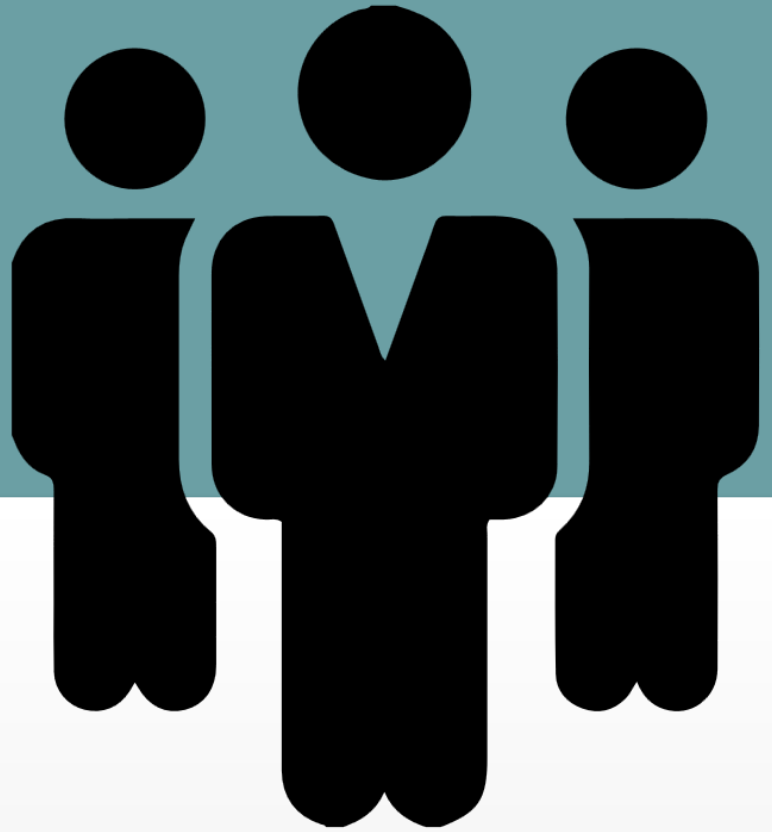# What is Digital History?

Introductions

Hello!
Ashley Sanders, Ph.D.

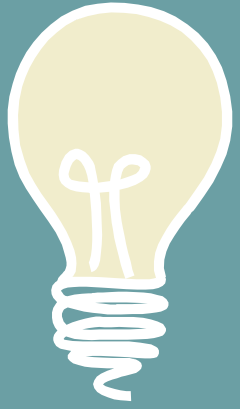Vice Chair, Digital Humanities

UCLA

Methods

Digital Research Methods & Exemplary Projects

1

You can use digital research methods but publish in traditional formats!

Digital Research Methods

1. Data Visualization & Analysis
2. Text Analysis
3. Network Visualization & Analysis
4. Geospatial & Temporal Visualization
5. 2D/3D Image Rendering
6. Multimedia & Multi-sensory
7. Embodied & Community Engaged History

1. Data Visualization & Analysis

2. Text Analysis

FMI: http://signsat40.signsjournal.org/topic-model/
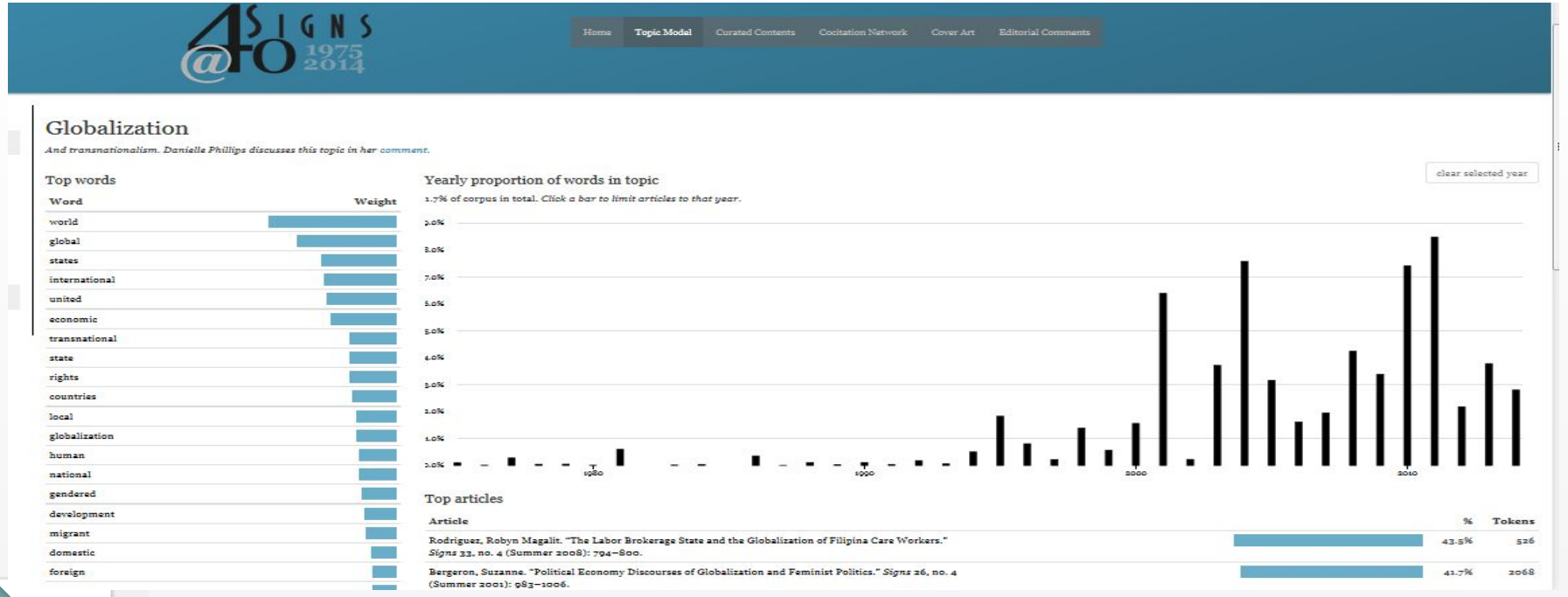
3. Network Visualization & Analysis

