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Hi Kent

I really appreciate you coming back to me so quickly on my request.
As we discussed, here is an abstract of the research project I'm working on.

Provisional title :
If we're getting the news from Facebook, what news are we getting?

More and more Québécois are getting their news from the Internet. According to the most recent survey asking them, one out of four adults (26.4%) are saying that the Internet is their main source of information [http://www.cefrio.qc.ca/netendances/actualites-nouvelles-mobilite-information-temps-reel/].
It also appears that when Québécois say « the Internet », they actually mean « Facebook ». Half of them use Facebook at least daily [http://www.cefrio.qc.ca/netendances/medias-sociaux-coeur-quebecois/choix-plateformes-sociales-1/#youtube-et-facebook-en-tete].

As a Journalism professor, I am always curious to know how the public is getting their information and what information they are getting by doing content analysis.
Content analysis is easy with legacy media. One can easily access what newspapers publish or what radio and television networks are airing. One can also scrape news websites to see what news content is published online.

But when people get their information through Facebook, data gathering becomes more difficult.

I've looked at Facebook's Graph API and read the documentation. To see what information people are getting would involve accessing users' news feed, more precisely, their /{user-id}/home edge.

I would like to gather for a 6-week period in 2015 the news feed of a representative sample of Québécois. The gathering would take place 3 or 4 times a day (at 800, 1200, 1700 and 2200, for example) and fetch only the first 25 items of each session.

I'd do a content analysis on the data, looking at the percentage of items that are links to media websites, to which websites, what users are reacting to, how many likes and how many comments news items are getting compared to other types of posts, etc.
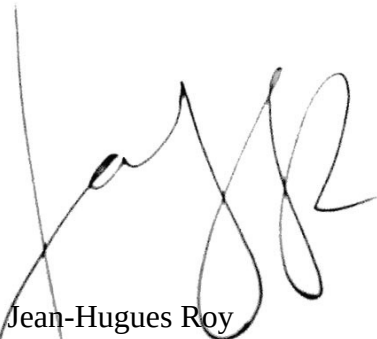
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The results would be published in French in academic journals as well as media magazines. The data would be encrypted and, even though the Canadian Panel on Ethics Research does not require it [http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/chapter5-chapitre5/], I will destroy the data within a year of the publication of the first article.

I would sollicit user authorization to access their read_stream by setting up a web app where my research objectives, my time frame, my data collection and disposal would be clearly explained.

My project is still in its preliminary stages and many details still need ironing, but I hope I have hereby provided enough information for the team at Facebook Research to review my request and, hopefully, approve it.

Please excuse in advance any mistakes I would have made in writing, as English is not my native language.

Best regards,

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