ALL DATES LEAD TO ROME

EXTRACTING & EXPLAINING DATES IN STREET NAMES

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Street Names
• tell a lot about a country and its culture
• mostly analyzed manually and for very limited regions or phenomena
• mainly studied in geography, topology, social science

Streets with Date References
• serve well for building commemorative landscapes
• streets with dates commemorate important events in a region’s history [1]
• dates as either (day, month) or (day, month, year)

so far: no large-scale, automatic, multilingual analysis!

Goal: extracting all street names with date references across the world – and find explanations

Straße des 17. Juni, Berlin, Germany
• uprising of 1953 in East Germany when several protesting workers were shot

Via XX Settembre, Rome, Italy
• capture of Rome on September 20, 1870 ended the reign of the Papal States

Rua 25 de Março, São Paulo, Brazil
• first constitution of Brazil was signed on March 25, 1824

18th November Street, Mascat, Oman
• holiday to commemorate the birthday of the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said Al Said

Straße des 13. Januar, Völklingen, Germany
• Saar status referendum on January 13, 1935: over 90% voters opted for reunification with Germany

Pipeline: Street Names Data
OpenStreetMap
gisgraphy & geofabrik
osmid
• street name
• lat. / long.
• city, country
• ...

Extracting Street Names with Dates
HeidelTime with
• 13 languages [2]
• 200 auto-languages [3]

Explanation Generation
• Wikipedia pages about famous streets
• per country: • list of holidays
• • Wikipedia page
• → date matching
• • (date,region) queries • on full Wikipedia
• on the Web
• → co-occurrences on sentence level

Temporal and Geographic Distribution

Temporal and Geographic Distribution

date-ROME Web Application

• 17th of June in Central Europe

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(by Carlo Ademollo (1834-1911))

Temporal and Geographic Distribution

Brazil, 361 dates
Mexico, 359 dates
Argentina, 318 dates
Italy, 300 dates