The network of relations documented by these baptisms made visible the ways in which ethnic and racial boundaries were made, maintained, and occasionally crossed. The prominence of a Dutch woman as an intercultural go-between, as well as Iroquois women's roles as connectors in the context of baptismal sponsorships suggests that in Iroquoia, women played a role in defining the social borders of their communities in ways elided by the model of male intercultural brokers or Native women's fur trade intermarriages.
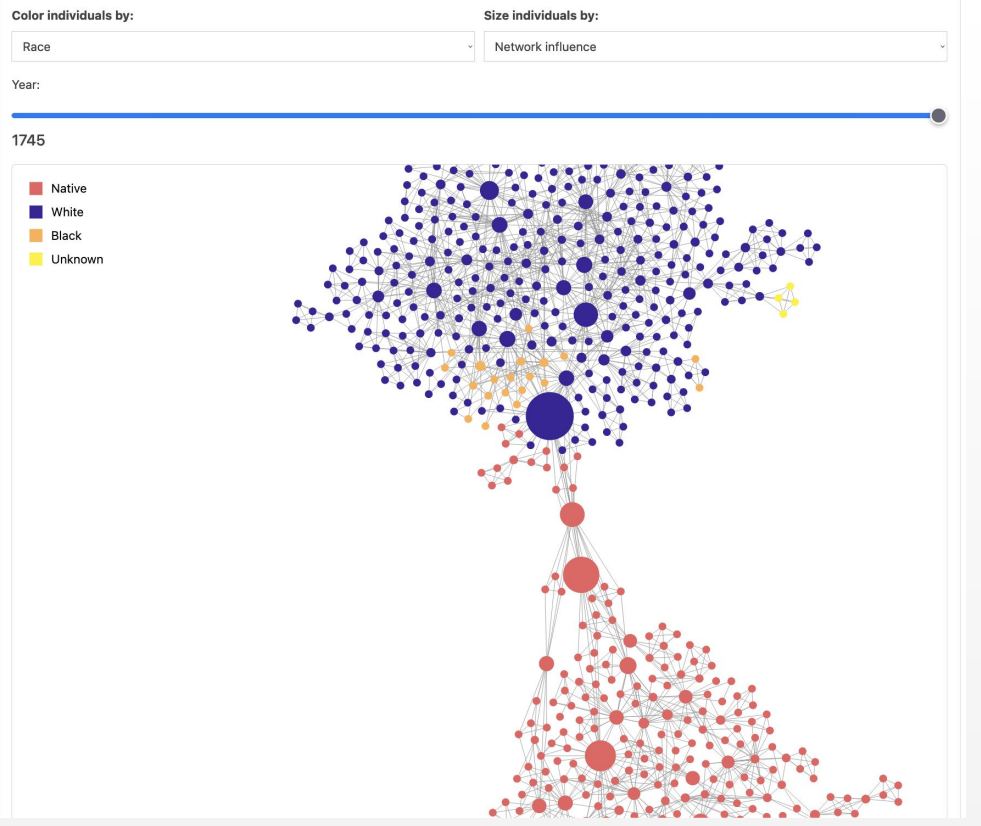
--Maeve Kane

Color individuals by:

Race

Size individuals by:

Network influence

Year:

1745

- 🟥 Native
- 🟦 White
- 🟧 Black
- 🟨 Unknown

FMI: https://maevekane.net/wmq-uc/

4. Geospatial & Temporal Visualization

FMI: https://crdh.rrchnm.org/essays/v01-07-attracted-by-the-khaki/

4. Geospatial & Temporal Visualization

SNCC's National Network (1962-1963)

