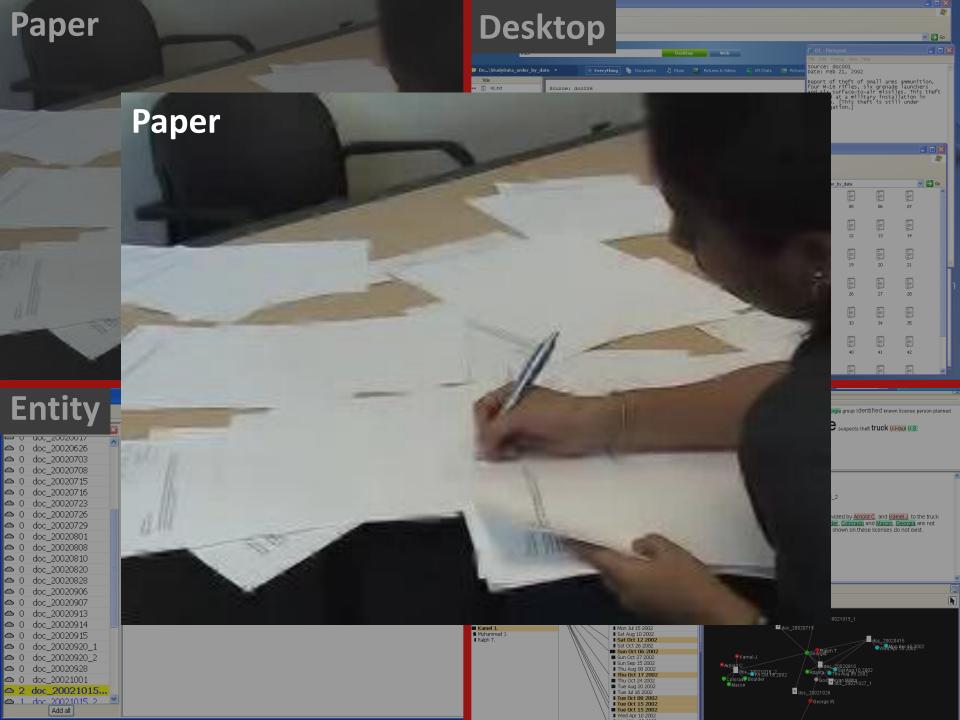
persons who could be identified as foreign nationals

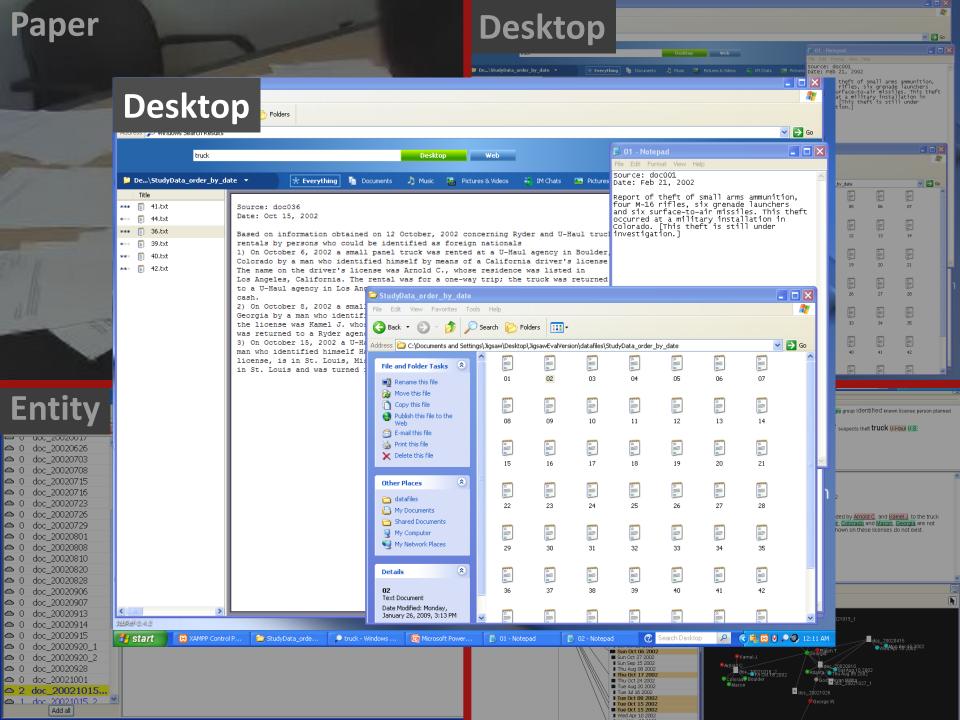
1) On October 6, 2002 a small panel truck was rented at a U-Haul agency in Boulder, Colorad who identified himself by means of a <u>California</u> driver's license. The name on the driver's licer Arnold C., whose residence was listed in Los Angeles, California. The rental was for a one-wa truck was returned to a U-Haul agency in Los Angeles on 9 October, 2002. Mr. C. paid for the

