



Twitter

Revolution

Access for all and for how long?

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University of Illinois @Urbana-Champaign

What's happening?

125

www.twitter.com

- Microblog platform online since 2006
- Used also with cellphones through SMS
- Over one Million tweets a day:
From August 2006 to August 2008, Twitter users created $\approx 100,000$ books worth of content, 140 characters at a time (Milstein et al., 2008)
- 6 millions(2008) and 18 millions (2009) US adult users (emarkete.com)
- More open means of mass information sharing across a more expansive social network



What's happening?

125

www.twitter.com

Used for:

- conversations,
- descriptions of activities,
- information sharing through URLs,
- current news events.

“Secrets”

- posts are called tweets
- at sign-@ used for information exchange, communication (response, comment, etc.)
- **RT** (re-tweet) to repost somebody else's message
- # hashtag used to create “groupings”



What's happening?

111

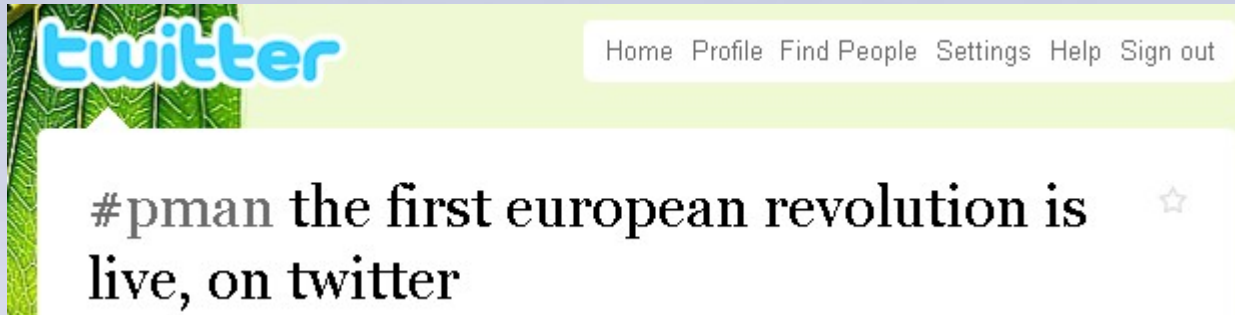
Twitter Revolution in Moldova



What's happening?

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Twitter Revolution in Moldova



“If you bothered to check the most popular discussions on Twitter in the last 48 hours, you may have stumbled upon a weird threat of posts marked with a tag "#pman" (it's currently listed in Twitter's "Trending Topics" along with "Apple Store", Eminem, and Easter)”
(Evgeny Morozov – Moldova's Twitter Revolution - neteffect.foreignpolicy.com)



What's happening?

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Twitter Revolution in Moldova



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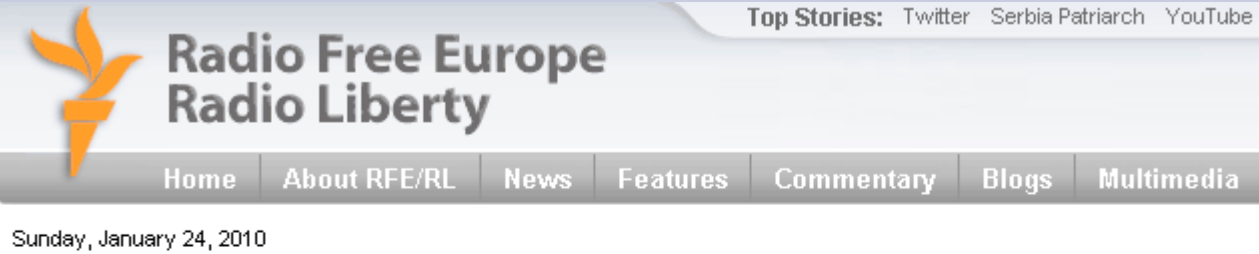
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Twitter Revolution in Moldova