Legend
- ☆ SNCC National HQ
- ● SNCC Projects
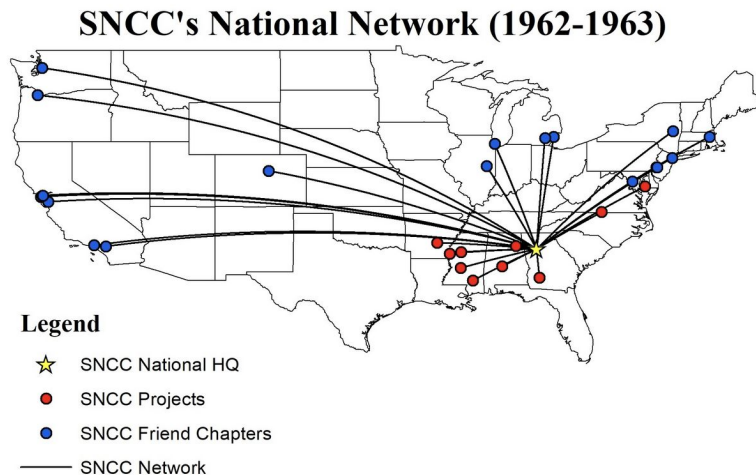- ● SNCC Friend Chapters
- — SNCC Network
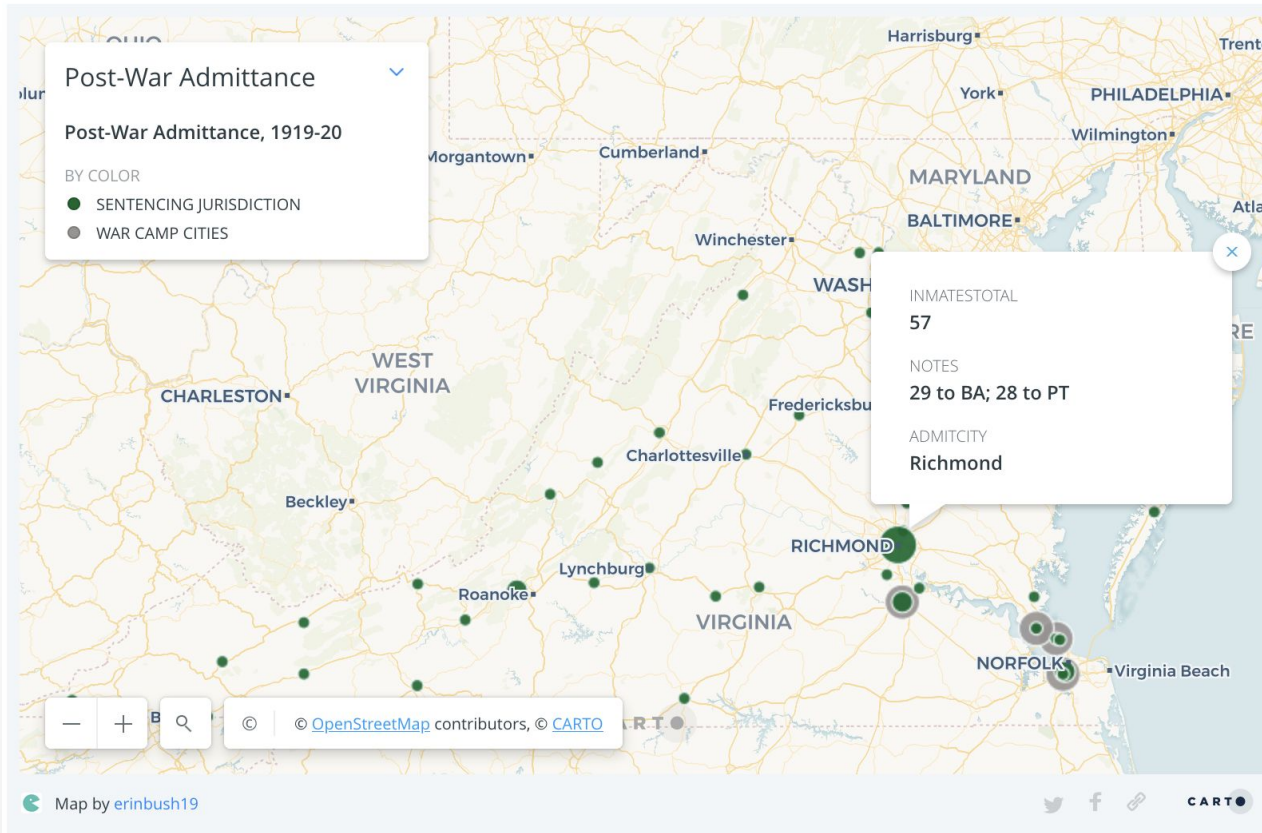
Figure 1. This map demonstrates the geographical reach of Friends of SNCC Chapters. The Atlanta office served as a central organizing hub in terms of communicating news and needs related to the projects to the chapters across the United States. Certain chapters, such as those in the Bay Area and in Boston, also developed their own regional networks. It's also important to note that this map only visualizes the nineteen Friend Chapters listed by SNCC's main Atlanta Office in 1963. By 1965, after SNCC's Mississippi Freedom Summer, Friends of SNCC Chapters increased to seventy-eight.

