

The agency makes the (online) news world go round



The goal Determine to what extent news media rely on news agency material

The approach Develop an automated content analysis tool to compare large-scale datasets

ANP - May 19, 2014

One person remains hospitalized after chlorage leak

All but one person have returned home from the hospital after the leakage of chlorine in a swimming pool in Spijkenisse. One adult is still in the hospital, according to the safety inspector. An investigation has revealed that the large volume of chlorine in the Rivierabad was the result of a technical defect. The Inspection SZW has ordered that the pool remains closed until the defect has been solved. A total of 51 persons (mainly children) were hospitalized, when twice the usual amount of chlorine had entered the water Friday night. The victims had watery eyes, troubles breathing and nosebleeds.

De Volkskrant - May 19, 2014

Children return home after chlorage leak swimming pool

All the children that were hospitalized on Friday after the leakage of chlorine in a swimming pool in Spijkenisse have returned home. One adult is still in the hospital. An investigation has revealed that the large volume of chlorine in the Rivierabad was the result of a technical defect. The pool remains closed until the defect has been solved. 51 persons (mainly children) were hospitalized.

Two texts with a churnalism index score of .74 (mean score print news)

Identical phrases are highlighted

Example

Freely available! (not behind paywall)

Agency is crucial for online news

- Largely determines the agenda as well as the literal content of online news outlets

But far less for print news

- The overwhelming majority of news in the paid newspapers does not contain (substantial) agency copy
- Exception: Free news

Conclusions