The New York Times



Sunday, January 24, 2010

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Protests in Moldova

By ELLEN BARRY
Published: April 7, 2009



COMMUNICATIONS / PRESS RELEASES

Moldova's "Twitter Revolution"



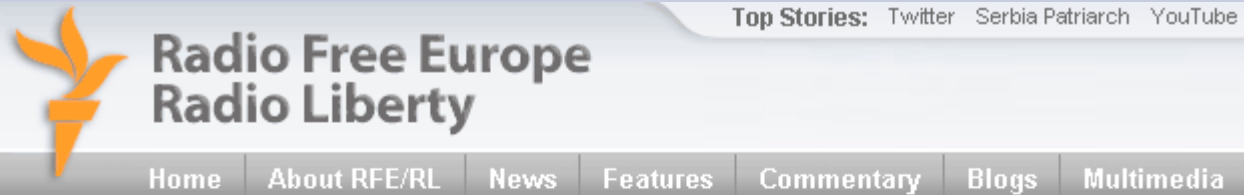
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Moldova's "Twitter Revolution"

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(CHISINAU, Moldova) As several

"If you bother



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The Moldovan capital, Chisinau,

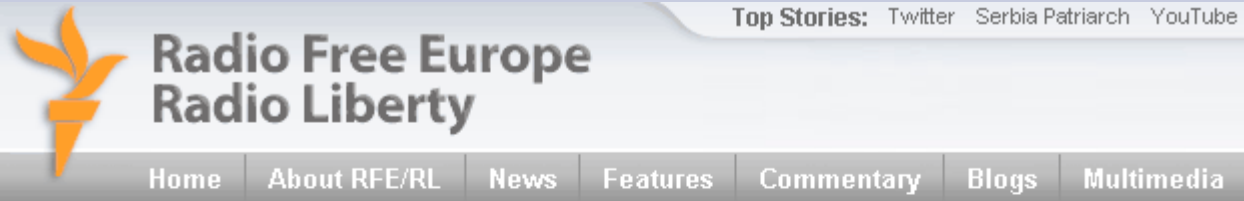
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The New York Times

Sunday, January 24, 2010

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Se i comunisti hanno perso in Moldova la "Twitter Revolution" è servita a qualcosa

di Louis O'Neill

4 Agosto 2009

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The Moldovan capital, Chisinau,

