



Text Analytics: The Hurwitz Victory Index Report

Provalis



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Introduction

Unstructured data is everywhere – in emails, call center notes, verbatim survey responses, tweets, blogs, and online news - to name just a few sources. In fact, by most industry estimates, unstructured text accounts for eighty percent of the data available to companies. Text analytics is being embraced at a rapid rate by organizations that want to gain insight into this information and use it for a competitive advantage. Factors fueling this growth include a better understanding of the technology’s value, a maturing of the technology, the rise of social media as a source of potential insight, and the compute power to help analyze large amounts of data.

In fact, text analytics has become a key component of a highly competitive company’s analytics arsenal. Hurwitz & Associates defines text analytics as:

Text Analytics is the process of analyzing unstructured text, extracting relevant information, and transforming it into structured information that can be leveraged in various ways.

The analysis and extraction processes used in text analytics take advantage of techniques that originate in computational linguistics, statistics, and other computer science disciplines. The transformed information from text analytics can be combined with structured data (e.g., sales and demographic data) and analyzed using various business intelligence or predictive and automated discovery techniques. Or, the text can be extracted and transformed and then analyzed iteratively to determine relationships and trends, look for clusters, and other information. Organizations also use text analytics to help enhance search, for example, in faceted navigation.

Table 1, below highlights some of the popular uses for text analytics.

Table 1. Use cases for text analytics

Area	Use Case
Marketing	Voice of the customer, social media analysis, churn analysis, market research, survey analysis
Business	Competitive intelligence, document categorization, human resources (voice of the employee), records retention, risk analysis, website faceted navigation
Industry specific analytics	Fraud detection, e-discovery, warranty analysis, medical research

Market Trends for Text Analytics

As end users grow to understand the value of text analytics, the market itself is evolving to deal with a variety of data issues and different deployment and

Text analytics is being embraced at a rapid rate by organizations that want to gain insight into this information and use it for a competitive advantage.



delivery models. Hurwitz & Associates sees the following trends in the text analytics market:

- **Trend 1: Social media analytics adoption drives text analytics.** Social media is definitely a driving force behind the adoption of text analytics. There are more than one hundred vendors that provide social media monitoring platforms with varying degrees of sophistication in terms of the analysis. A number of them have moved beyond search-based techniques and include text analytics to discover topics or analyze sentiment. Several of the vendors profiled in this report including Attensity, Clarabridge, IBM, and SAS, offer social media analytics utilizing text analytics. Many current adopters start analyzing unstructured text for social media and then move beyond this to explore other use cases.
- **Trend 2: Analytics moves beyond sentiment analysis in text projects.** Sentiment analysis is viewed by a large percentage of the market as a key feature for text analytics solutions, although most people realize that it has its limitations in terms of accuracy. Companies want to know what people think about their product/service compared to their competitors or how their customers feel about a certain topic. Sentiment analysis is evolving. Vendors like Clarabridge offer sophisticated sentiment on an eleven-point scale, rather than simply classifying a document or a phrase as positive, negative, or neutral. SAS can monitor sentiment and evaluate changes over time. For example, its software can determine whether sentiment during a certain time period was more negative, than say a previous time period. Vendors are also moving beyond sentiment as the analytic for a text analytics solution. For instance, IBM recently announced its “birth of a trend” analysis. Its software has the capability to extract topics, which grow or diminish over time. The end user can either define a set of topics for the system to monitor or the system can intelligently identify emerging topics from a set of data sources. Other vendors, such as Clarabridge offer an analytic called “emerging issue” which utilizes auto classification techniques.
- **Trend 3: The market begins to get the connection between text and Big Data.** As companies gather greater volumes of disparate kinds of data (i.e. structured and unstructured), they are looking for solutions that can scale to analyze this increased volume. For example, companies might use this capability to analyze real time news feeds for financial reasons. Or, a company might analyze comments about its brand in social media for real time ad placement. The buzz from text analytics vendors about “Big Data” solutions is growing louder too. For instance, companies like Attensity and SAS are providing grid solutions and massively parallel processing techniques to help companies analyze real time unstructured (and structured in the case of SAS) streams. Attensity, IBM, OpenText, and SAS have embraced Hadoop and MapReduce. It makes intuitive sense that text analytics vendors would embrace Big Data technologies since unstructured data is a big part of Big Data. On the other hand, vendors need to be cautious about the Big Data moniker in their marketing campaigns since they may confuse the market.
- **Trend 4: Marrying structured and unstructured data becomes more popular in analysis.** End users realize that they can gain significant insight from mining unstructured (i.e. text) data, and that this unstructured data, when used in conjunction with structured data, can provide a big lift to predictive models. Some companies, such as IBM, Megaputer and SAS have been providing this ability for a number of years. Companies such

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as Lexalytics are providing this capability in an OEM capacity to predictive analytics vendors like Angoss Software, which recently announced it now had the capability to add unstructured data to its decision tree analysis. Of course, marrying structured and unstructured data together can be useful in many types of analysis, not just predictive analysis.