11

FMI: https://crdh.rrchnm.org/essays/v03-01-bridge-between-two-worlds/

4. Geospatial & Temporal Visualization
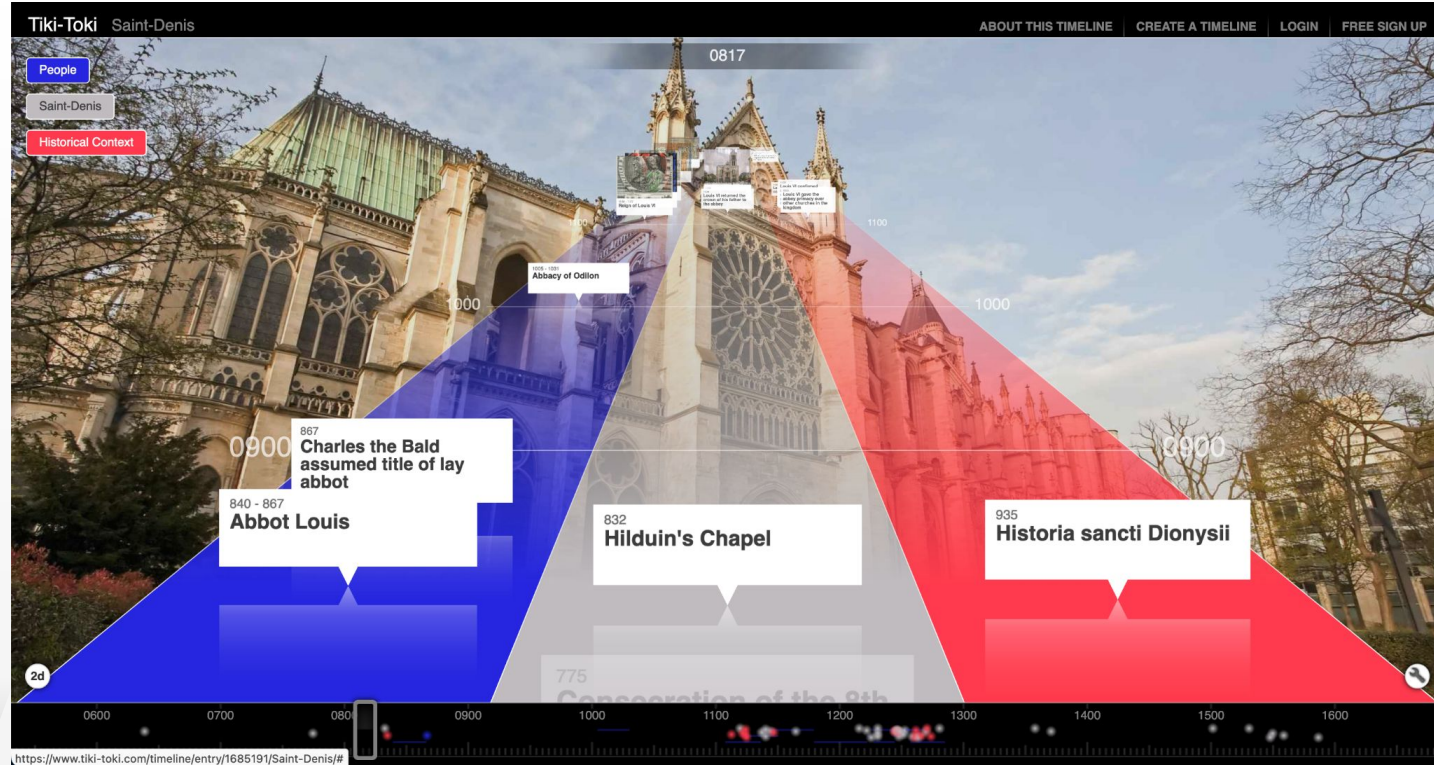
"It was challenging to account for the **uncertainty** of much of the data. ... The graphics attempt to balance intelligibility with uncertainty, while maintaining viewers' sense of the interpretive character of the database."

FMI: http://revolt.axismaps.com/map/

4. Geospatial & Temporal Visualization

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FMI: http://paris.cdh.ucla.edu

5. 2D/3D Image Rendering

ACTIVISM

Journalism with a Gender Lens
by Rowshan Jahan Rao,

"Muslim Virus in Modi's India
by Shigraf Zahbi

Recording Death to Celebrating Living Data
by Faithe J. Day

COVID-19 in Oceania
by Sophie Chao, Gregoire Randin

Communicating COVID-19
by Wambui Wamunyu

Institutional Violence and Structural Poverty
by Silvia Hirsch, Andrea Mastrangelo

Reservoir Mink
by Sarah Green

Wet Markets, Photography and Pandemic Exegesis
by Christos Lynteris

Frozen Bat and Human Cold Chain
by Frédéric Keck

ANIMALS

Transmission
by Ines Doujak, Barker

Phylogenetic Trees and the Genealogical Origins of Zoonotic Viruses
by Lyle Fearnley

Animal Agribusiness
by Alex Blanchette

From Recording Black Death to Celebrating Living Data
by Faithe J. Day

When I look at you now
by Kenji Wong Wai Kin

Mithila Art in 2020
by Ellen Ambrosone

Cartoons
Venom Team

by Untold Stories of Liberation & Love

Art and Art in South Africa
by Duane Jethro

ART

Syndemic Sublime
by Louis Solon

14

5. 2D/3D Image Rendering

Paris Past and Present is a digital project that aims to create interactive 3D-digital models of great 'lost' monuments, architectural complexes, and diverse quartiers of medieval Paris.

