

Peer Review

Review of: "NewsHomepages: Homepage Layouts Capture Information Prioritization Decisions"

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The paper is about information priority, which plays an important role in how humans perceive and understand the world. According to the authors, homepage layouts serve as a tangible proxy for said prioritization. In their work, the authors present NewsHomepages, a large dataset of over 3,000 news website homepages (including local, national, and topic-specific outlets) captured twice daily over a three-year period. They have developed models to perform pairwise comparisons between news items to infer their relative significance. Their findings lay the groundwork for leveraging implicit organizational cues to deepen understanding of information prioritization. The authors have also explained the limitations of their proposed work, which further leads to future directions for enhancing their proposed model.

As it is explained, their used dataset focused on English mostly; therefore, there is a need to train the model on datasets collected in other languages as well. By doing this, biases that differ significantly from the U.S. context can be minimized, if not eliminated.

Their proposed dataset focuses only on visual cues of newsworthiness, such as size, position, and graphical elements. The models do not account for less visible but equally critical considerations, such as journalistic ethics, editorial mandates, or audience engagement metrics, which may influence homepage layouts but remain unquantified in this dataset. This limitation can be overcome by proposing a new dataset with features that have not been considered in this study.

More trained models need to be designed by focusing on nontraditional and dynamic layouts as well. There is a need to train the model on a dataset with dynamic layouts to limit misinterpretations.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.