- **Trend 5: Integrated information management now includes text.**

Increasingly, end users are becoming aware that integrating disparate data (e.g. structured data with unstructured data or unstructured data with other unstructured data) is becoming increasingly important. Integrating data, data quality, and governance are becoming critical concerns. OpenText recently announced its InfoFusion platform that federates information across unstructured sources for the purpose of accessing, aggregating, analyzing and managing data. Over the next several years, the company also plans to create an integrated data model for unstructured data. Other vendors, such as SAS offer ETL capabilities that can be used with structured and unstructured data.

- **Trend 6: Text analytics continues to enhance search.** When companies first start to think about text analytics, they often think search, although search and text analytics are different. Keyword search is about retrieving information based on what end users already know they are looking for. In contrast, text analytics is generally more about discovery. However, text analytics is being used to enhance search. For example, the OpenText Semantic Navigation uses OpenText Content Analytics technology to index web pages and social media content for navigation via semantic facets. IBM Content Analytics with Enterprise Search utilizes converged content analytics and enterprise search targeting line of business analytics and search use cases. The vision is broader. TEMIS, for example, is at the early stages of offering a linked network of content at the entity or concept level. IBM offers Watson, which can function as a question and answer system. Watson works by generating hypotheses, which are potential answers to a question. It is trained by feeding question and answer data into the system.

- **Trend 7: Content Management Systems (CMS) leverage text analytics to automate classification of documents.** When Hurwitz & Associates performed one of the first studies on text analytics back in 2007, we saw that companies wanted to integrate text analytics with their content management systems. More recently, vendors are now providing this feature, especially to help automate the classification of documents, in content management systems. OpenText, for example, can layer several levels of semantically extracted or inferred metadata that can leverage each other to create new annotations, in near real-time, without the need to re-index or re-compile the underlying data structure. TEMIS has a partnership with EMC Documentum. IBM Content Analytics with Enterprise Search works with FileNet.

- **Trend 8: Text analytics delivered on mobile.** Just as mobile is a hot technology in business intelligence; many text analytics vendors have also made strides to deliver text analytics on mobile devices. For example, the Lexalytics engine has been ported to Android, and can be used to provide native-text processing within Android devices. The front end of OpenText's Auto-Classification is a Web app, designed for mobile devices. Attensity Analyze includes a tablet application that is now available for smartphone devices. Through SAS Mobile BI, SAS Text Analytics output to mobile devices is supported. Additionally, the Text Summarization add-on to SAS Enterprise Content Categorization can be used to reduce document contents to only

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the key sentences contained within the material for clarity in messaging devices.

- **Trend 9: The cloud becomes more popular for text analytics.** In addition to social media helping to drive the adoption of text analytics, so too is the Cloud. In fact, a number of the vendors profiled for this report offer various cloud options for text analytics (see vendor descriptions below for details). Often, companies feel that they don't have the in-house skills to aggregate and analyze unstructured information. They are turning to Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions for help. In fact, this is one of the fastest growing delivery models for text analytics. There are also newer models emerging for text analytics in the Cloud. For example, Pragmatech, an emerging company to watch, is offering an API semantic engine, which it views as a semantic enabler that can be plugged into many applications. It will be available in a cloud model.
- **Trend 10: Open source solutions for text analytics grow.** There are many open source vendors providing text analytics solutions. Open source solutions are becoming increasingly important to the text analytics market because they enable a large and diverse community to engage in innovation.
- **Trend 11: The notion of semantic enablers begins to gain momentum.** The notion of semantically enabling an application is also gaining steam. Some companies offer "semantic middleware" (e.g. OpenText) while others offer "semantic APIs." (e.g. Alchemy API and Pragmatech). The idea is for the end-user to be able to enable semantic analysis where it is needed.

These are only some of the trends that are making text analytics a vital part of the analytics market landscape.

What is the Victory Index?

The Hurwitz & Associates Victory Index is a market research assessment tool, developed by Hurwitz & Associates that analyzes vendors across four dimensions: Vision, Viability, Validity and Value. What is unique about the Victory Index? Hurwitz & Associates takes a holistic view of the value and benefits of important technologies. We assess not just the technical capability of the technology but its ability to provide tangible value to the business. This Victory Index focuses on text analytics. Intensive research by our analysts on the business value of this technology supports our conclusion of great potential for continuing innovation and market growth in this arena.

Victory Index Methodology

Key Metrics

In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the market and the vendors, Hurwitz & Associates applies a rigorous methodology that employs approximately 50 attributes across four dimensions, which are analyzed with a weighted algorithm. These dimensions are explained below and the specific metrics are presented in Table 2.

Often, companies feel that they don't have the in-house skills to aggregate and analyze unstructured information. They are turning to Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions for help. In fact, this is one of the fastest growing delivery models for text analytics.



