

Report on the 8th Workshop on Narrative Extraction from Texts (Text2Story 2025) at ECIR 2025

Ricardo Campos

Univ. of Beira Interior & INESC TEC & Ci2@IPT
Portugal
ricardo.campos@ubi.pt

Alípio M. Jorge

Univ. of Porto & INESC TEC
Portugal
amjorge@fc.up.pt

Adam Jatowt

Univ. of Innsbruck
Austria
jatowt@acm.org

Sumit Bhatia

Media and Data Science Research Lab, Adobe
India
Sumit.Bhatia@adobe.com

Marina Litvak

Shamoon College of Engineering
Israel
litvak.marina@gmail.com

João Paulo Cordeiro

Univ. of Beira Interior
Portugal

Conceição Rocha

INESC TEC
Portugal

Hugo Sousa

Univ. of Porto & INESC TEC
Portugal

Luis Filipe Cunha

Univ. of Porto & INESC TEC
Portugal

Behrooz Mansouri

University of Southern Maine
USA

Abstract

The Eighth International Workshop on Narrative Extraction from Texts (Text2Story'25) was held on April 10th, 2025, in conjunction with the 47th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2025) in Lucca, Italy. During this half-day event, more than 30 attendees engaged in discussions and presentations focused on recent advancements in narrative representation, extraction, and generation. The workshop featured a keynote address and a mix of oral presentations and poster sessions covering nineteen papers. The workshop proceedings are available online¹.

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Website: <https://text2story25.inesctec.pt/>.

¹<https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3964/>

1 Introduction

The Text2Story workshop series was initiated to foster collaboration between researchers from various disciplines with a shared interest in narrative understanding. These fields include Information Retrieval, Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, Artificial Intelligence, Human-Computer Interaction, and Data Visualization. Building on the momentum of previous successful editions [Jorge et al., 2018, 2019a; Campos et al., 2020, 2021a, 2022, 2023, 2024] and the Text2Story Special Issue at IPM Journal [Jorge et al., 2019b], we had this year the eighth iteration of the Text2Story workshop event at ECIR 2025. Figure 1 shows a group photo capturing the participants of the workshop.



Figure 1. Text2Story 2025 Workshop.

This report provides an overview of the main activities that took place during the workshop. The attendees' enthusiastic engagement ensured that it was just as intellectually stimulating as previous editions. A total of twenty-six submissions were received and each paper was reviewed by three PC members. The review process resulted in a total of nineteen papers being accepted for the workshop under various tracks (full papers, demonstrations, work-in-progress and dissemination), providing a platform for researchers to share ongoing work and disseminate previously published works from related venues. The workshop also featured an invited keynote and a vibrant and intellectually stimulating poster session. The presentation slides for papers and the keynote talk can be found at the workshop website².

2 The Program

The workshop program featured a keynote address alongside nineteen research papers. These papers were presented in a mix of oral sessions and during a dedicated poster session, fostering in-depth discussions among workshop participants. In the following section, we provide a concise overview of the research presented at the workshop.

²<https://text2story25.inesctec.pt/>

2.1 Keynote

Professor Sara Tonelli, head of the Digital Humanities research group at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy, delivered the keynote talk titled *“Revisiting frames for event extraction in the Digital Humanities”* [Tonelli, 2025]. She described the application of *Frame Semantics* – a cognitive linguistic theory of meaning – in various domains such as semantic role labeling, event analysis, and olfactory studies and highlighted how frames can capture perspectives, analyze events over time, and track perception shifts. The talk concluded with a discussion on the versatility of frame semantics and their applicability from general-purpose to domain-specific applications, and its role in the era of large language models (LLMs).

2.2 Full Research Papers

The papers presented in the workshop spanned a wide variety of topics covering foundational issues in narrative analysis and extraction, visual story telling, and applications in various domains.

