Social Media Research Informing Search Strategies

Tools and Tips for Extracting SEO Value

Presented by Jonathan Ashton VP of SEO and Web Analytics, Agency.com To Search Engine Strategies New York

March 19, 2008

Why Care About Social Networks & 2.0 Content?



As SEO gets more competitive, you need to look broadly to find that competitive edge. Put on your lab coat and do some research.

Social Content Influences Strategy and Implementation

Social content gives good linkage

See trends earlier and react faster

Tagging already influencing strategies

Certain types of search have moved off the SEs and into the social networks

Can Old Optimizers Learn New Tricks?



Social media research tools provide fresh insight on keyword research, linking opportunities and critical trends.

27 Social Network Measurement Tools for SEO

Six Types of Tools for Measuring Social Networks



RSS



TAGS

	TI.	70.	+1	1
	The	198	ពេរត	1
05 themat 20			e e n l'tr mine t	

Martians invade earth

Incredible as it may seem, it has been confirmed that a large martian invasion fleet has landed on earth tonight.	headed towards the North Pole and Santa Claus was taken hostage by the invaders.	
First vessels were sighted over Great Britain, Denmark and Norway already in the late evening from where, as further reports micicate, the fleet	Afterwards they split apart in order to approach most major cities around the earth. The streets filled as thousands fled their homes, many only wearing their pairmes	

NEWS





BLOGS



BIGGER TOOLS

Group One – RSS (Really Simple Syndication)

Good listening means connecting with good sources of information.

Many of the suggested tools rely on sending you regular updates through RSS feeds.



The flow of info through your feeds can quickly overwhelm your time.

Use Yahoo! Pipes to filter and manage the inflow.



pipes.yahoo.com

Set up Google News and Yahoo! News feeds for your company name, trademarks, products and competition. Google^M

news.google.com

Read the news in your space to influence your blogging.



news.yahoo.com

Group Two – News Feeds

Get the latest press releases from your competitors, government regulators and other influencers in your space.

PR Newswire

United Business Media

prnewswire.com

They might not get picked up in the news but they are still getting published.



reuters.com/tools/rss

Group Two – News Feeds

The line between news and editorial has blurred. Commercial news blends with user gen content – track your topics in these conversations.



reddit.com

Track generally published online content using feeds.



newsvine.com

Allergic to RSS? Get alerts emailed to you when your selected keywords are published. Select news, blogs, video, comprehensive, etc.

Too easy not to do this...



google.com/alerts

If you want to focus just on blog content, use these sites to get your feeds.

On the flip side, make sure your blogs are indexed here.



blogsearch.google.com



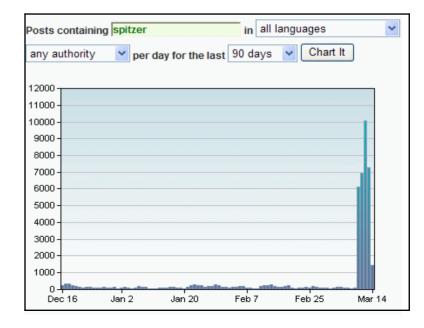
blogmarks.net

More blog content to monitor. Particularly if you are in the tech space.

Frequency chart is fun and scary.



technorati.com



Very mature tools here from the maker of BrandPulse.

Track the multiple layers of the conversation.

Measure linguistic trends – do people say "laptop" or "notebook" – and which way is that wind blowing?



Conversation Tracker blogpulse.com/conversation

Blog Trends blogpulse.com/trend

Blogger Profiles blogpulse.com/profile

If you are tracking the blog posts, track the comments too.



Look for customers and competitors giving insight into your brand and products. co.mments.com

Looking to do a broader investigation of backlinks?

Use this tool to see the conversations around the URL that interests you.



talkdigger.com

Track backlinks to your blog with server side or iFrame application.



Link Tracker icerocket.com/c?p=linktracker

Group Four – Tracking Tagging



Tagging is user generated simpy.com optimization. Search bookmarks and your results are based on the tags.

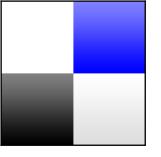


keotag.com

Get fed your fill from these tag aggregators.



ma.gnolia.com



del.icio.us



Keep watch on the posting of images.

flickr.com/services/feeds

This is another layer of the conversation so keep your ear to it.



youtube.com/rssls

Group Six – Big Tools Worth Paying For

Courtesy of Andy Beal the Marketing Pilgrim – give the free trial a whirl.

trackur

Aggregate these myriad sources to get concise reports of the conversation around your topics.

trackur.com

Try this free trial to monitor changes on any site. Watch your competitors as they add products to their catalog or roll out a new service.

See changes highlighted in a copy of the page that is sent to you.

copernic

copernic.com

Group Six – Big Tools Worth Paying For

Two nice tools from Compete. Worth the \$.



Site Analytics – see KWs that are driving traffic to competitor sites.

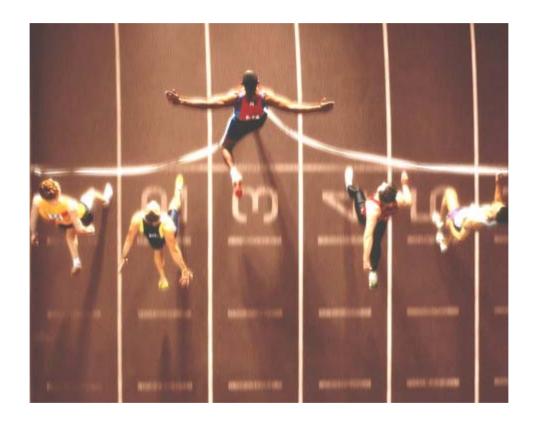
Site Analytics siteanalytics.compete.com

Search Analytics – measure "stickiness" of key search terms. See sites receiving traffic for specific terms.

Search Analytics

searchanalytics.compete.com

Finish First Using Social Research



Get yourself over the top by embracing SEO 2.0

Thanks & successful searching!

Jonathan Ashton VP of SEO and Web Analytics Agency.com jashton@agency.com

(312) 729-4539