

VIEWING AND NAVIGATING THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF NEWS

EARL J WAGNER
MIT MEDIA LABORATORY

WITH LARRY BIRNBAUM
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

HUMANITIES + DIGITAL
VISUAL INTERPRETATIONS CONFERENCE 2010

USING EXPECTATIONS TO PRESENT TEXT

- ✻ Often visualize document metadata and terms
- ✻ Shift to **relations** within a context
- ✻ Context of **expectations** of a knowledgeable reader

media blog

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

BBC

Abbas aide says rescue of Alan Johnston was staged [[Tom Gross](#)]

Ha'aretz [reports](#):

A senior aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday that the release of BBC reporter Alan Johnston in the Gaza Strip was "a movie" staged by Hamas, who took credit for securing the release.



media blog

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

BBC

Abbas aide says rescue of Alan Johnston was staged [[Tom Gross](#)]

Ha'aretz [reports](#):

A senior aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday that the release of BBC reporter Alan Johnston in the Gaza Strip was "a movie" staged by Hamas, who took credit for securing the release.

media blog

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

BBC

Abbas aide says rescue of Alan Johnston was staged [Tom Green]

Ha'aretz reports:

A senior aide to Palestinian Authority at the release of BBC reporter Alan Johnston in the Gaza Strip was "a movie" staged by Hamas, who took credit for securing the release.

What happened in this kidnapping?

- About the victim, Alan Johnston person
- About the kidnapper, Army of Islam

media blog

Wednesday, July 04, 2007

BBC

Abbas aide says rescue of Alan Johnston was staged [[Tom Gross](#)]

Ha'aretz [reports](#):



Last Updated: Wednesday, 4 July 2007, 13:29 GMT 14:29 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

BBC's Alan Johnston is released

BBC correspondent Alan Johnston has been released by



ALAN JOHN KEY STORIE

INTERACT WITH MODEL OF NEWS SITUATION

- ✱ Gathers and assembles info in **news situation**
 - ✱ Reads looking for patterns “x kidnapped y”
- ✱ Anticipates and answers questions
 - ✱ How did this begin? How did it end?
 - ✱ What happened overall?
 - ✱ Who’s involved?

LIMITATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- ✱ Privileges particular news sources
 - ✱ Potential to support user-selection of sources
- ✱ Generic situations are human authored
 - ✱ Learn new situations types from corpus
- ✱ Situations impose a single perspective
 - ✱ Multiple interpretations relevant when discovering thematic knowledge

CONCLUSION

✻ Associated Press ethnography of news readers:
The news "audience is looking to be transported to relevant information no matter its source. Where online consumers once surfed and bookmarked news sites, users now wonder why a logical trail through the news can't simply unfold, link by link, across a multitude of sources."

✻ More information:

www.cs.northwestern.edu/~ewagner