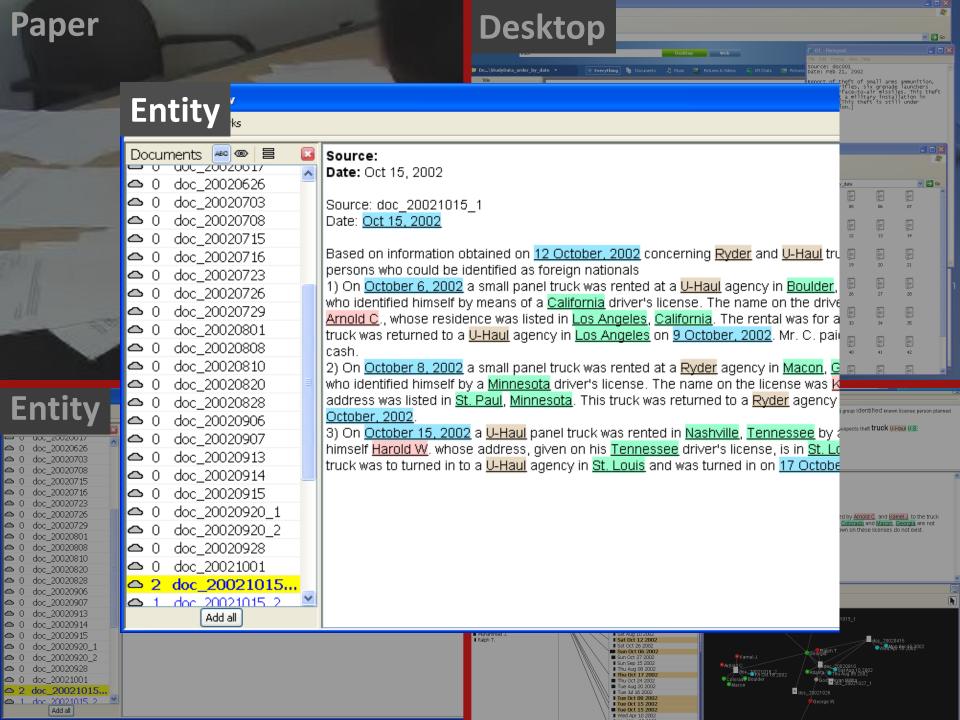
2) On October 8, 2002 a small panel truck was rented at a Ryder agency in Macon, Georgia who identified himself by a Minnesota driver's license. The name on the license was Kamel J. address was listed in St. Paul, Minnesota. This truck was returned to a Ryder agency in St. Pa