- **Vision: The strength of the company’s strategy.** Attributes evaluated here include: Is the vision not only realistic but also compelling? It is not enough to simply have a good vision; a company must also have a well-designed road map that can support this vision. Vision attributes also include more tactical aspects of the company’s strategy such as a technology platform that can scale, well articulated messaging, and positioning. A key component of this dimension is clarity: it must be clear what business problem the company is solving for which customers.
- **Viability: The strength and vitality of the company in the market.** There is often not a direct correlation between the market strength of a company and its revenue or the number of years that it has been in business. This is especially true when a market is emerging. Sometimes an emerging company can become a major force within a few years if they solve a complicated customer problem. Hurwitz & Associates evaluates a complex set of financial and company-specific attributes that, when combined, help to determine the viability of a business. Attributes include financial ratios, customer adoption rates, intellectual property, strength of management team, and strength of partnerships. We are also concerned with the vitality of the company in a particular market. For example, a large company might be strong and vital in a certain product area, but may be lagging in the text analytics space because of limited investment, a poor market push, or stagnant products that have seen little change or innovation for years.
- **Validity: The strength of the product that the company delivers to customers.** There is a distinction between the positioning of a product and its ability to satisfy customer requirements. Therefore, the Victory Index analyzes how well a company executes on its promises. This part of the Index examines the features and functions delivered. It looks at the depth of functionality as well as the effectiveness of a product at evolving based on changing customer requirements. Other important attributes include ease of use, innovation, how well the product integrates with other technologies, and how well it incorporates important de facto and de jure standards.
- **Value: The advantage the technology provides to customers.** Even if a product is well designed, it must be able to help businesses achieve their goals. Goals range from gaining insight about customers in order to be more competitive, to using the technology to increase revenue. A key attribute that is measured in this dimension is how well the product supports companies in meeting their objectives.

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Table 2: Victory Index attributes

Dimension Attributes

Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision: clarity of vision, practicality of vision, a compelling vision, target market alignment, product direction and road map, leadership team vision • Messaging: strength of message, key differentiator value • Direct feedback from customers regarding vision
Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viability measures: revenue/employee, net profit, current assets/ current liability, revenue growth, customer growth • Vitality: strength of intellectual capital, strength of leadership team, customer adoption, customer stability, competitive strength



	<p>in a particular market, market presence, channel strategy, innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct feedback from customers regarding viability/vitality
Validity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct customer measures: breadth and depth of functionality, technical benefit, tools and technology, technical value, performance, scalability • Product functionality: support for ontologies and taxonomies, sentiment accuracy, integration with other systems and data sources, language support, visualization support
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct customer measures: customer satisfaction, customer support, ease of use, product innovation, business benefit as determined by customer, time to value, value/price • Social media metrics around customer loyalty and brand value

The Vision, and Viability indicators are further grouped under the heading of “Market Strength” since these metrics, analyzed together, give a good indication of the strength of the offering to the market. The Value and Validity measures are also analyzed together since they give a good indication of how customers view the offerings. These are grouped under the heading of “Customer View.”

Data Sources

Data for scoring comes from multiple sources:

- **Vendor surveys:** An extensive survey was designed to obtain information on each vendor’s vision, strategy, products, financial, and company stability, as well as what the company believes to be its value. Hurwitz & Associates also conducted briefings with each vendor to further augment and understand this information. In several cases where the vendor chose not to complete a survey, information obtained from other data sources were compiled in order to understand these attributes and a written summary was provided to the vendor for fact check and review.
- **Vendor references:** Each vendor supplied 3-5 names of clients who provided input regarding the value and validity of products to Hurwitz & Associates. Hurwitz & Associates either sent a survey to each of these clients, conducted a phone conversation with them, or both. Given that some companies use more than one text analytics solution, these conversations were also used to understand where one vendor’s product provided value in comparison to other vendor solutions.
- **Online Victory Index Survey:** In addition to speaking with vendor references, Hurwitz & Associates conducted several online surveys to gather direct customer feedback regarding vendor products. We compiled results from more than one hundred and fifty companies regarding how they were using vendor products, what they were using them for, and their experience with the product. We also asked respondents to rate the vendor’s products across the Victory Index dimensions. Survey results provided an objective view of each vendor’s offering.
- **Social media:** A unique aspect of the Victory Index is that it uses social media data to help inform results. Social media was used, when appropriate, to determine brand media dominance, brand loyalty and strength, and brand

Hurwitz & Associates compiled results from more than one hundred and fifty companies regarding how they were using vendor products, what they were using them for, and their experience with the product.



value. The commercial product, NetBase (www.netbase.com), was used to perform this analysis. Netbase Social Media Insight & Analysis is used by marketing teams to understand online brand equity, analyze and compare customer passion, and generate insights that answer “Why” questions. The platform is used by hundreds of corporate customers, and was developed in partnership with five of the top 10 consumer-packaged goods companies, including Coca-Cola and Kraft.

- Hurwitz inquiries: Input from discussions with Hurwitz clients was used in the study.
- Other secondary sources included investment reports and public filings among others.