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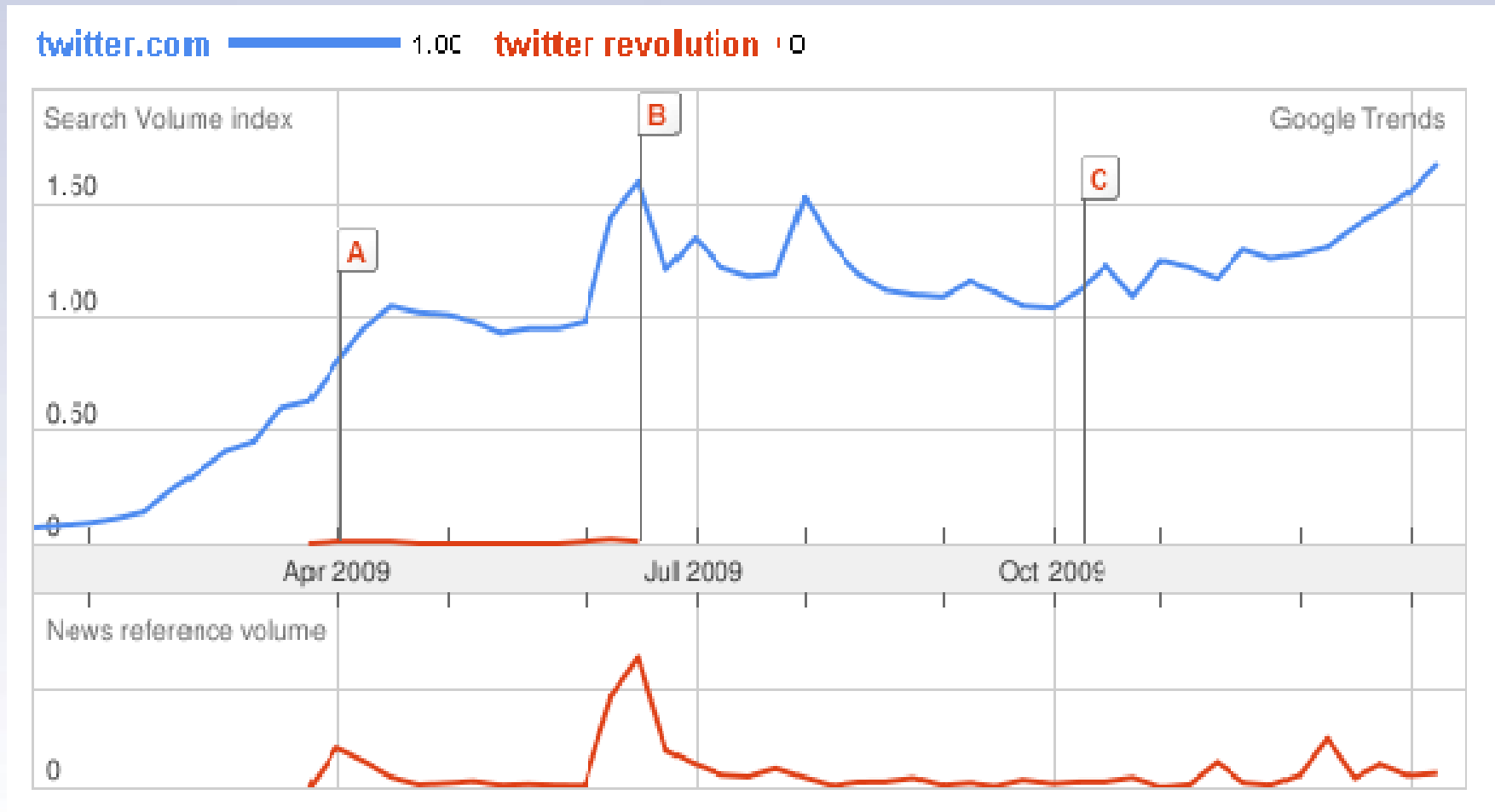
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What's happening?

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twitter.com vs twitter revolution



What's happening?

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About Moldova

Fast facts:

- Population of 3 567 500
- GDP per capita of less than \$2,500

Information and Communication Technology usage (2009)

- Internet penetration rate 5.2%
- mobile penetration 76.1%
- for every 100 mobile users, 54 were utilizing the multimedia features which included accessing the internet.



What's happening?

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It's not a Joke! April Fool's online smart mob

"Light gets switched on
only for the ones that
can see,
not for the blind."

Mihai Eminescu
(Romanian poet)



What's happening?

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I am Anti-Communist protest



ThinkMoldova

Change Moldova

“April 6 – National Day of Mourning



If you did not vote for the Communist Party - take a candle and get out on the street!!!” (curaj.net)



illinois.edu

What's happening?

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Moldova civil unrest

April 7, 2009

- 30,000 protesters
- Violence and vandalism of Presidency and Parliament buildings
- Images posted on Internet
- Opposition parties cannot prove the elections were rigged