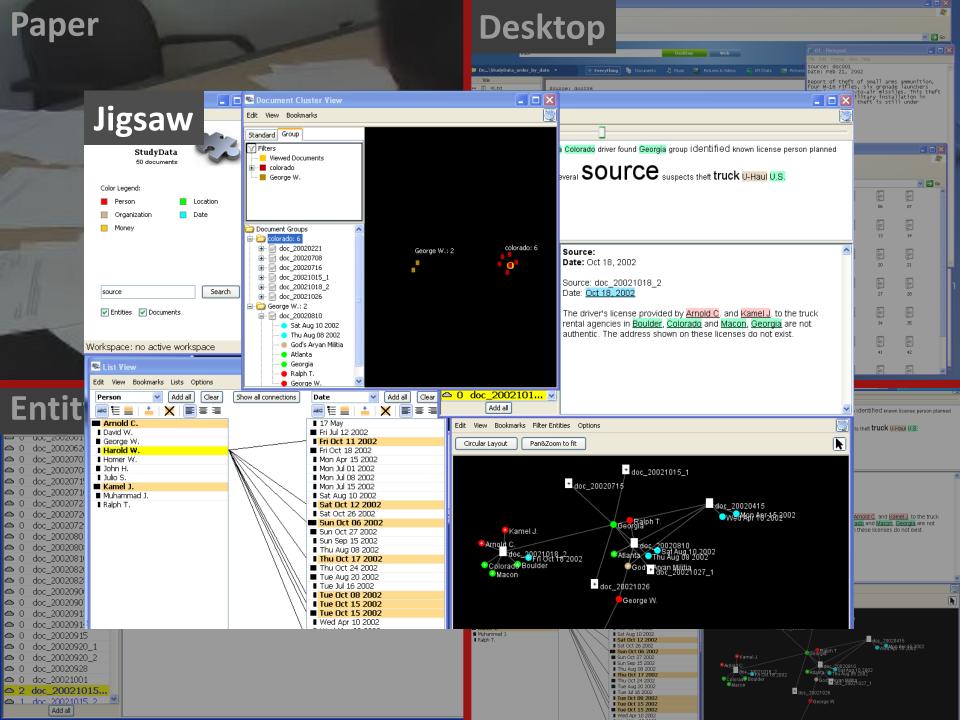
3) On October 15, 2002 a U-Haul panel truck was rented in Nashville, Tennessee by a man w himself Harold W. whose address, given on his Tennessee driver's license, is in St. Louis, Mis truck was to turned in to a U-Haul agency in St. Louis and was turned in on 17 October, 2002











Performance Measures

- Task sheets (like VAST Contest)
 - Three components (relevant people, events, locations)
 - +1 for correct items, -1 for a misidentified items
- Summary narrative
 - Subjective grading from 1 (low) to 7 (high)

Two external raters

Normalized, each part equal, mapped to 100-point scale



Results

		Pa	per	356	38	Des	ktop		383	En	tity			Jigs	saw	
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
Final Score	22.87	65.00	24.26	87.08	62.08	67.13	42.13	29.41	52.23	15.00	29.26	81.19	95.05	58.07	75.20	90.00
Performance	Fair	Very good	Fair	Excel- lent	Very good	Very good	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Excel- lent	Excel- lent	Good	Very good	Excel- lent
Average Score		49.	80			50	.19			44	.42			79.	.59	
Documents Viewed	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	31	45	50	31	50	46	23
# of Queries		35.		3	19	18	48	8	23	61	59	91	44	4	26	8
First Query				DC.	40:49	19:55	2:47	12:41	1:31	0:29	0:59	3:12	0:18	5:35	25:37	4:18
Amount of Notes	Many	None	Many	Some	Many	Some	Few	Some	Some	None	None	Few	Some	Few	Few	Few
First Note Taking	0:07		0:05	0:16	1:53	19:57	2:47	8:20	2:37			3:14	0:48	0:32	5:15	78:45
First Task Sheet	43:20	32:53	70:13	3:25	61:35	20:26	7:33	64:11	28:09	0:52	2:55	7:20	48:26	41:48	43:00	5:33