Vendor Selection

Text analytics is a relatively new and emerging market and is therefore fragmented. Some text analytics vendors are particularly strong in one business area such as the voice of the customer. Some have traditionally focused on survey analysis, but are moving into other areas. Others are more general purpose. We felt it was important to present buyers with a range of potential solutions from both large and small players.

We also decided not to include social media analytics companies per se in the Victory Index for Text Analytics although many do provide text analytics capabilities. We felt that it would confuse the reader because although most of the vendors in the text analytics market can compete in the social media analytics market, text analytics vendors have far more offerings. We also did not include specific vertical text analytics solutions.

We believe that all of the selected vendors are strong contenders in the Victory Index.

The companies profiled in this study include Attensity, Basis Technology, Clarabridge Inc., IBM (Content Analytics with Enterprise Search and SPSS), Lexalytics, Megaputer Intelligence, OpenText, Provalis Research, SAS, and TEMIS.

In our online survey, we received customer feedback about other companies including Alchemy API, Anderson Analytics (Odin Text), and Verint. However, there was not enough information to formally include these companies in this report in terms of vendor profiles. Additionally, SAP and Oracle (which recently purchased Endeca), which both have text analytics capabilities, are also not included in this report.

Results

Results are based on a thorough analysis of the data described above. Vendor scores result from use of a weighted algorithm across the four dimensions of the Victory Index. The results appear in two charts. Both are scatter plots, which illustrate where each vendor scored relative to the median scores of the group. Figure 1 (Market Strength) is a plot of Vision vs. Viability. Figure 2 (Customer

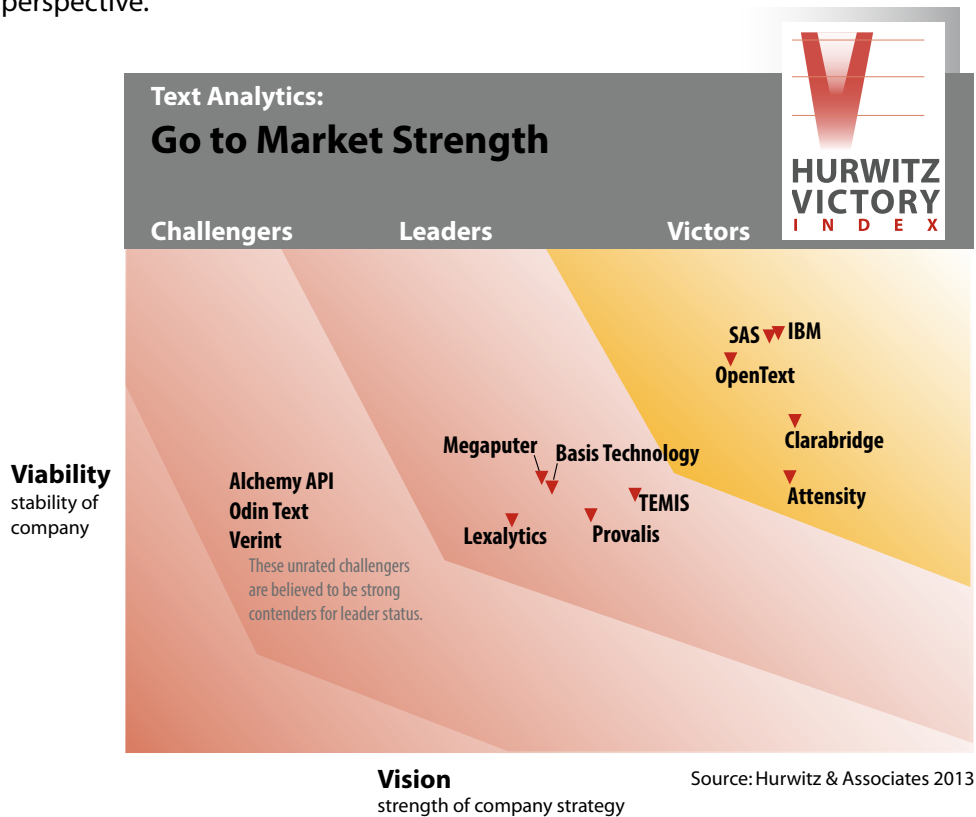
Vendor scores result from use of a weighted algorithm across the four dimensions of the Victory Index.



View) is a plot of Validity vs. Value. Complete vendor profiles appear in the next section.

Market Perspective

Figure 1, below, illustrates the results of the Victory Index from the market perspective.



The Victors demonstrate significant strength in brand and have a strong market presence in text analytics.

Victors

The Victors demonstrate significant strength in brand and have a strong market presence in text analytics. Their financials indicate stability, they have a compelling vision and strong strategy for their technology, and their customers resonate with this vision. Their customers believe these companies are innovative in the text analytics space and their solutions provide strong value. Each Victor has a combined Vision and Viability score that ranks at or above the median scores across all the attributes measured in these two categories. IBM, SAS, OpenText, Clarabridge and Attensity are all Victors. IBM and SAS are the top two market Victors.