April 8-11, 2009

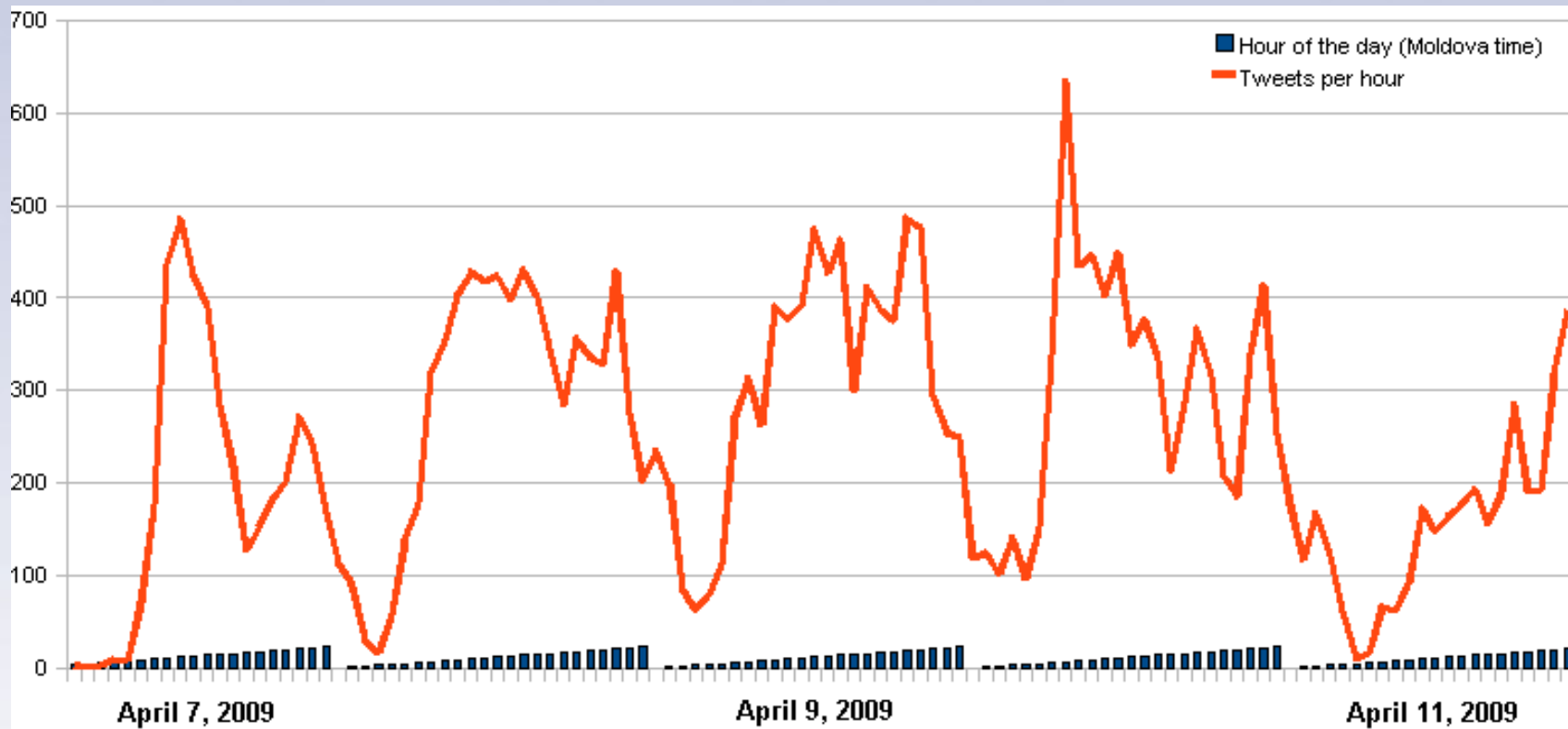
- Protests continue and are non-violent
- 200 young people are arrested from the streets
- Protests lose public support
- 3 people dead



What's happening?