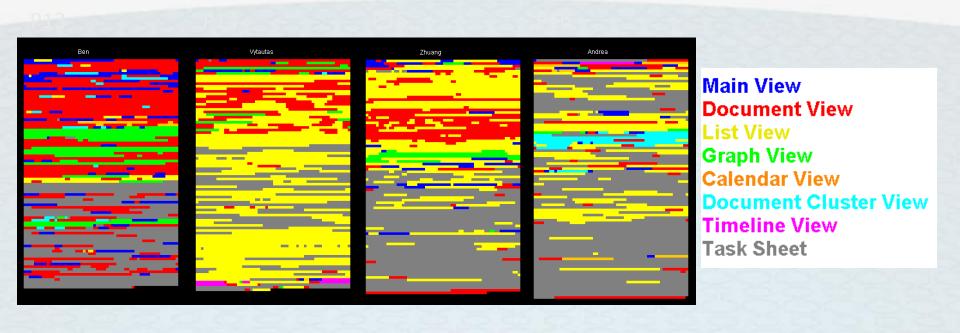


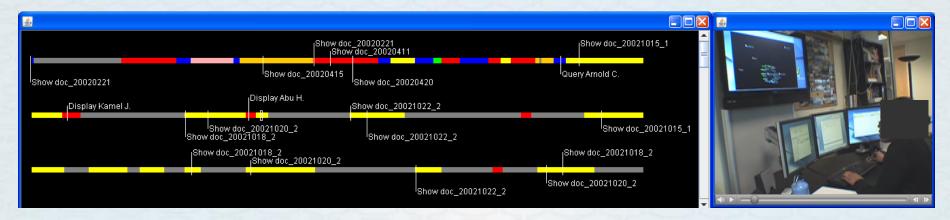
Results

					5851											
255		Pa	per	256	38	Des	ktop		383	En	tity			Jigs	saw	
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
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Jigsaw Usage Patterns





Investigative Analysis Strategies

- 1. Overview, filter and detail (OFD)
- 2. Build from detail (BFD)
- 3. Hit the keyword (HTK)
- 4. Find a clue, follow the trail (FCFT)

P16: "I like this people-first approach. Once I identify key people, then things that are potentially important come up, too. I'm an impatient person and don't want to read all documents chronologically."



		Paper P1 P2 P3 P4		Desktop					En	tity		Jigsaw				
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
Strategy Used	OFD	OFD	BFD	OFD	OFD	OFD	FCFT	BFD	BFD	HTK	HTK	FCFT	FCFT	HTK	OFD	FCFT
Performance	Fair	Very good	Fair	Excel- lent	Very good	Very good	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Excel- lent	Excel- lent	Good	Very good	Excel- lent
Documents Viewed	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	31	45	50	31	50	46	23



					252											
		Pa	per			Des	ktop			En	tity			Jigs	saw	
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
Strategy Used	OFD	OFD	BFD	OFD	OFD	OFD	FCFT	BFD	BFD	HTK	HTK	FCFT	FCFT	HTK	OFD	FCFT
Performance	Fair	Very good	Fair	Excel- lent	Very good	Very good	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Excel- lent	Excel- lent	Good	Very good	Excel- lent
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Documents Viewed	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	31	45	50	31	50	46	23



					565											
		Pa	per			Des	ktop			En	tity			Jigs	saw	
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
Strategy Used	OFD	OFD	BFD	OFD	OFD	OFD	FCFT	BFD	BFD	HTK	HTK	FCFT	FCFT	HTK	OFD	FCFT
Performance	Fair	Very good	Fair	Excel- lent	Very good	Very good	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Excel- lent	Excel- lent	Good	Very good	Excel- lent
Documents Viewed	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	49	31	45	50	31	50	46	23



Observations on Sensemaking

Diversity in the process

 In relation to Card & Pirolli's Think Loop Model of Sensemaking

Power of schematizing

P12: There were a couple of themes that kept popping up. And so I think I was more mentally taking notes about those and then once I started feeling there were too many references and things got intertwined in my head, I started using these task sheets to drop them down and organizing.