New insights [include]: building practices, architects, ... structural properties, use, and function of medieval architecture.
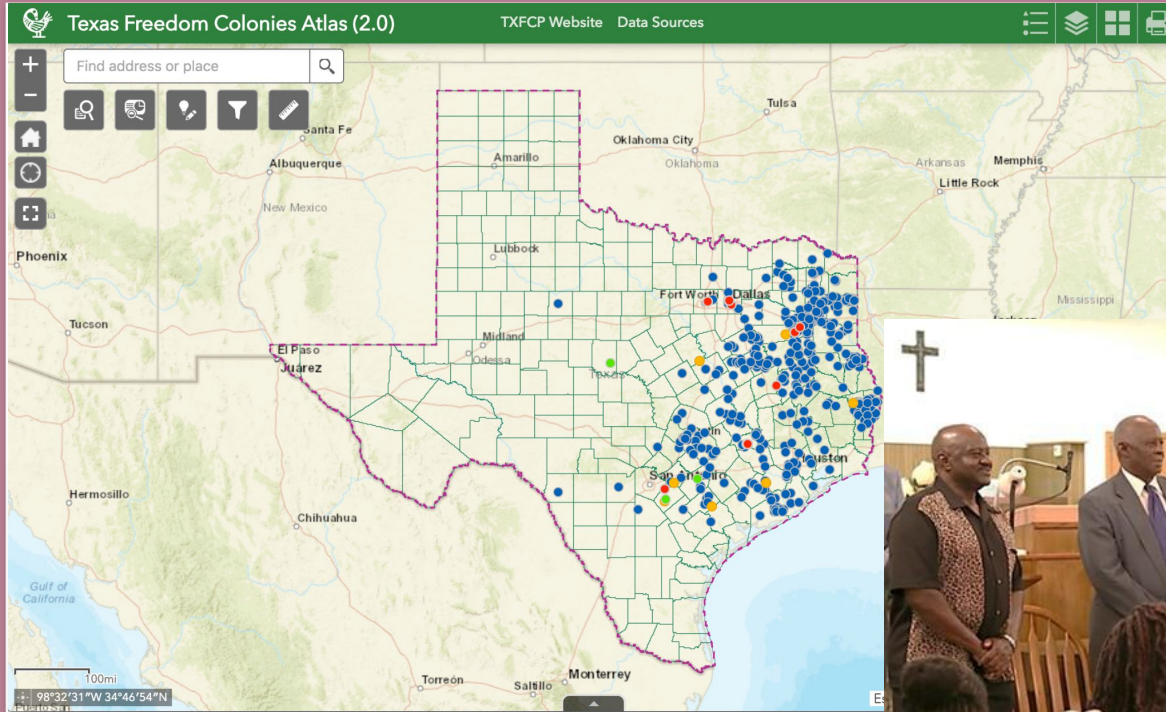

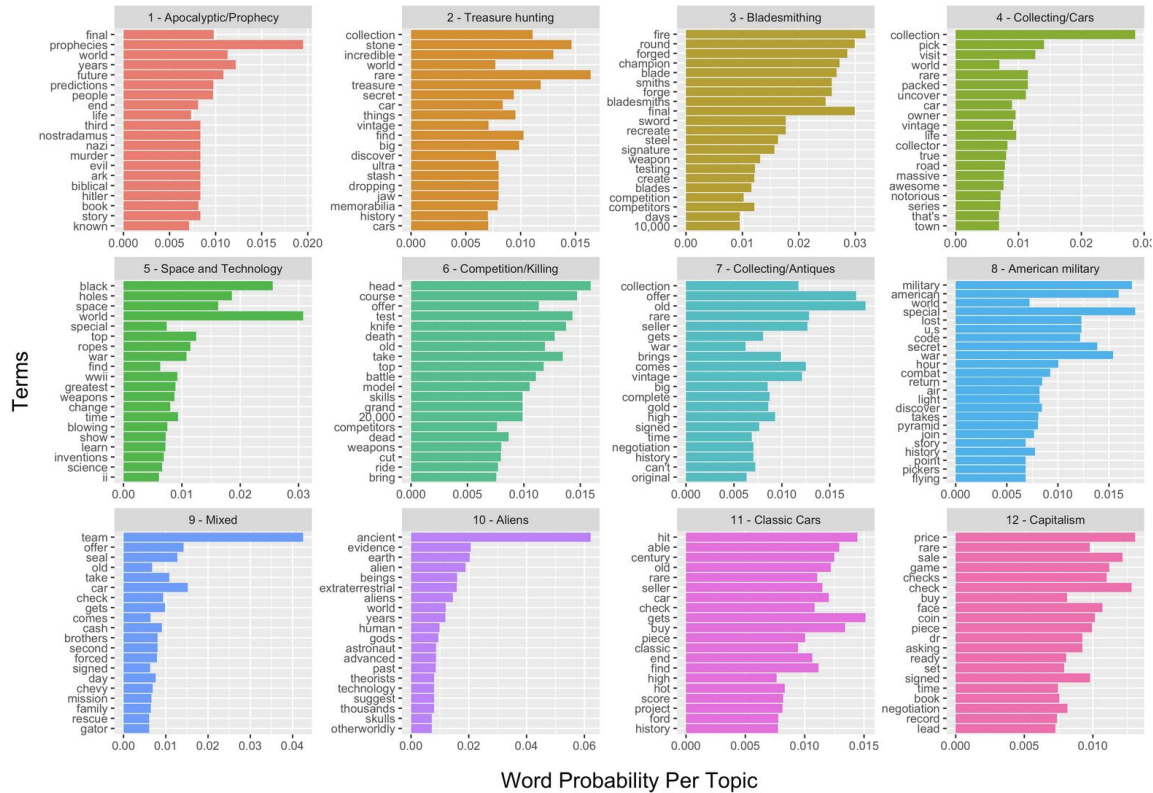**UCLA DIGITAL HUMANITIES**
Paris: Past and Present

P A Reconstruction of the Lady Chapel of Saint-Germain des Prés (c. 1245–55)

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FMI: http://paris.cdh.ucla.edu/

6. Multimedia & Multi-sensory

7. Capturing Embodied History + Community Engaged Preservation

FMI: https://crdh.rrchnm.org/essays/v02-06-black-placemaking-in-texas/

Topics on History

Word Probability Per Topic

New Sources: Television Programming

18

You can also create an innovative digital publication!

