

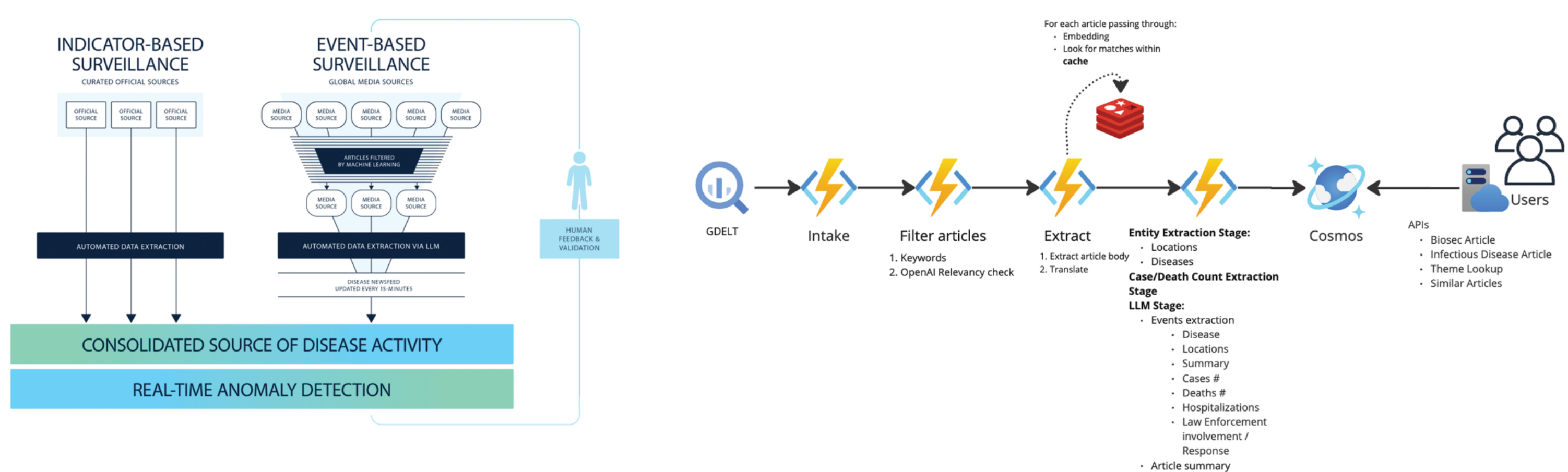
A Global Surveillance System for Infectious Diseases and Bio-Security Threats

Revolutionizing Outbreak Analysis Using Large Language Models for Comprehensive Disease Event Extraction

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Our research study focuses on extracting infectious diseases and bio-security threat-related events across a diverse array of news articles spanning over 65 languages and 200+ locations. Timely intervention is paramount, as any delays in response can lead to devastating consequences. To illustrate, had decisive action been taken merely a week earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic, the global mortality rate could have been curtailed significantly by 44.1% [1]. This task presents a multifaceted challenge: not merely discerning specific details such as types of diseases, geographic locations, and chronological data but also comprehending the nuanced context in which these events unfold. While existing Named Entity Recognition solutions partially address this challenge by capturing individual entities of interest, our methodology utilizes Large Language models and few-shot prompting [2] to reframe the extraction problem as a text completion challenge. To enhance the accuracy of our results, we have employed prompting techniques like Chain of Thought [3] and Chain of Verification [4] aimed at mitigating hallucinations. We've curated an evaluation benchmark dataset comprising articles from diverse geographical locations encompassing a rich spectrum of disease types and established evaluation metrics to refine our methods. Our results show a substantial performance improvement in extracting disease names, achieving a 14% increase. Our ongoing work includes efforts in Parameter-Efficient fine-tuning [5] and Retrieval Augmented Generation [6] to address hallucinations. In strengthening global surveillance, we are taking a vital step towards building a resilient world capable of responding promptly to future pandemics, saving lives globally.

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