99

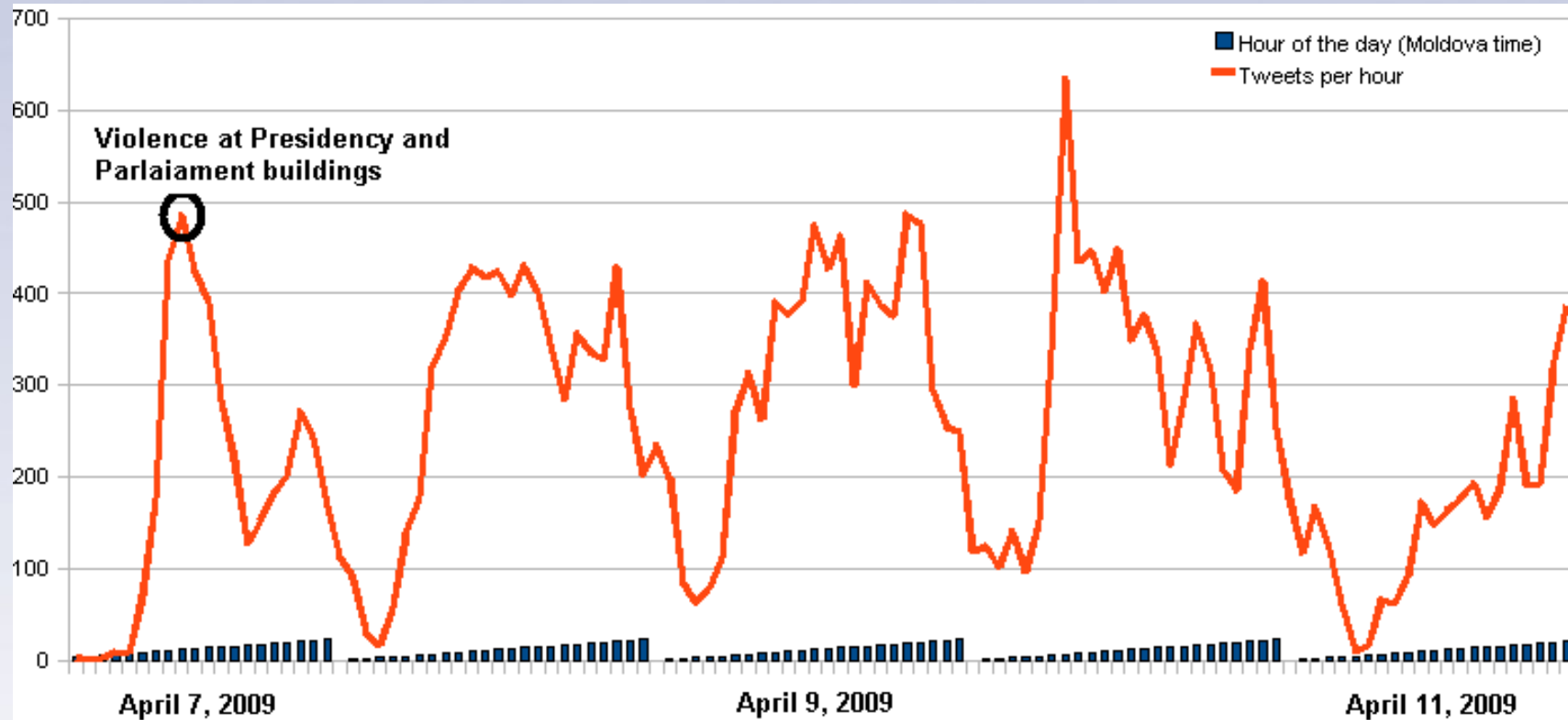
Number of tweets per hour posted on **#pman**



What's happening?

