

#ww1. The Great War on Twitter

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A corpus of (yet) two million tweets

- April 2014-April 2016
- 2 096 968 tweets
 - Few noise but #11Nov #Somme #Verdun
 - 730 111 without retweets
- 542 570 accounts
 - Of all sorts
 - Individuals, memorybased institutions, media, research projects, bots...

- 124 424 hashtags

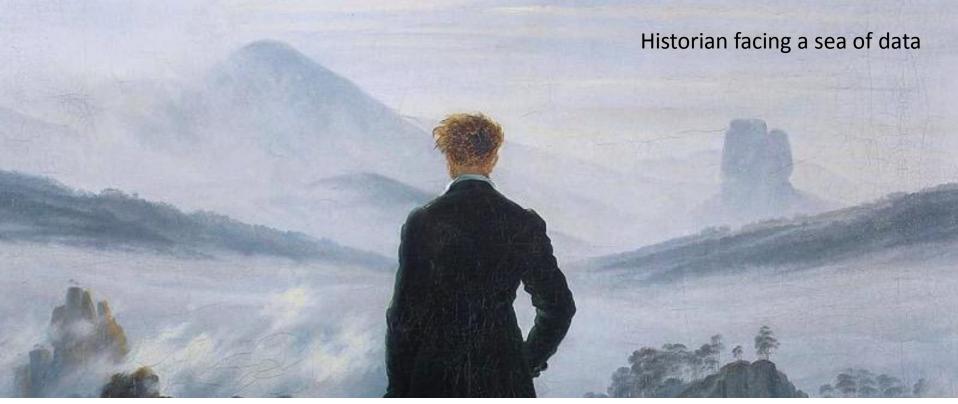
- 54 566 just once in the database
- 107 047 ten times or less in the database

Harvesting still on-going

 With the 1916 battles commemoration (Verdun / Somme): 2.8 million.

Technical infrastructure

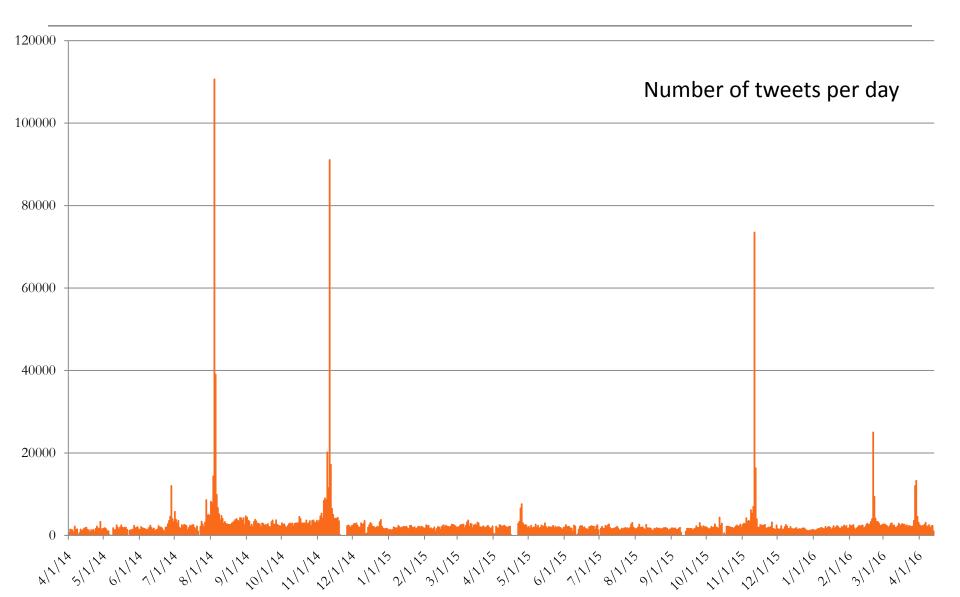
- LAMP server
- PHP script: 140dev
 - Connects to Twitter Public Streaming API
 - Collect tweets based on keywords (#ww1, #1gm, #ewk and many others)
 - Parse JSON into MySQL
- Export to CSV for data analyses
 - No «real time» analysis



How to read two millions tweets?