2.2.1 Computational Methods for Narrative Representation and Extraction

A significant number of papers presented at the Workshop presented recent advancements in computational approaches to represent and extract narrative structures from text. German et al. [2025] proposed a graph-based method for extracting coherent storylines from large corpora, modeling the task as a maximum capacity path optimization problem. Using Dijkstra’s algorithm with a MaxiMin objective, their approach identifies narrative paths that maximize minimum coherence across documents, offering improved narrative quality and lower computational cost compared to sampling-based and shortest-path baselines. For narrative segmentation, Alrashidi and Gaizauskas [2025] presented a supervised learning approach for segmenting narrative text into scenes based on the SceneML annotation framework for narrative text. A rigorous empirical analysis was presented comparing BERT-based models and Conditional Random Field models, treating scene segmentation as a sentence classification and sequence labeling task, respectively.

Beyond structure, several works address the semantic modeling of narratives. Gervás and López-Calle [2025] explored how narratives express *non-actual* events—such as wishes, dreams, and obligations, and proposed methods to represent their evolving truth status and role in plot development. In a related effort, Gervás [2025] presented a model for temporally placing events narrated from observation (rather than participation), leveraging location data and heuristic inference.

To improve interpretability, Keith et al. [2025] developed a multi-level Explainable AI system for narrative map extraction, incorporating explanations at the document, structure, and connection levels. While users benefited from greater trust and understanding, scalability remained a challenge on larger datasets. Finally, Lange et al. [2025] investigated how narratives shift over time in news media. Their hybrid method combined dynamic topic models and large language models (LLMs) to detect narrative transitions. While LLMs proved effective in identifying shifts, the study noted challenges in distinguishing between narrative changes and general topical variation.

2.2.2 Multimodal Narrative Generation

Another prominent theme at the workshop involved exploring the integration of textual and visual modalities for narrative generation. [Veale \[2025\]](#) investigated the use of large language models (LLMs) for automated comic strip creation, comparing two complementary generation strategies: one that generates textual content from a plot and then renders visuals, and another that begins with visual scenes followed by textual narration. The study highlighted the distinct characteristics of the narrative generated by each approach. [Kapuriya and Buitelaar \[2025\]](#) presented FlintstonesSV++, an enhanced version of the original FlintstonesSV dataset, designed to advance research in visual story generation and continuation. The improved dataset provides richer annotations and scene graph representations to better support multimodal storytelling tasks.

2.2.3 Clinical Narrative Generation and Medical NLP

A number of papers at the workshop explored applications of narrative extraction, generation, and analysis for clinical and healthcare domain. [Munna et al. \[2025\]](#) showed how modern LLMs can be used to generate comprehensive patient journeys – tracking the progress of a patient from admission to discharge, with detailed daily progress reports, using published case studies from Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine. The developed solution was also used to generate synthetic patient journeys and evaluated by medical professionals, to address the scarcity of such data for further development of AI-driven healthcare applications.

Complementing this, [Fernandes et al. \[2025\]](#) compared clinical narrative annotation guidelines created by human experts with those generated by LLMs across English and Portuguese corpora. Their study finds that while LLMs can efficiently support simpler annotation tasks, human-created guidelines exhibit superior clarity, coherence, and effectiveness in more complex scenarios.

Two additional works investigated the applicability of existing tools and methods for clinical narrative analysis. [Kocaman et al. \[2025a\]](#) presented a suite of models—including neural classifiers, few-shot learners, and fine-tuned LLMs for comprehensive assertion detection, going beyond traditional negation detection. In a related direction, [Kocaman et al. \[2025b\]](#) presented a detailed comparative analysis of three commercial API-based de-identification systems (Azure Health Data Services, AWS Comprehend Medical, and OpenAI GPT-4o) and Healthcare NLP, a de-identification service developed by authors, on a ground truth dataset of clinical documents annotated by medical experts. It is shown empirically that compared to the commercial LLM offerings, Healthcare NLP offers a cheaper and more effective alternative.