99

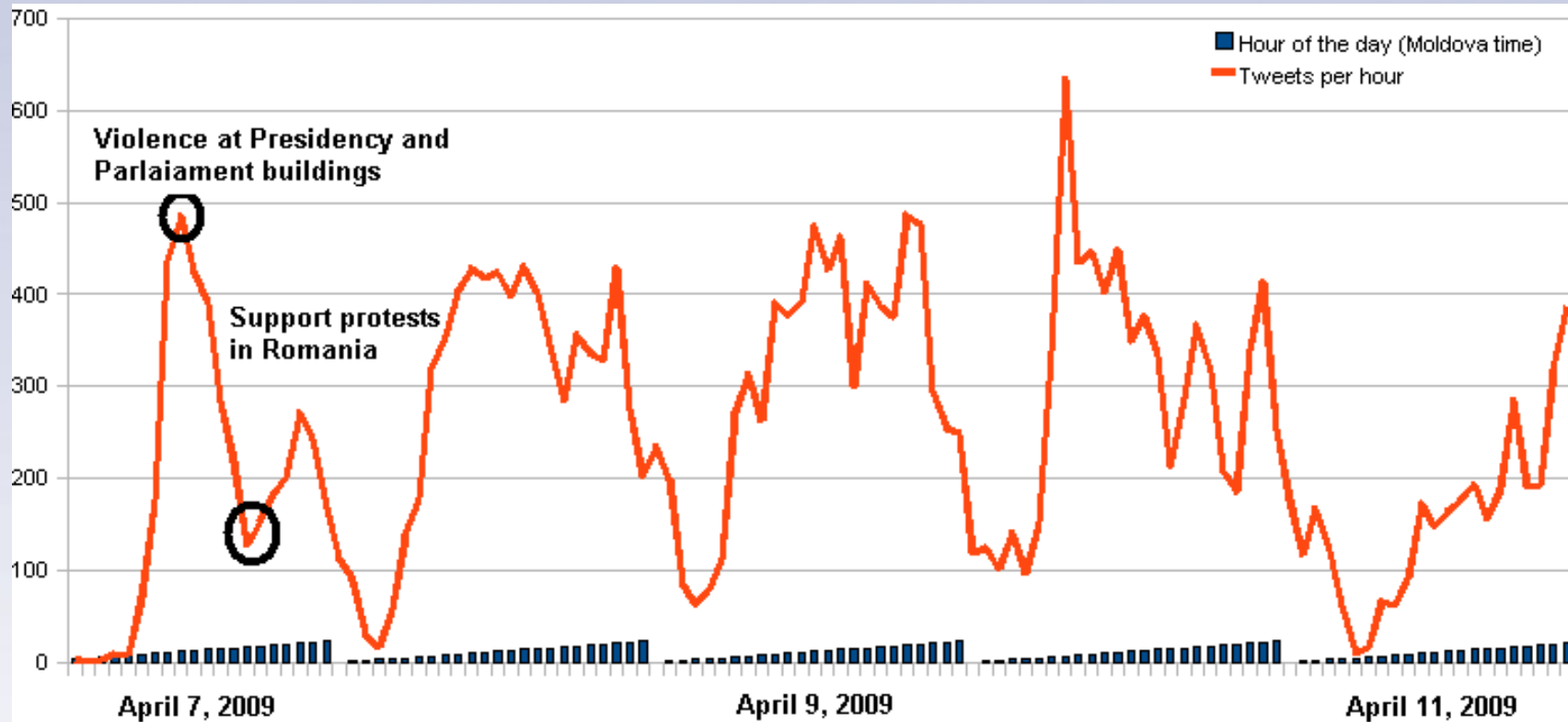
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What's happening?

