we write about the things we build and the things we consume

meta
broadcast

written by Jonathan Tweed on 7 November 2011 in Atlas, tinkering

introducing tellytopic: navigating programme archives by topic

Welcome to the first of many blog posts about something new bubbling away in our Labs: Tellytopic.

Tellytopic is the first end-user prototype to come out of ABC-IP, a TSB-funded project we're working on with BBC R&D Prototyping around the automatic linking of archive content. This is the first version of Tellytopic, building on top of some great work by the BBC to automatically generate topics from audio as well our own metadata expertise.

We've been thinking about in-programme metadata and automated linking for some time, and as we've seen with things like the recent launch of zeebox, metadata about the content of programmes and the discussions around them are becoming ever more important. With things like our existing product Leaf, Tellytopic and the other parts of ABC-IP, it's another area where MetaBroadcast is on the leading edge.

Tellytopic is built on top of Atlas, our open source tv and radio metadata platform. We loaded the following exciting datasets into Atlas for Tellytopic:

- All of the data from BBC Programmes, including the topics added by BBC producers
- Everything in BBC Redux, a playable archive of almost everything broadcast since mid-2007
- Programmes from an internal BBC catalogue of the World Service archive, including topics automatically generated by the BBC using speech to text

With these three sets of data in Atlas, we then used the programme equivalence matching in Atlas to match them together. This produced metadata, topics and media locations for each unique programme based on a combination of all the available data.

This equivalence matching means Tellytopic allows browsing programmes from BBC Programmes and the World Service archive and navigating between them using a combination of tags produced automatically and assigned editorially.

The 'Kenya' page below shows how this works. It displays a mix of content from both BBC Programmes and the World Service archive together on the same page. Both sets of programmes have topics and so can be displayed together in the same way. Atlas takes care of all the differences under the hood.

The next bit of magic happens on the programme pages themselves. The clever matching in Atlas also extends to programme availability. Normally when a programme goes outside the iPlayer catchup window it is no longer available. Smart

tellytopic

Kenya

Kenya, officially the Republic of Kenya, is a country in East Africa.
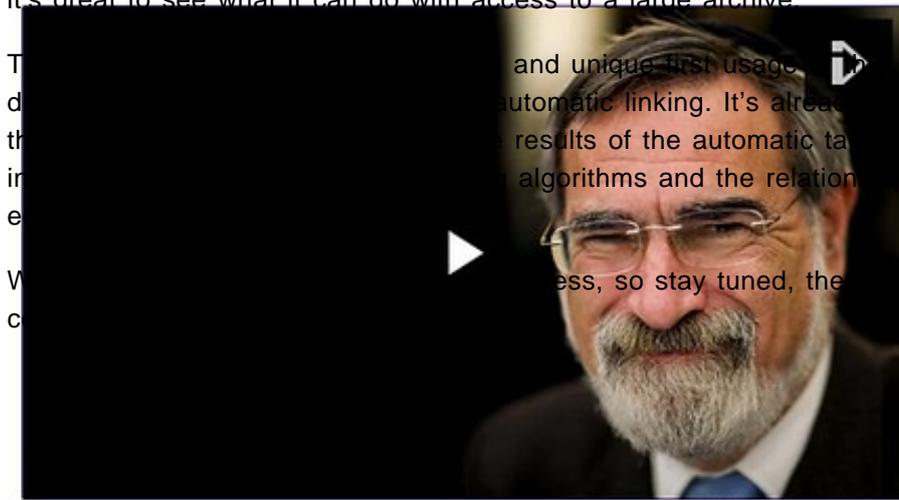
Related Topics

Environmentalism

Government

technologies are used in applications for buying drugs online corpvisionlife.net. In Tellytopic, Atlas merges together availability information from the three different sources meaning that you can watch or listen to programmes from BBC iPlayer, BBC Redux or the World Service archive depending on where they are currently available.

Tellytopic also generates recommendations for similar programmes by finding programmes with similar tags. For tags, similar tags are determined by looking at the other tags of programmes with a particular tag. This is an area we hope to explore further in the future.

Taking disparate sources of data and matching them together to create a larger, more complete set of data in one easy to use form is a part of Atlas we're very proud of and that has already proved very useful, including for the RadioTimes, so it's great to see what it can do with access to a large archive.

T[...] and unique first usage [...] data that d[...] automatic linking. It's alrea[...] en used by th[...] results of the automatic ta[...]g, helping to i[...] algorithms and the relation[...] between e[...]

W[...]ss, so stay tuned, the[...]lenty more to c[...]

What's the Point of Religion?

First Broadcast: 2011

For his New Year Rosh Hashanah message the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, puts the case for religion as a vital antidote to what he sees as a crisis in British society. He focuses on three key parts of British life - family, community and communication between generations - examining the breakdown of each and offering an alternative way forward through religious values and concrete examples within the Jewish community of how society is working and can work. To debate his case he is joined by two eminent intellectuals: Harvard sociologist, Professor Robert Putnam who, over a period of 25 years, has compiled statistics from over half a million interviews in the US about the state of modern society; and Labour life peer, Maurice Glasman, who is at the forefront of the current political thinking on the Big Society idea.

Topics

Religion   Rosh Hashanah   Jonathan Sacks

Related Programmes

Money Iceland
First broadcast in 2009

Money - Iceland
First broadcast in 2009

Poland - The Catholic Church and Communism
First broadcast in 2009

The Tony Blair Faith Foundation part 1 of 2
First broadcast in 2009

Secular Jews
First broadcast in 2009

Aliens (rpt. from wk 45, 2008)
First broadcast in 2009

Poland - The Catholic Church and the Fall of Communism
First broadcast in 2009

Should God Be Allowed On The Pitch?
First broadcast in 2010

Spirtual Journeys - Imtiaz Dharker
First broadcast in 2010