Digital Publications

TAYLOR ARNOLD, COURTNEY RIVARD AND LAUREN TILTON

Layered Lives

Rhetoric and Representation in the Southern Life History Project

The Southern Life History Project, a Federal Writers' Project initiative, put unemployed writers to work during the Great Depression by capturing the stories of everyday people across the Southeast through a new form of social documentation called "life histories."

Layered Lives recovers the history of the Southern Life History Project (SLHP) through an interdisciplinary approach that combines close readings of archival material with computational methods that analyze the collection at scale. The authors grapple with the challenges of what counts as social knowledge, how to accurately represent social conditions, who could produce such knowledge, and who is and is not represented. Embedded within such debates are also struggles over what counts as data, evidence, and ways of knowing. As we look to our current moment, where debates about the opportunities and limits of quantification and the nature of data continue, the problems and promises that shaped the SLHP still shape how we capture and share stories today.

[Enter]

Taylor Arnold is Associate Professor of Linguistics and Data Science at the University of Richmond.

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Digital Publications

21

Digital Publications

MOBILE PEOPLE, MOBILE GOD: MOBILE SOCIETIES, MONOTHEISM, AND THE EFFECTS OF ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF…

Mobile People, Mobile God: Mobile Societies, Monotheism, and the Effects of Ecological Landscapes on the Development of Ancient Religions

by Edward Surman

Begin with "Introduction"

22

Digital Publications

THE KNOTTED LINE

LAUNCH

The Knotted Line is an interactive, tactile laboratory for exploring the historical relationship between freedom and confinement in the geographic area of the United States. With miniature paintings of over 50 historical moments from 1495-2025, The Knotted Line asks: *how is freedom measured?* Just as importantly, The Knotted Line imagines a new world through the work of grassroots movements for self-determination.

Educator Resources Mobile-friendly version

THE KNOTTED LINE About

23

DH Pedagogy

Incorporating Projects in the Classroom

2

Create open educational resources (OERs) for class

Pirates of the Mediterranean

Early Modern Period

MEDITERRANEAN HISTORY, 1492-1650

SULTANS

EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNS

Reconquista

460 490 530 560 590 630 660 690 730 760 790 830 860 890 930 960
500 600 700 800 900

TimelineJS

Interested in learning more? Here are few resources to help you get started:

Easy-to-use Visual Storytelling with StoryMap JS

Build Projects with Students (_Reviews in DH_)

Editors' Note: January 2022
by Roopika Risam, Jennifer Guiliano, Amanda Licastro, Dibya Roy, and Schuyler Esprit
+3

Published: Jan 11, 2022

Editors' note on the January 2022 issue of Reviews in Digital Humanities, guest edited by Amanda Licastro, Dibyadyuti Roy, and Schuyler

Review: The Penn & Slavery Project
by Elizabeth Losh
+5

Published: Jan 18, 2022

A review of The Penn & Slavery Project, an app and website investigating the University of Pennsylvania's relationship to slavery, directed by

Review: Indian Community Cookbooks Project
by Souvik Mukherjee
+7

Published: Jan 18, 2022

A review of Indian Community Cookbooks Project, an archive of community cookbooks from India, directed by Khushi Gupta, Muskaan Pal, and
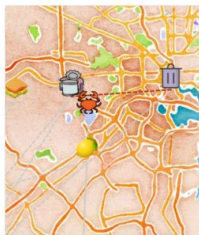
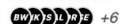**Review: The Delek Archives**
by Arjun Ghosh
+6

Published: Jan 18, 2022

A review of The Delek Archives, a blog documenting casteism and Islamophobia in Indian schools, directed by Titas Bose and Bhaswar Faisal Khan

Review: Baltimore Traces
by Brandon Walsh
+6

Published: Jan 11, 2022

A review of Baltimore Traces, a multimedia teaching project on Baltimore, directed by Nicole King and Bill Shewbridge

Review: Digital Oral Histories for Reconciliation
by Jasmine Clark
+11

Published: Jan 18, 2022

Review of Digital Oral Histories for Reconciliation, a virtual reality experience on the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children, directed by Kristina

Considerations

Time available

Your (or collaborator's) skills

Design

Individual or group

Scaffolding

Tools

Students' skill sets

Definitions

Digital Humanities

3

What does "digital humanities" mean to you?

DH is...

"

DH is the study, exploration, and preservation of, as well as education about, human cultures, events, languages, people, and material production in the past and present in a digital environment through the creation and use of dynamic tools to
- visualize and analyze data
- share and annotate primary sources
- discuss and publish findings
- collaborate on research and teaching

for scholars, students, and the general public.

(Ashley Sanders, 18 December 2013, bit.ly/DHdefinition)

DH is...

"

a **nexus of fields** within which scholars use **computing technologies** to investigate the kinds of questions that are **traditional to the humanities**, or, as is more true of my own work, ask traditional kinds of humanities-oriented **questions about computing technologies**.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, "Reporting from the Digital Humanities 2010 Conference," ProfHacker, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (13 July 2010).

We are using the term "**digital scholarship**," rather than "digital humanities," because we view DH as a cross-disciplinary field. The majority of projects are collaborative and enable participants from various backgrounds (i.e. programmers and historians) to connect, engage, and build together.

