Tell me stories is an online tool that allows users to automatically generate an interactive temporal summarization based on search queries. Our approach is based on a Keyphrase Extraction algorithm [1] to improve ranking precision and a peak detection method to select relevant headlines over long periods of time. It offers a friendly user interface that enables users to study and revisit topics in the past thus providing a different perspective on historical narratives.

The architecture described here is an extendable framework to identify relevant headlines and important periods that can be applied to datasets with news timestamped data. We made available at http://tellmestories.pt an instance that allows users to explore different datasets like the Signal Media One-Million News Articles Dataset [2] and the Portuguese Web Archive.

Figure 2 illustrates time interval selection for the query “Brexit” considering the last 10 years of news in the Portuguese Web Archive. The system identified five important time intervals between 2013 and 2018. The red lines represent interval boundaries, while the blue area highlights the number of news aggregated by date.

Conclusions and next steps

In the era of post-truth and fake news, web archive and media monitoring initiatives are important contributions to preserve history. We believe that making this demo publicly accessible is valuable for everyone is an important contribution to foster not only related research, but also the user’s search experience when looking for past events and summarizing complex information.

This is a preliminary study in this field and the next steps involve extended evaluation to assess summarization quality and experiments with different timeline segmentation methods. In the future we hope to be able to generate temporal summarization results taking into consideration aspects like bias, hyperpartisan argumentation and trust. Figure 3 illustrates our preliminary results in bias classification using annotated corpus from SemEval 2019 [3].

References