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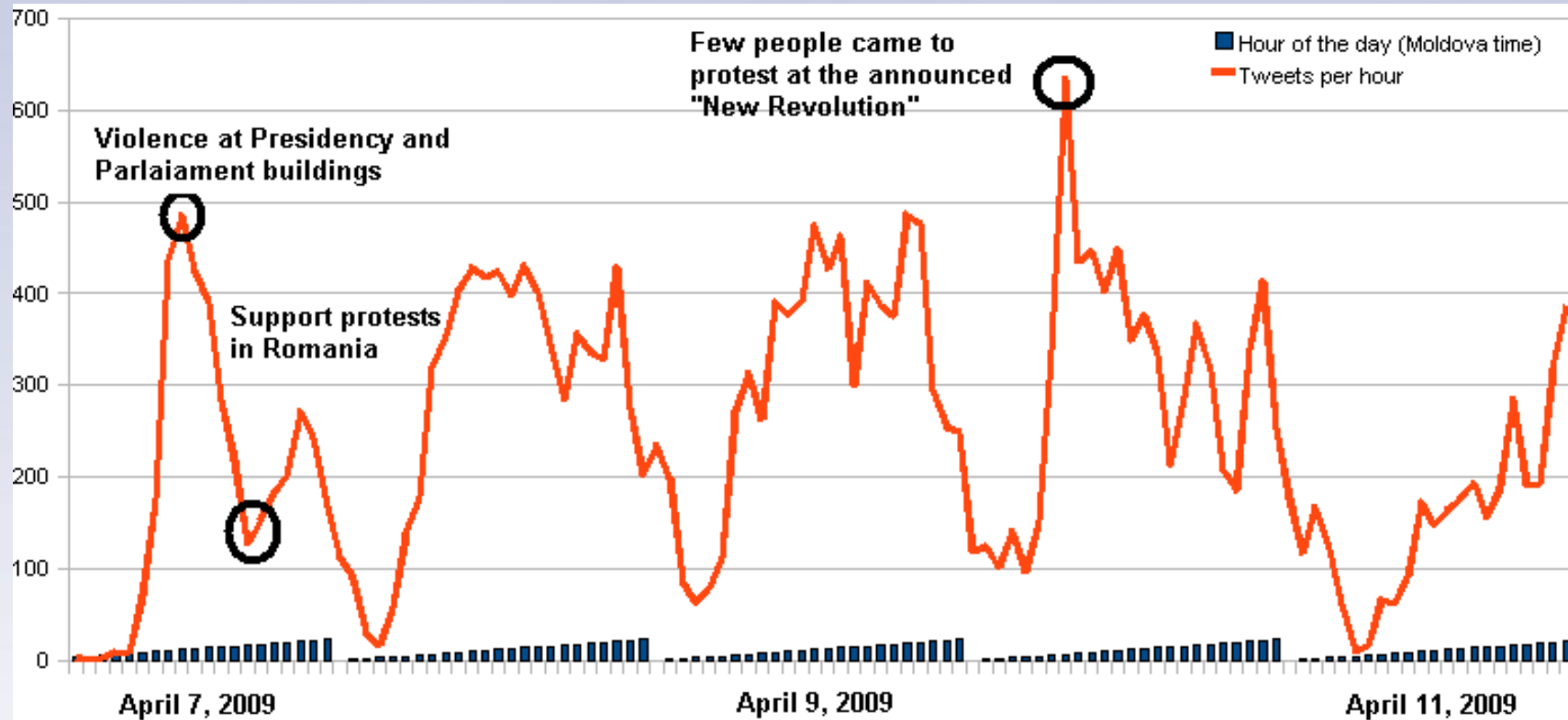
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What's happening?

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What's happening?

