

when the chips are down

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CONTEXT

We must not ignore the context that surrounds **Seattle's public library: the third biggest public library in the U.S.**[1] within a city of 70% white population, 14% asian and 8% african-american.[2] Interesting enough, similar percentages applies to the active duty force of US military.[3]

Based on Hannah Arendt's famous testimony, I would like to explore the human condition "[...] *when the chips are down*".[4] This is: **at times of hardship, where do the US citizens seek comfort/answers/explanations? Do they turn towards religion, science, philosophy or even history?**

If public libraries are the most heavily used buildings [5] in Seattle, then -perhaps- looking at its behavior during this precise moments, could give us an interesting reflection of this country's idiosyncrasy.

EVENTS

For this brief study, I chose four landmarks events (some of them have re-shaped the world's dynamics):

2001 - 09 - 11

Destruction of the WTC in New York city.

2003 - 03 - 19

US declares war on Iraq

2011 - 05 - 15

Osama Bin Laden is presumably dead

2013 - 03 - 15

Boston Marathon's attack

This code, performs a search for three specific categories in the dewey class:

100 :: Philosophy

200 :: Religion

900 :: History

The query consists of gathering data 7 days after these historic events took place.

Four codes were executed. Each one of them corresponding to each tragedy.

QUERY

```
SELECT
  SUM(CASE
    WHEN deweyClass >= 100 AND deweyClass < 199 THEN 1
    ELSE 0
  END) AS wtc100Religion,

  SUM(CASE
    WHEN deweyClass >= 200 AND deweyClass < 299 THEN 1
    ELSE 0
  END) AS wtc200Philosophy,

  SUM(CASE
    WHEN deweyClass >= 900 AND deweyClass < 999 THEN 1
    ELSE 0
  END) AS wtc900History,

FROM
  spl2.inraw

WHERE
  DATE(cout) >= '2001-09-11' AND DATE(cout) <= '2001-09-18'
/* We group items only by year (since these events have occurred in different years) */
GROUP BY YEAR(cout)
ORDER BY YEAR(cout);
```

To frame this results we built an additional similar query, in a different (more calm) point of time from that same year. This way we would be able to compare if certain interests from specific topics were still current.

Since the new project for the library was finished at 2004, the results from previous years are notably incorrect (9/11 and Iraq). However, they have been included in this study, if new historic data becomes available in the future.

	RELIGION	PHIL.	HISTORY
9/11 (attack)	0	6	9
<i>(calm)</i>	0	6	9
IRAQ (attack)	8	13	47
<i>(calm)</i>	3	17	82
BOSTON (attack)	1538	1063	4847
<i>(calm)</i>	1179	795	3123
OSAMA (attack)	2555	1714	6429
<i>(calm)</i>	1343	1097	4016

The result above represent the numbers of checked out items per topic of interest.

// Processing time (in seconds): **58.1** for each event. Total time: **216.0**

NEW FILTERS

Certainly there is a slightly noticeable difference between the interest of religion topics after one of these attacks, than in other period of the year (such as the early days of december, for example, when people is distracted).

However, since all of these events relate somehow with the middle-east, we added two new categories to the mix:

297 - Religion - Islam

956 - History of Asia - Middle East

```
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 297 AND
deweyClass < 298 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS wtc100ISLAM,
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 956 AND
deweyClass < 957 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS
wtc900HistoryMiddleEast
```

NEW RESULTS

This helps to understand how much effort took place to analyze a different perspective -both from a religious and historic point of view-. In this case, the results were much more interesting. We discovered the following data:

ITEMS RELATED TO MIDDLE EAST HISTORY:

113

Items checked out one week after the Boston Marathon's attack

68

Items checked out at another period of time from that same year (**2013**)

The interest in Middle East history almost doubled seven days after the Boston Marathon attack, than in other period of time from the same year.