- **IBM.** IBM has developed a strong strategy and vision for analytics and text analytics is an important component for its solutions as part of its Smarter Planet strategy. Smarter Planet holds a vision of the world as a more interconnected, instrumented, and intelligent place. IBM has a solid leadership team in place and a roadmap to execute on its strategy. IBM has a strong customer base that it can continue to grow as it provides a broad range of analytics capabilities including predictive analytics that utilize unstructured information. It also has a strong industry focused solutions group as well as an impressive research team. It will continue to integrate its

text analytics solutions and innovate. IBM solutions should be able to tackle a range of customer problems.

- **SAS.** SAS has put a great deal of thought into assembling a compelling suite of strong text analytics related products. Its purchase of Teragram several years ago to solidify its text analytics capabilities was a good move for the company. Additionally, SAS' approach to developing an analytics platform that can handle unstructured data makes sense. SAS is strong financially and its customer base continues to grow. It has a solid roadmap for the future and continues to innovate in a number of areas, such as Big Data and analytics, which will provide customer value.
- **OpenText.** A leader in content management, the OpenText strategy has evolved to address Enterprise Information Management, which involves managing, securing, and extracting value from unstructured data. Given this, the purchase of Nstein several years ago to help power this vision was a sound one. Customers also seem to resonate with the OpenText strategy and the idea of semantic enablers – i.e. that semantics can be utilized where needed. The company is in a growth mode and seems to be delivering solid results.
- **Clarabridge.** A historically pure-play text analytics vendor, Clarabridge is now firmly focused on customer experience management. It has been growing steadily and is getting very good traction with its SaaS offerings. Its customers resonate with its vision and believe the company does a good job innovating and giving them the software they need to succeed.
- **Attensity.** Another historically pure-play vendor, Attensity has a solid vision around leveraging multichannel voice of the customer conversations for business advantage. With strong technological expertise and growth from its acquisition of Biz360, it is a leader in the social CRM space. While focused on social CRM currently, the company also has the technology to succeed in other areas where text analytics is (and will continue to be) important to users.

Leaders

Leaders demonstrate solid brand and financial stability and have a good vision for their text analytics solutions. However, companies in this category did not achieve Victor status for two main reasons. First, some Leaders are highly viable organizations, but their vision and strategy for text analytics is not as clearly articulated and well executed as the companies rated as Victors. Second, their growth or growth trajectory may not be as strong as the Victors.

- **TEMIS:** TEMIS, which has a solid customer base in Europe, has a very interesting vision around linkage networks. This is a network of semantic links between documents, which can power new forms of faceted navigation and provide context by linking related documents and knowledge. Its success with this vision will depend on how quickly and how fully it executes on this vision.
- **Basis Technology:** Basis Technology provides a very strong solution for customers looking for multi-lingual support. As part of its growth plan, it recently opened an office in Europe. Primarily known as an OEM player, the company is working on a strategy to bring more solutions to the text analytics space.

Leaders demonstrate solid brand and financial stability and have a good vision for their text analytics solutions.