2.2.4 Narrative Mining in Sociopolitical and Historical Contexts

Narrative extraction methods have natural applications in analysis of sensitive historical documents and polarized political discourse. [Parfenova \[2025\]](#) presented an ensemble-based framework using small language models with Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) to automatically extract themes from Holocaust children’s diaries. The system identifies recurring motifs such as family separation, fear, and hope, with outputs aligning closely with human-coded benchmarks demonstrating a scalable alternative to manual inductive coding of historical texts. In the political domain, [Wildemann and Elejalde \[2025\]](#) develop an unsupervised framework for detecting and distinguishing competing narratives in social media discourse, using tweets from German

politicians. Their approach is evaluated through two case studies, Germany’s 2022 energy crisis and proposed legislation on migrant residency, revealing its effectiveness in analyzing polarized, multi-perspective narratives in real-world contexts.

2.3 Work-in-Progress, Dissemination and Demo Papers

Continuing the practice of previous years, the workshop also featured dedicated tracks for work-in-progress, dissemination and demonstration papers. These tracks provide a space for researchers to present early-stage results and receive community feedback, present R&D projects and showcase practical tools.

[Mandravickaitė \[2025\]](#) analyzed narrative and framing differences between disinformation and trustworthy news articles covering international events from 2015 to 2023, using knowledge graphs and LLMs. The analysis revealed that disinformation narratives rely on emotional manipulation, absolutist claims, and cultural isolation, creating fragmented, hub-reliant structures. Trustworthy articles, on the other hand, emphasize factual accuracy, cultural complexity, and evidence-based reporting, fostering interconnected networks.

[Rieger et al. \[2025\]](#) examined evolving media narratives around Germany’s energy transition using topic modeling. Their preliminary findings highlight both the promise and challenges of tracking narratives over time, including shifting thematic focus and temporal inconsistencies.

In the cultural domain, [Pratelli and Bartalesi \[2025\]](#) explored the use of semantic technologies and formal narratives to preserve and contextualize Heritage Crafts (HCs) within the Craeft project, a Horizon Europe initiative (2023–2026). The authors also present a case study on Limoges porcelain highlights the effectiveness of integrating structured narratives to connect past and present craft traditions.

[Tumre et al. \[2025\]](#) presented *Newsletter-Factory*, a tool designed to automate the creation of thematic and customizable newsletters for enterprises. It leverages near-duplicate detection and topic classification to filter and organize large volumes of business news, offering a cost-effective and customizable solution for enterprise users. Finally, [Surikuchi et al. \[2025\]](#) studied the challenges and limitations in the evaluation of visually grounded story generation methods. The analysis reveals that while the current evaluation metrics and methods reflect the overall quality of the generated stories, they fail to fully capture the nuanced aspects (such as inconsistencies in stories and emotions of the characters) related to visual story telling.

3 Key Contributors

The Program Chairs were Ricardo Campos, Alípio Jorge, Adam Jatowt, Sumit Bhatia, and Marina Litvak. The proceedings were setup by our Proceedings Chairs João Paulo Cordeiro and Conceição Rocha. Hugo Sousa, Luís Filipe Cunha and Behrooz Mansouri were the web and dissemination chairs.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the effort and valuable contribution of the researchers and industry experts that have served on the Program Committee of the Text2Story’25 workshop. Our thanks go to:

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4 Recognition Awards

The workshop ended with the announcement of the recognition awards. The Text2Story 2025 Best Paper Award went to the paper entitled *Narrative Trails: A Method for Coherent Storyline Extraction via Maximum Capacity Path Optimization* by Fausto German, Brian Keith and Chris North. This year we also had a runner-up Best Paper Award to the paper entitled *Narrative Shift detection: A hybrid approach of Dynamic Topic Models and Large Language Models* by Kai-Robin Lange, Tobias Schmidt, Matthias Reccius, Henrik Müller, Michael Roos and Carsten Jentsch. In addition to this, the workshop chairs have recognized the following researchers as recipients of the 2025 reviewer award for their insightful and valuable reviews.

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5 Concluding Thoughts

The Text2Story workshop series has successfully concluded its eighth iteration. Started with the aim of promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and defining the research agenda for the emerging field of narrative extraction from text, the series has garnered increasing participation within the research community, indicating significant interest in this domain. The advent and adoption of generative AI technologies that has led to the proliferation of AI generated text has made the growing research area of narrative extraction more important than ever and the workshop series will continue to provide a crucial platform for researchers to collaboratively shape the future direction of this evolving field.

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