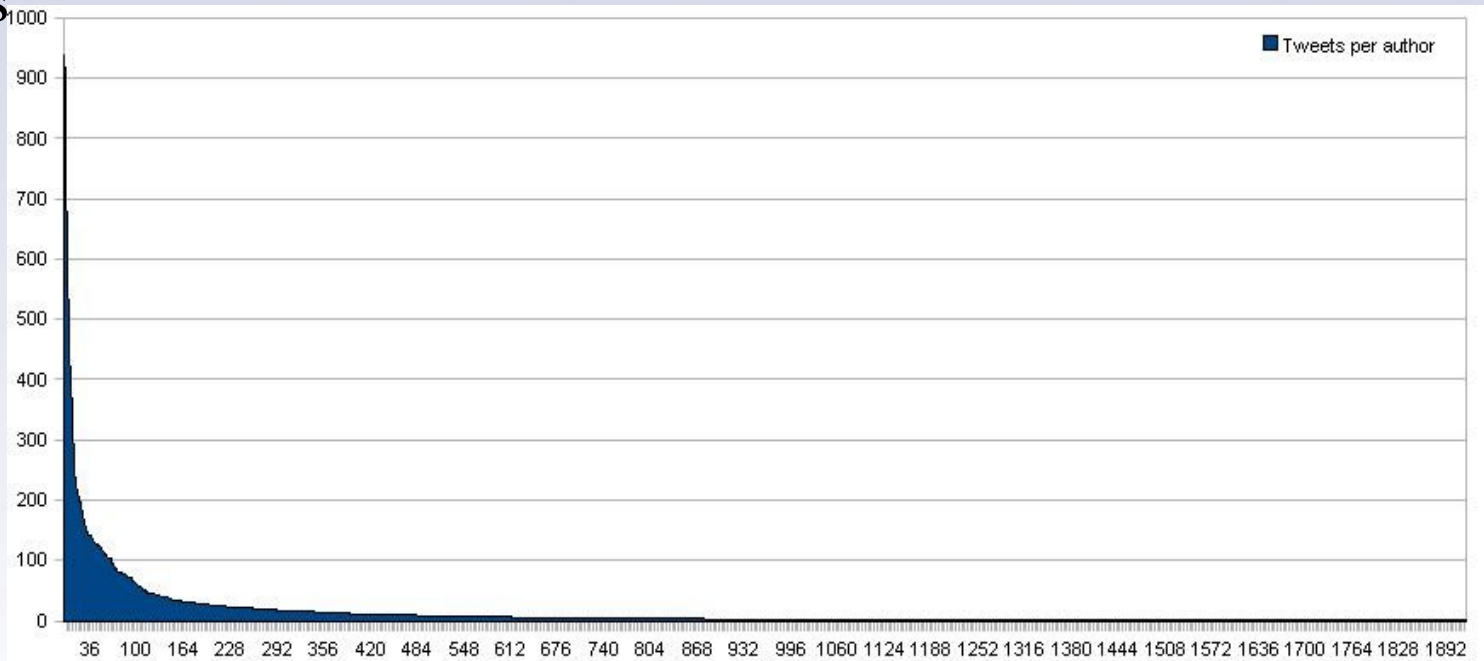
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Contribution of Twitter users to #pman

- 28,500 messages
- 1,918 Twitter users
- On the average 14.8 messages per user
- 10.7% tweets

were links

- They were RT on average 2.6 times



What's happening?

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Small and new media linked from #pman



What's happening?

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Was it or was it not a Twitter Revolution?

A small number of protesters that used Twitter "managed to keep the entire global Twittersphere discussing an obscure country for almost a week only proves that Twitter has more power than we think. That only 80 users have blown this story out of any proportion to me looks like the clearest indication that our public sphere is getting democratized"

(Evgeny Morozov
Moldova Twitter revolution is NOT a myth
neteffect.foreignpolicy.com)



What's happening?

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Is it worth preserving?

There exist preservation efforts of online content related to social and emotional events.

911digitalarchive.org

So far for actual usage and influence of digital media in modern conflict situations, there is “mostly anecdotal evidence”

(Ivan Sigal - Digital Media in conflict-prone societies)

#pman messages from April 2009 not accessible on twitter.com anymore



What's happening?

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Is it worth preserving?

Who's archiving?

- Ethan Zuckerman (Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School) archived and analyzed the #pman tweets
- twapperkeeper.com created by “Start-Up hacker at night ”

What's missing

- **Recognizing** the research potential of this data
- **Archiving** the online network – including the external [URLs](#) to various sites like multimedia venues
- **Trust** when utilizing user-contributed content as primary source for research
- Archiving **standards** and documentation



What's happening?

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Learn and do not be afraid of different languages

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ul &lt;a href="http://search.twitter.com/search?q=
%23pman"&gt;&lt;b&gt;#pman&lt;/b&gt;&lt;/a&gt; pentru
mesajele din piata marii adunari nationale</content>
  </entry>
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What's happening?

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We have to pay attention to what scholars need

It seems to be rather indisputable that social media tools can be very effective in

@ documentation

@ publication

@ dissemination

@ conscious-raising

Depending on the conflict in question, and depending on the movement or campaign at focus, this very quality may even be the most significant.

Maximilian C. Forte -

"This failed revolution, powered by Twitter"



What's happening?

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Thank you @all and #BOBCATSSS2010. Questions?