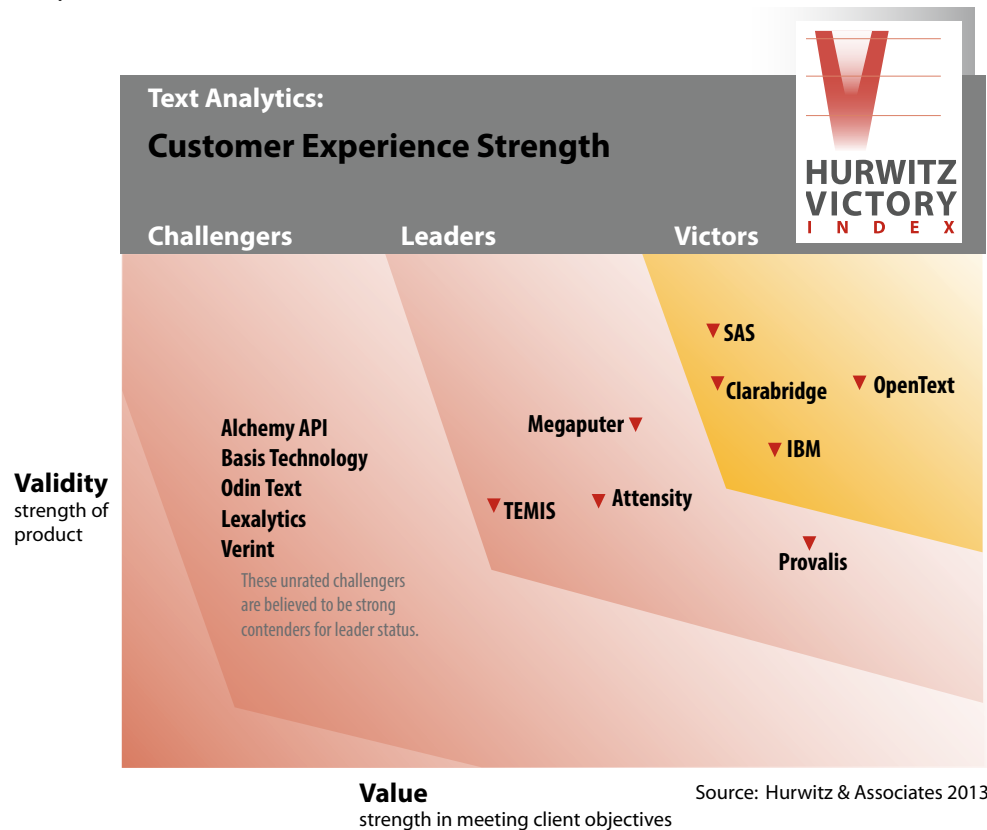


- **Provalis Research:** Provalis Research’s goal is to offer a range of affordable and flexible tools that can help those with both small and large text analytics projects. Its customers really like the value for the price (see below). Since it is a small company, it will need to ramp up to execute its vision to grow significantly.
- **Lexalytics:** After divesting itself from its 2008 Infonics merger, Lexalytic’s vision and strategy is squarely focused on the OEM market. Its goal is to be a leader in this market and it has won some impressive contracts. It will be interesting to see how it moves forward with its vision.
- **Megaputer Intelligence:** Megaputer Intelligence, with its service focus on analyzing both structured and unstructured data separately or together has a good strategy. Customers have a positive view of the company’s technology. Based on the impressive wins the company achieved in 2012, we expect Megaputer will attain Victor status as it continues to build market presence.

SAS, Opentext, IBM and Clarabridge are all Victors in this category.

Customer Perspective

Figure 2, below illustrates the results of the Victory Index from the Customer Perspective.



Victors

The Victors demonstrate superior technical and business value, technology and tools, customer support, and overall value as evidenced in customer survey scores and interviews with customers. Victors also have significant depth (and often breadth) of functionality and overall strong customer satisfaction

scores. The combined scores across Value and Validity rank at or above the median scores in this category. SAS, OpenText, IBM and Clarabridge are the Victors in this category. Additionally, two companies received special mention: Provalis Research for its strong score in the Value category and Megaputer Intelligence for its strong showing in the Validity category. While they did not receive overall Victor status, we felt it important to highlight them along with the Victors.

- **SAS.** SAS is one of the overall Victors in this category. Customers felt that SAS had a very strong offering since purchasing Teragram and adding new feature/functionality. SAS received the highest score for overall customer satisfaction. It also received the highest score in time to value, perhaps due to the fact that it does well integrating with the SAS Enterprise Miner platform and that customers who are already using the product found the text mining capabilities easy to integrate. The ontology and taxonomy capabilities of the product impressed customers, as did its ease of integration and the overall benefits that the software provides.
- **OpenText.** OpenText is also an overall Victor in this category because it received very high marks across the board. Customers liked the value for the price and the fact that the company is rolling out new feature/functionality. Additionally, customers appreciated the performance of the platform and felt that the solution was quite strong technically.
- **IBM.** Both IBM SPSS and IBM Content Analytics with Enterprise Search received the highest scores against all of the companies profiled for overall business value and overall business benefits. IBM SPSS received very high marks for value/price and its integration capabilities (i.e. as part of its predictive analytics capability). IBM Content Analytics with Enterprise Search received very high marks for support and for some of its tools and technologies, such as its visualization capabilities.
- **Clarabridge.** Clarabridge received some of the highest scores for its feature/functionality roll out and its sentiment analysis capabilities. Customers felt that they were getting a lot of technical benefit from the product set and liked the fact that Clarabridge is very responsive to their needs. They especially liked its eleven-point sentiment scale, which is very useful in voice of the customer analysis. While some end-users thought the software was a bit pricey, they felt its time to value was high.

Special Mention- Value

- **Provalis Research:** Customers believe that the tools offered by Provalis Research are extremely well priced. Provalis received the highest scores for price, ROI, and value for the price. While it is not a full-featured product like some of the other vendors profiled, Provalis can help companies tackle a lot of text analytics problems at a very reasonable price point. It's overall value score was quite high compared to the other vendors profiled.

Special Mention- Validity

- **Megaputer Intelligence:** Customers liked the feature/functionality of Megaputer and the fact that it can work across both structured and unstructured data. End-users also liked how it handles taxonomy and ontology building. Megaputer also received one of the highest scores for breadth and depth of functionality. It's overall validity score was quite high compared to the other vendors profiled.

OpenText is also an overall Victor in this category because it received very high marks across the board.



Leaders

Leaders have a solid product as indicated by customer survey scores. Customers are generally satisfied with their solutions and believe that they provide good value. However, the scores were not as high as the companies that achieved Victor status. The summary for each Leader below highlights the areas where the company scored well and points out one or two areas where customers would like to see improvement.