Insight acquisition



Design Implications for IA Tools

- Support finding starting points/clues
- Guide the analyst to follow the right trail
- Support different strategies of SM process
- Support smooth transition between SM stages
- Provide a workspace
- Allow flexibility in organizing
- Support to find next steps when dead-end
- Facilitate further exploration



Design Implications for IA Tools

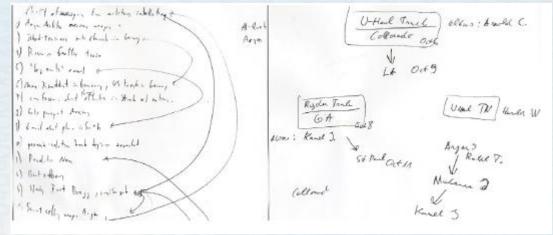
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Jigsaw's Influence

- Supporting different strategies
- Showing connections between entities
- Helping users find the right clue
- Helping users focus on essential information
- Reviewing hypotheses
- Increasing motivation

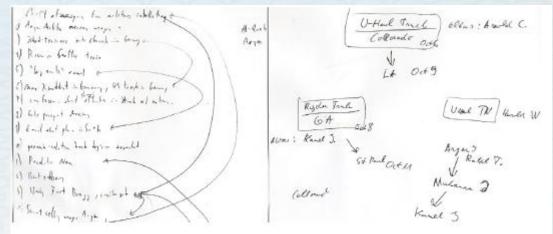




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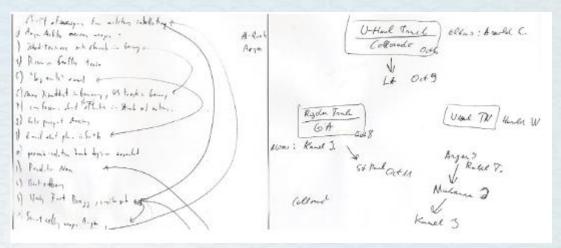




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Evaluation Implications for IA tools

- Compare system usage to traditional methods
- Collect qualitative data, support with quantitative data
- Consider questions to be answered
- Possible metrics
 - Number of documents viewed
 - When note-taking initiated
 - The quantity of representations created
 - Amount of time and effort in organizing
 - Time spent in reading/processing relevant information



Conclusion

Contribution

- Provides an experimental design and methodology
- Explains how visualization added analytic benefit
- Describes four analytic strategies employed
- Identifies design suggestions and capabilities
- Suggests evaluation metrics and qualitative factors

Future work

Study with domain experts



Acknowledgements

- The National Visualization and Analytics Center (NVACTM), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Program, under the auspices of the Southeast Regional Visualization and Analytics Center
- National Science Foundation under awards IIS-0915788 and CCF-0808863 (FODAVA lead)





Study Limitations

- Student analysts
- Small sample size
- Other systems not compared
- Small document collection
- Lack of experience and training
- Only a targeting scenario



Task Sheets

[.t.]

1. WHO: who are the players engaging in questionable activities in the plot(s)? When appropriate, specify the association/organization they are associated with...

#	-1						
	*Name	Associated organization.	Involved in ↓ illegal activities? (Yes/No).₁	Involved in terrorist activities? ↓ (Yes/No)	Most relevant source files (5 MAX)	Notes .,	.1
	⁼g,g, John doe .₁	.1	Yes.	Yes.	FBI_1, FBI_2.	.1	.1
	್ಲ್ಯg, Mary Smith.,	.1	Yes.	No.1	.1	.1	.1
	.1	.1	.1	л	a	.1	.1
	.1	а	л	.1	.1	.1	.1

*2. WHEN WHAT: What events occurred during this time frame that are most relevant to the plot(s)? ...

Provide a text list of events following the sample layout. Use short description (i.e. one or 2 lines per event).
Provide what you think is the best subset of events (20 events MAX)...

+++					
	a	Date ↓ (Can be a range).	Event description.	Most relevance source files ↓ (5 Max).,	.1
	1.,	e.g. 11/4/1789. ₁	e.g. Citizens take control of the Bastille	CIA_4, Image 2.,	.1
	2.1	а	a	.1	.1
	3.,	а	a	.1	.1
	4.1	a	a	a	.1