

## Campus newspapers are much more focused on the “crisis” of the humanities (especially in economic terms) than mainstream media.

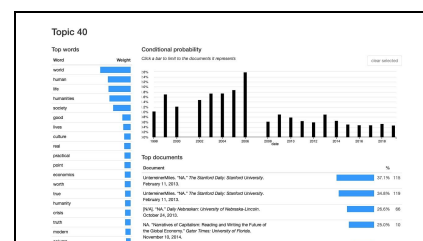
Unlike generic news media such as top-circulating US newspapers (see [KF 1-1](#)), college and university student newspapers consistently address educational issues in terms of problems and problematics. Compared to our Collection 4 (articles from top U.S. newspapers), for example, our Collections [13](#) and [14](#) (respectively, 16,573 articles mentioning “humanities” and 21,182 articles mentioning either ‘humanities’ or “liberal arts” from student newspapers on the UWire service) contain a substantial amount of “crisis” discourse. Topic models of these collections ([C-13.250](#) and [C-14.250](#) at 250 topics) show that topics about education or the humanities are characterized by articles mentioning “crisis” or related words (“situation,” “problem,” etc.) referring to urgent issues.

In C-13.250, for example, topics in which “humanities” appears among the most frequent words such as [#77](#) (education funding cuts), [181](#) (campus infrastructure), and [148](#) (education) are particularly representative. All are crisis or problem-related. (By contrast, we note, “crisis” is not prominent in our Collection 18 of UWire articles mentioning “science.”)

Crises and problems represented in Collections 13 and 14 show up specifically in sets of topics related to (a) *funding cuts* and (b) concerns about *future employment*. Out of 28 topics in C-13.250 that focus specifically on the humanities, 10 can be characterized as problem-oriented. (That is, 5 or more of the topic’s top articles raise problematic issues and/or strike alarming tones in their headlines and content.) In this

group, topics discuss either funding (see topic [#205](#) on college education, [72](#) on university administration, and [62](#) on government-funded education) or desirable skills for employment (e.g., [#148](#) on humanities skills and [167](#) on humanities and sciences/STEM).

One especially significant topic in Collection 13 appears in our 200-topic model of collection: [#40](#) (on human life and culture). In this topic, “humanity” suggestively appears close after “crisis” among top-ranked words, while the content of most of the top articles’ associated with the topic revolves around economic issues. For example, article [a](#) discusses criticisms of the economic value of the humanities; [b](#) makes “economic crisis” the umbrella topic for the *Humanities on the Edge* speaker series; and [c](#) details how the humanities can be a useful tool for understanding narratives of both ethical and economic value.



**Topic #40** in 200-Topic Model of C-13.

### Document collections studied:

- \* Collection 13: U.S. Student Newspapers (articles from UWire mentioning “humanities”)
- \* Collection 14: U.S. Student Newspapers (articles from UWire mentioning “humanities” or “liberal arts”)

**Topic models of these collections:** [C-13.200](#), [C-13.250](#); [C-14.250](#)

**Evidentiary documentation for this key finding:**  
WE1S Report