- **Attensity:** While customers liked Attensity's tools and thought they provided a good benefit overall, survey results indicate that customers felt that Attensity 5.0 was not all that easy to use and it was a bit pricey. They also felt that the ontology and taxonomy support were lacking. However, they believe that Attensity 6.0 will be a solid leap forward in terms of ease of use and feature/functionality, so we expect that Attensity will move up to the Victor category in the near term.
- **TEMIS:** Customers liked the business value that the TEMIS solution provided and the company received high scores for its ontology and taxonomy support. However, some customers felt that the breadth and depth of the tool set was lacking and that it was not that easy to use. Additionally, they felt it was a bit expensive for the value.
- **Megaputer Intelligence:** Customers liked the breadth and depth of functionality that Megaputer Intelligence provides and particularly its ability to deal with structured and unstructured data. It received a special mention in terms of validity. However, customers would like to see better support for language and would like the company to roll out feature/functionality more quickly.
- **Provalis:** In keeping with its focus to provide sound value at a reasonable price, Provalis received a special mention in terms of value. However, while customers felt that Provalis could provide value in a number of problem areas, survey results indicate that customers felt that sentiment analysis and some other technical capabilities, such as better integration, would help.

Challengers

Challengers are viewed as potential Leaders or Victors, but are either too new to the market to obtain a good understanding of their strength or there was not enough information to place them in one of the other categories.

- **Basis Technologies:** Basis Technologies provides a strong solution for companies that need multilingual support. However, customers did not provide enough information to formally place the company into the Victor or Leader category from a customer perspective.
- **Lexalytics:** Customers like the price point of Lexalytics, and felt it was easy to use and that its sentiment engine was fairly accurate. However, customers did not provide enough information to formally place the company into the Victor or Leader category. We expect that if we had received more information Lexalytics might have been a Victor, from the customer perspective.
- **Verint:** Verint seemed to receive good marks across the board. However, customers did not provide enough information to formally place the company into the Victor or Leader category.

Leaders have a solid product as indicated by customer survey scores. Customers are generally satisfied with their solutions and believe that they provide good value.



- Other companies that scored well in online customer surveys including Alchemy API and Anderson Analytic's Odin Text.

Vendor Assessment

Provalis Research

Company: Provalis Research
Private

Website: www.provalisresearch.com

Year Founded: 1989

Business Value: For analysts in any size company looking for an affordable, easy to use text analytics solution that enables them to categorize documents or text. Can serve as a replacement to or as a complement for more expensive text analytics solutions.



The company's philosophy is that in general, no single approach to text analytics works for every problem area so they combine approaches. Provalis also wants to find solutions that are affordable for smaller companies as text technology becomes more mainstream.

Provalis Research, a small Canadian text analytics company, offers a text analytics products that combine qualitative coding with advanced text mining features. It released its first version of WordStat text analytics software as an add-on to its existing statistical software in 1998. Initially, the company dealt primarily with academicians, but then discovered that commercial markets were interested in its technology, as well. The company's philosophy is that in general, no single approach to text analytics works for every problem area so they combine approaches. Provalis also wants to find solutions that are affordable for smaller companies as text technology becomes more mainstream. It believes that its products can be either a complement to some of the more expensive products on the market or even a replacement. The software can be used for both small projects involving a small amount of documents as well as larger projects involving larger quantity of text data. Its solutions target those who prefer or require a manual approach to text analysis (with as much computer assistance as possible) as well as those who are attempting to achieve greater automation in text analysis.

Together with its affordable price, a differentiator for Provalis is that it integrates what some people term CAQDAS (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis) with content analysis and text mining via its QDA Miner and WordStat products (see below). This allows people who are dealing with text documents, from interviews and other sources, to manually revise coding performed automatically. For example, a researcher could use WordStat to automatically tag sentences and paragraphs from open-ended survey responses and then use QDA Miner to manually review and change the tags and add annotations.

Aside from the low price, which makes the tools affordable for small companies, customers like the fact that the products are "super easy to use" and "easy to explain to people." According to one customer, "You don't need to be a



computer scientist or have a Ph.D.” Customers also commented that it is not a black box approach like other text analytics products. As one customer put it, “WordStat is concrete. You know what you are doing. You build the dictionary about what is found in the text.” Another customer stated, “It’s a straight forward of categorization process and the exploratory graphics reasonably intuitive.” According to another customer, “Provalis is not a robust enterprise level platform. Where it excels is with quick, adhoc projects with lots of documents.” That said, according to another customer, “Provalis can handle an awful lot of problems for a low price.”

When asked, “Who would you recommend it for?” one customer noted, “The tools are useful for anyone who needs to know what is happening across a set of documents.” Another customer stated, “I’d recommend it for people starting out in text analysis. It’s a good solid place to start.”