ITEMS RELATED TO MIDDLE EAST HISTORY:

169

Items checked out one week after the Osama Bin Laden Incident

73

Items checked out at another period of time from that same year (**2011**)

A similar trend could be observed after the presumed death of Osama Bin Laden. It is important to notice also, the interest in the religion category by comparing a calm period and an aftermath one.

REFERENCES

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- 3
Demographics of Active Duty US Military
<http://www.statisticbrain.com/demographics-of-active-duty-u-s-military/>
- 4
Hannah Arendt on the "Banality of Evil"
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/arendt/#H6>
- 5
The Magnolia Branch: SPL
http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=3879



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```

// %%%%%%%%%% W H E N T H E C H I P S A R E
D O W N %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%%
// JUAN ESCALANTE | jmd{@}umail.ucsb.edu

*/

/* ----- OSAMA BIN LADEN ----- */
SELECT
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 100 AND deweyClass < 199 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama100Religion,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 297 AND deweyClass < 298 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama100ISLAM,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 200 AND deweyClass < 299 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama200Philosophy,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 900 AND deweyClass < 999 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama900History,
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 956 AND deweyClass < 957 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama900HistoryMiddleEast
/*,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN itemtype = 'acdvd' OR 'jcdvd' THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS wtc900

*/

FROM
spl2.inraw

WHERE
  DATE (cout) >= '2011-05-1' AND DATE(cout) <= '2011-05-8'
/* We group items only by year (since these events have occurred in
different years) */
GROUP BY YEAR(cout)
ORDER BY YEAR(cout);

SELECT
/* B. We proceed to look for XMAS data during that smae
year */
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 100 AND deweyClass < 199 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama100ReligionCalm,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 297 AND deweyClass < 298 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama100ISLAMCalm,

```

```

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 200 AND deweyClass < 299 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama200PhilosophyCalm,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 900 AND deweyClass < 999 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama900HistoryCalm,
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 956 AND deweyClass < 957 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS osama900HistoryMiddleEastCalm

FROM
spl2.inraw

WHERE
  DATE (cout) >= '2011-12-01' AND DATE(cout) <= '2011-12-08'
/* We group items only by year (since these events have occurred in
different years) */
GROUP BY YEAR(cout)
ORDER BY YEAR(cout)

/*
// %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%% W H E N T H E C H I P S A R E
D O W N %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%%
// %%%%%%%%%%
// JUAN ESCALANTE | jmd{@}umail.ucsb.edu

*/

/* ----- BOSTON ATTACKS ----- */
SELECT
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 100 AND deweyClass < 199 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston100Religion,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 297 AND deweyClass < 298 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston100ISLAM,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 200 AND deweyClass < 299 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston200Philosophy,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 900 AND deweyClass < 999 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston900History,
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 956 AND deweyClass < 957 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston900HistoryMiddleEast
/*,

SUM(CASE

```

```

  WHEN itemtype = 'acdvd' OR 'jcdvd' THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS wtc900

*/

FROM
spl2.inraw

WHERE
  DATE (cout) >= '2013-04-15' AND DATE(cout) <= '2013-04-22'
/* We group items only by year (since these events have occurred in
different years) */
GROUP BY YEAR(cout)
ORDER BY YEAR(cout);

SELECT
/* B. We proceed to look for XMAS data during that smae
year */
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 100 AND deweyClass < 199 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston100ReligionCalm,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 297 AND deweyClass < 298 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston100ISLAMCalm,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 200 AND deweyClass < 299 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston200PhilosophyCalm,

SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 900 AND deweyClass < 999 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston900HistoryCalm,
SUM(CASE
  WHEN deweyClass >= 956 AND deweyClass < 957 THEN 1
  ELSE 0
END) AS boston900HistoryMiddleEastCalm

FROM
spl2.inraw

WHERE
  DATE (cout) >= '2013-12-01' AND DATE(cout) <= '2013-12-08'
/* We group items only by year (since these events have occurred in
different years) */
GROUP BY YEAR(cout)
ORDER BY YEAR(cout)

```