UConn Class Guide

Meanings
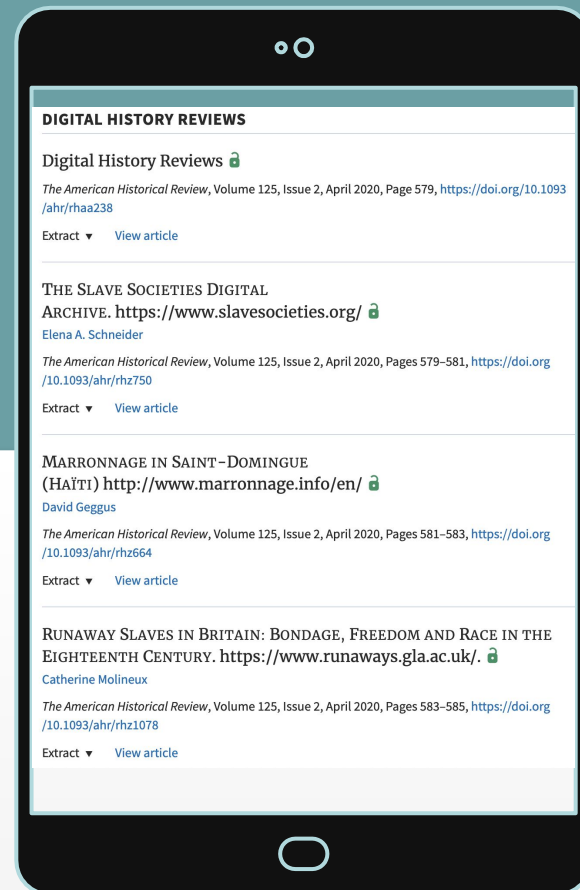
What does DH/digital history mean to you?
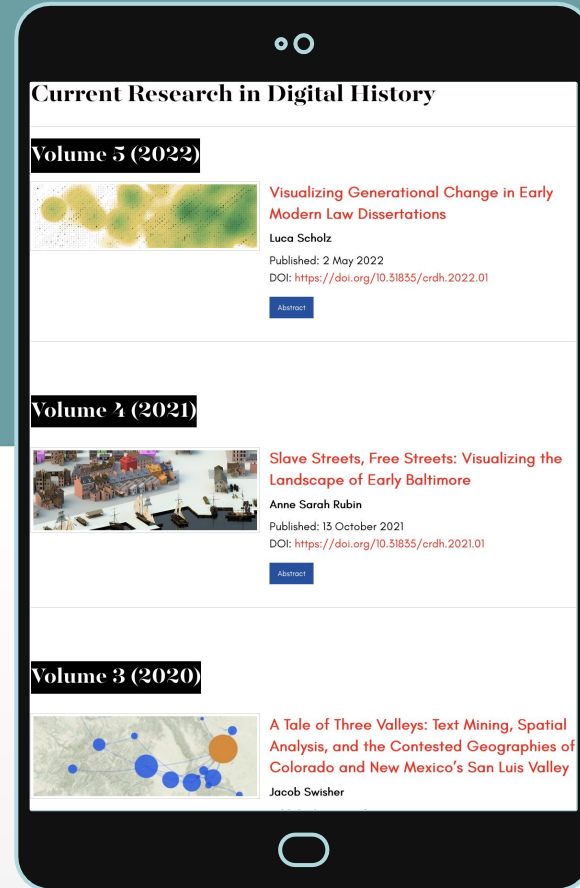
Where to find ideas

And how to learn more

4

American Historical Review

- *Shown:* Volume 125, Issue 2 (April 2020)

- See also: "Digital Resources," *The American Historical Review*, Volume 126, Issue 1, March 2021, Pages 441–442.

DIGITAL HISTORY REVIEWS

Digital History Reviews 🔓

The American Historical Review, Volume 125, Issue 2, April 2020, Page 579, https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaa238

Extract ▼   View article

THE SLAVE SOCIETIES DIGITAL ARCHIVE. https://www.slavesocieties.org/ 🔓

Elena A. Schneider

The American Historical Review, Volume 125, Issue 2, April 2020, Pages 579–581, https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhz750

Extract ▼   View article

MARRONNAGE IN SAINT-DOMINGUE (HAÏTI) http://www.marronnage.info/en/ 🔓

David Geggus

The American Historical Review, Volume 125, Issue 2, April 2020, Pages 581–583, https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhz664

Extract ▼   View article

RUNAWAY SLAVES IN BRITAIN: BONDAGE, FREEDOM AND RACE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. https://www.runaways.gla.ac.uk/. 🔓

Catherine Molineux

The American Historical Review, Volume 125, Issue 2, April 2020, Pages 583–585, https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhz1078

Extract ▼   View article

Current Research in Digital History

- open-access, peer-reviewed publication of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media.