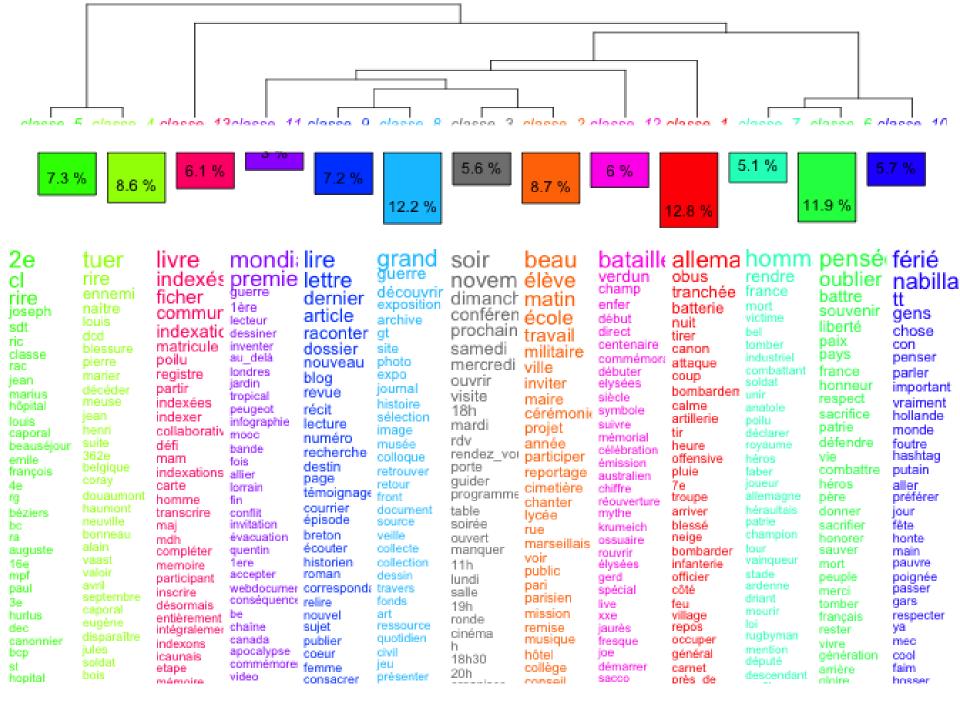


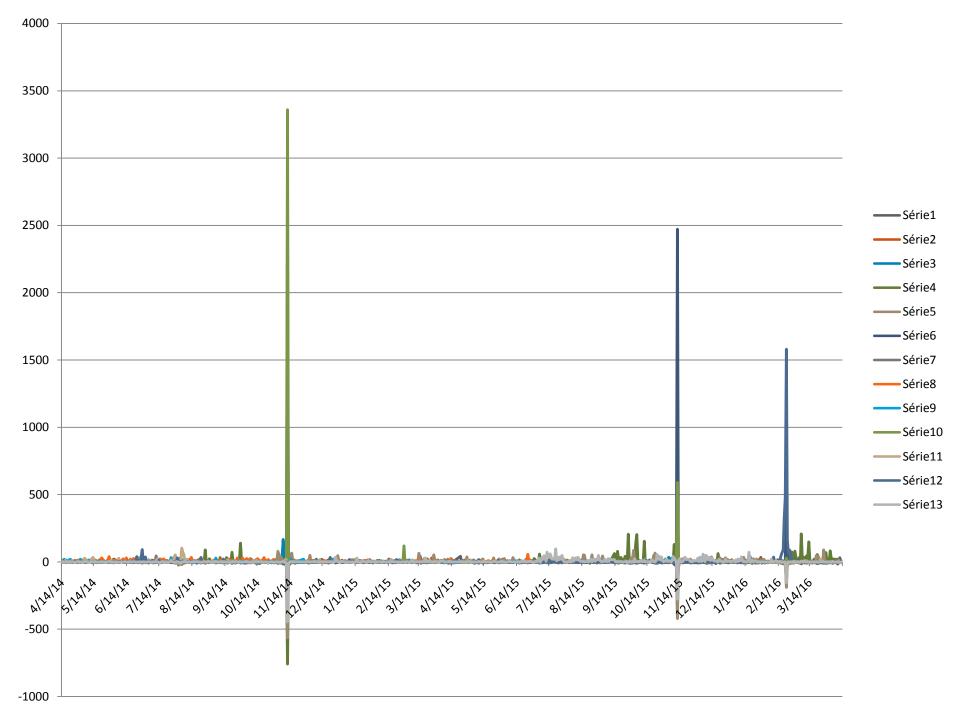
Basic statistics



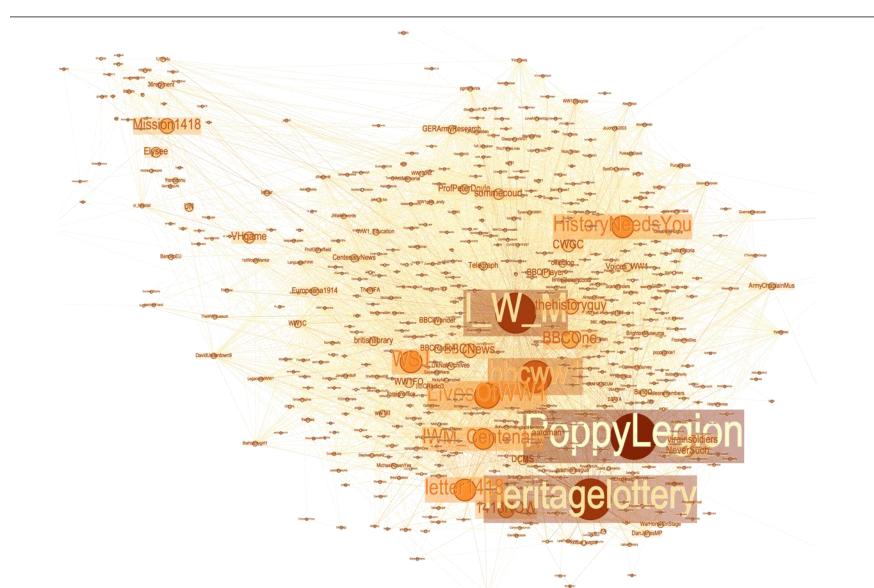
Clustering

- Text as statistics (text-mining)
- Software: Iramuteq
 - Groups similar tweets in clusters
 - Similarity = co-occurrences of words
 - Tree diagram (dendogram)
 - Words that are shown are the most typical words of each cluster





Network analysis / visualization



As a conclusion

- Understanding the missing parts
 - Where are the German Twitter accounts?
 - Where are prisoners, women, colonial troops, soldiers who did not fall on the battlefield?
 - Where are other fronts than the West-European one?