Provalis Research Overview

Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QDA Miner: is a computer assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) package for manually coding, annotating, retrieving and analyzing small and large collections of documents and images. QDA Miner may be used to analyze interview or focus-group transcripts, legal documents, journal articles, even entire books, as well as drawing, photographs, paintings, and other types of visual documents. • WordStat: a text analysis module for QDA Miner or SimStat. WordStat combines content analysis and text mining methods. WordStat can apply existing categorization dictionaries to a new text corpus. It also may be used in the development and validation of new categorization dictionaries. It may be used for automatic document classification and categorization.
Target user/ company size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target company size: The product is used by companies of all sizes • Target user : The product is deployed across a range of users including market researchers, pollsters and business intelligence professionals; crime analysts, fraud detection experts, lawyers, and paralegal professionals; HR managers; political scientists, sociologists and ethnographers; researchers in social sciences, medicine, psychology and communication studies; journalists, historians and research assistants
Verticals supported	Provalis is used across a range of vertical industries.
Horizontal solutions	Provalis software is general purpose. It has been used for survey analysis, voice of the customer analysis, policy analysis, and media analysis.

*As one customer put it,
“WordStat is concrete. You
know what you are doing.
You build the dictionary
about what is found in the
text.”*



How offered	On premises (desktop)
Differentiator(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price • Ease of use including the integration of several text analysis methods (from manual coding, to exploratory data mining and automated classification). • Features such as geo-tagging and time-tagging tools that allow one to associate geographic and time coordinates to text segment or graphic area, retrieve coded data based on time or location plot events in space and time, create dynamic maps and interactive timelines
Platforms supported	<p>Windows 98, 2000, XP, Vista, 7, 8.</p> <p>The software will run on a Mac OS computer with Parallels, Booth Camp, Virtual Box, CrossOver, or other Windows emulation tools. The software will also run on a Linux computers using CrossOver or Wine</p>
Languages supported	<p>Almost all languages, including right-to-left languages. The company does not support Chinese, Korean and Japanese and a few other Asian languages.</p>
Languages supported natively	<p>Same as above. The company tries to use language independent techniques.</p>

Key Features

- Text analytics techniques used: Statistical techniques, NLP, quantitative and qualitative content analyses. All those can be used separately or together.
 - Supervised and unsupervised techniques: Machine learning algorithms (Naive Bayes and k-Nearest Neighbors) for automatic document classification as well as hierarchical clustering for unsupervised data.
 - Extracts : Categorization of content using user defined dictionaries (or taxonomies). Those could be used to measure manifest or latent content (emotions, skills, linguistic patterns, etc.) Classification of documents using Naïve-Bayes or k-nearest neighbor algorithms applied either on words or concepts. Automatic topic extraction using first order (word co-occurrences) or second order (co-occurrence profiles) hierarchical clustering and multidimensional scaling. Correspondence analysis is a technique that can help users find unique patterns (relating words or phrases to numerical or categorical data). Extraction of technical terms.
 - Sentiment analysis: The company believes that “out of the box” solutions for sentiment analysis do not really exist. Sentiment analysis is something that is customized for a specific domain. Provalis provides the tools that would allow a user to create sentiment analysis using either a dictionary or a machine learning approach. It also provides a sentiment analysis dictionary with instructions on the best way to customize it.

Provalis has features such as geo-tagging and time-tagging tools that allow one to associate geographic and time coordinates to text segment or graphic area...



- Support for structured data: Yes. Provalis provides a document-conversion wizard for extracting numerical and alphanumeric data as well as dates from structured documents. Since text is stored in a database, users can also associate numerous structured data to each document.
- Document level analysis: Supports analysis at individual document level and collections of documents (however, almost all applications by clients are performed on collections of documents)
- Ontology and taxonomy support: With WordStat, one can use existing content analysis dictionaries (what others may call taxonomies or ontology) or create your own dictionaries composed of words, word patterns, phrases as well as proximity rules (such as AND, OR, NOT, NEAR, AFTER, BEFORE). The software provides assistance for building and validating content analysis dictionaries. Content analysis dictionaries may be merged to create new dictionaries.
- Content management integration: No
- Integration with other systems: An SDK Software development kit is available to integrate WordStat content analytics models and document classification models into other applications (data collection, document management system). Sources available in C#, VB.Net and Delphi (Other sources available on request).
- Integration with data appliances: No

Provalis provides a document-conversion wizard for extracting numerical and alphanumeric data as well as dates from structured documents.



About Hurwitz & Associates

Hurwitz & Associates is a consulting, market research and analyst firm that focuses on how technology solutions solve real world business problems. The firm's research concentrates on disruptive technologies, such as Cloud Computing, Service Oriented Architecture and Web 2.0, Service Management, Information Management, and Social and Collaborative Computing. We help our customers understand how these technologies are reshaping the market and how they can apply them to meet business objectives. The team provides direct customer research, competitive analysis, actionable strategic advice, and thought leadership. Additional information on Hurwitz & Associates can be found at www.hurwitz.com.



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