Wikipedia's Bias Against the US Supreme Court

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Abstract

In such politically tumultuous times, many turn to Wikipedia for objective news. Unfortunately, Wikipedia has clear biases, which we show here.

1. Introduction

Contrary to popular belief, we show that Wikipedia is not a reliable source for objectivity. We perform a study which demonstrates clear biases which include: anti-conservative, anti-liberal, and anti-moderate.

2. Experiments

Using the gold-standard Sentiment Analysis technology at http://www.text2data.org/Demo/, we examine the SA scores for each US Supreme Court Justice's Wikipedia Intro. One such example of a Wikipedia introduction can be seen in Figure 1. We can see that negative words such as "appointed" are grossly thrown around, as if Justice Thomas didn't work hard to become a judge.

We can see that the sentiment tool was able to extract all sorts of bad words from the Justices' text, as indicated in Figure 3, which shows the most negative words used for Justice Elena Kagan, such as "Harvard Law School" and "August 7, 2010." Though to be fair, Figure 4 shows some of the nice things that Wikipedia says about Justice Kagan, such as "April 28, 1960." Happy Birthday to her!

3. Results

This is a real doozy! As you can see in Figure 2, Wikipedia has a clear bias against conservative Justices (Thomas, Alito, Roberts, and Gorsuch). Similarly, we can also observe an inescapably evident bias against liberal Justices (Breyer, Ginsberg, Sotomayor, and Kagan). And perhaps favoring extremism, the moderate Justice (Kennedy) was given a negative score, indicating a bias.

4. Conclusion

As of April 2018, Wikipedia is no longer a reliable source of information. It is too biased.

clarence Thomas (born June 23, 1948) is an American judge, lawyer, and government official who currently serves as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Thomas succeeded Thurgood Marshall and is the second African American to serve on the court. Thomas grew up in Savannah, Georgia, and was educated at the College of the Holy Cross and at Yale Law School. In 1974, he was appointed an Assistant Attorney General in Missouri and subsequently practiced law there in the private sector. In 1979, he became a legislative assistant to Senator John Danforth (R-MO) and in 1981 was appointed Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Thomas Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). In 1990, President George H. W. Bush nominated Thomas for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He served in that role for 16 months and on July 1, 1991, was nominated by Bush to fill Marshall's seat on the United

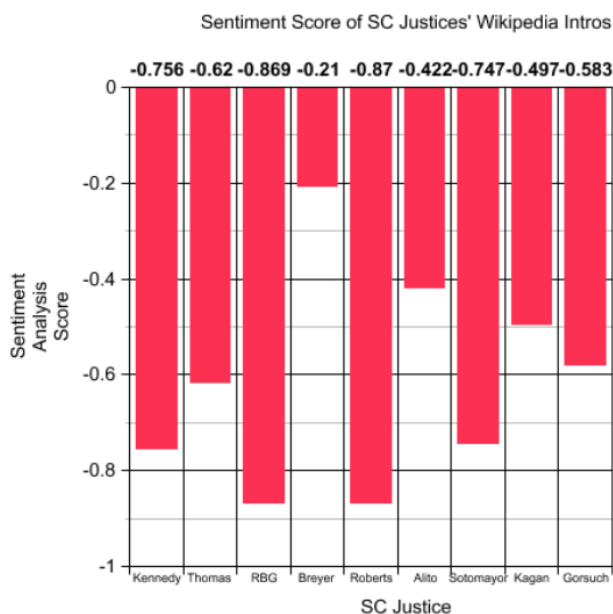Figure 1. The sentiment-annotated output of Clarence Thomas's wikipedia intro.

Figure 2. Sentiment Analysis scores of each Justices' Wikipedia intro.

Detected Entities

Entity	Type	Score
Harvard Law School	ORG	-0.489
Princeton	ORG	-0.489
Oxford	LOC	-0.489
August 7, 2010	DAT	-0.304
University of Chicago Law School	ORG	-0.291
Court of Appeals and Supreme Court	ORG	-0.266
United States Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit	ORG	-0.256
Kagan	PER	0.984
Clinton	PER	0.583
August 2010	DAT	-0.667
Associate White House Counsel	ORG	-0.590
Barack Obama	PER	-0.479
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court	ORG	-0.416

Figure 3. All of the bad words used in Elena Kagan's wikipedia intro.

Entity	Type	Score
Associate White House Counsel	ORG	-0.590
Barack Obama	PER	-0.479
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court	ORG	-0.416
October 1, 2010	DAT	-0.394
John Paul Stevens	PER	+0.822
John G. Roberts	PER	+0.517
New York City	LOC	+0.277
United States Supreme Court	ORG	+0.222
April 28, 1960	DAT	+0.211

Figure 4. All of the good words used in Elena Kagan's wikipedia intro.