- discipline-specific arguments and interpretations

Current Research in Digital History

Volume 5 (2022)

Visualizing Generational Change in Early Modern Law Dissertations

Luca Scholz

Published: 2 May 2022
DOI: https://doi.org/10.31835/crdh.2022.01

Abstract

Volume 4 (2021)

Slave Streets, Free Streets: Visualizing the Landscape of Early Baltimore

Anne Sarah Rubin

Published: 13 October 2021
DOI: https://doi.org/10.31835/crdh.2021.01

Abstract

Volume 3 (2020)

A Tale of Three Valleys: Text Mining, Spatial Analysis, and the Contested Geographies of Colorado and New Mexico's San Luis Valley

Jacob Swisher

Where to find ideas

Reviews in DH

A peer-reviewed journal and project registry that facilitates scholarly evaluation and dissemination of digital humanities work and its outputs

Historical Methods

A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History

It explores interdisciplinary approaches to new data sources, new approaches to older questions and material, and practical discussions of computer and statistical methodology, data collection, and sampling procedures.

DHQ

open-access, peer-reviewed, digital journal covering all aspects of digital media in the humanities. Published by the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) and the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)

Nightingale

journal of the Data Visualization Society (DVS). Mission: "foster a community where every member benefits from resources that support growth, refinement, and expansion of data visualization knowledge, regardless of expertise level."

Where to find ideas

Debates in the Digital Humanities

The Digital Black Atlantic
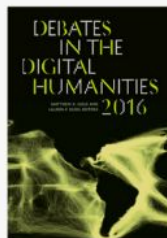
Roopika Risam, Kelly Baker Josephs

Debates in the Digital Humanities 2019
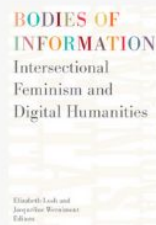
Bodies of Information

Intersectional Feminism and Digital
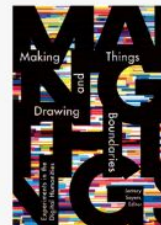
Making Things and Drawing Boundaries

Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016

Debates in the Digital Humanities

39

How to learn more

- <u>Programming Historian</u>

- <u>Towards Data Science</u>

- <u>Learn code the Hard [thoughtful] Way</u>

- <u>The Book of R</u>

- Your own campus workshops: Library, IT, Ed Tech, Quant Labs, etc.

- Collaborate with those who share your interests & have skills!

EXPLORING BIG HISTORICAL DATA
The Historian's Macroscope

Second Edition

Shawn Graham, Ian Milligan,
Scott B. Weingart & Kim Martin

World Scientific

Text Analysis

A Hands-on Workshop

5

Voyant Tools

Note:

- Meanings of words in context
- What you notice, find interesting or surprising
- Any questions you have

Getting Started with Voyant Tools
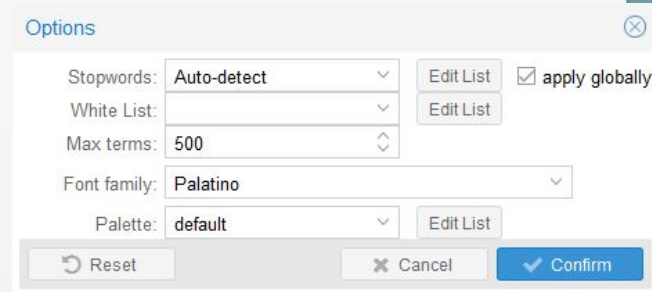
Voyant-Tools.org

1. Download the documents

2. Click the "Upload" button on Voyant Tools

3. Find the documents and select them all

4. Click "Open"

Getting Started with Voyant Tools

Stopwords: Words that carry little meaning & are removed from analysis

1. Hover over the **?** in Cirrus tool and click the toggle switch:
2. Select "Edit List"
3. Copy & paste the stopwords list shared via slack.

44

Options			⊗
Stopwords:	Auto-detect ⌄	Edit List	☑ apply globally
White List:	⌄	Edit List	
Max terms:	500 ⌄		
Font family:	Palatino ⌄		
Palette:	default ⌄	Edit List	
↺ Reset		✖ Cancel	✔ Confirm

Quick Tour: Voyant Tools Interface

The default view in Voyant gives you a word cloud for the corpus, a summary, a reader tool so you can read each document, trend lines for the most common terms (after removing stopwords), and keywords in context.
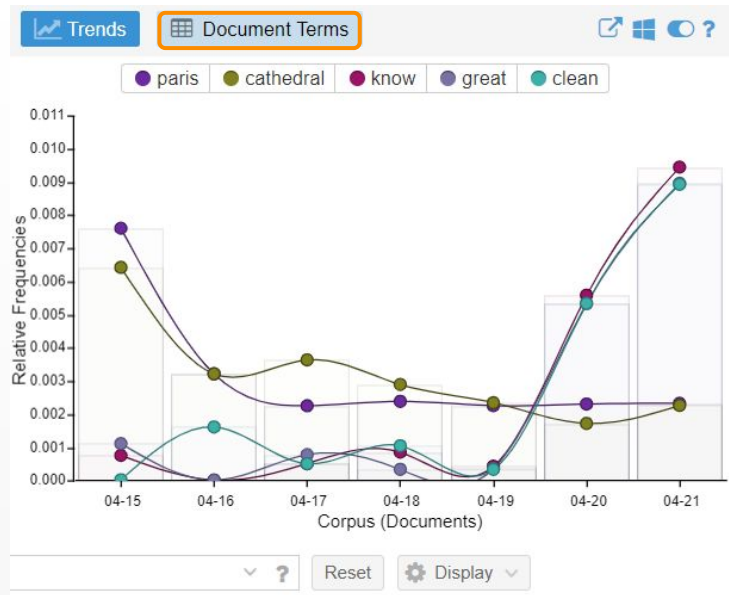
46
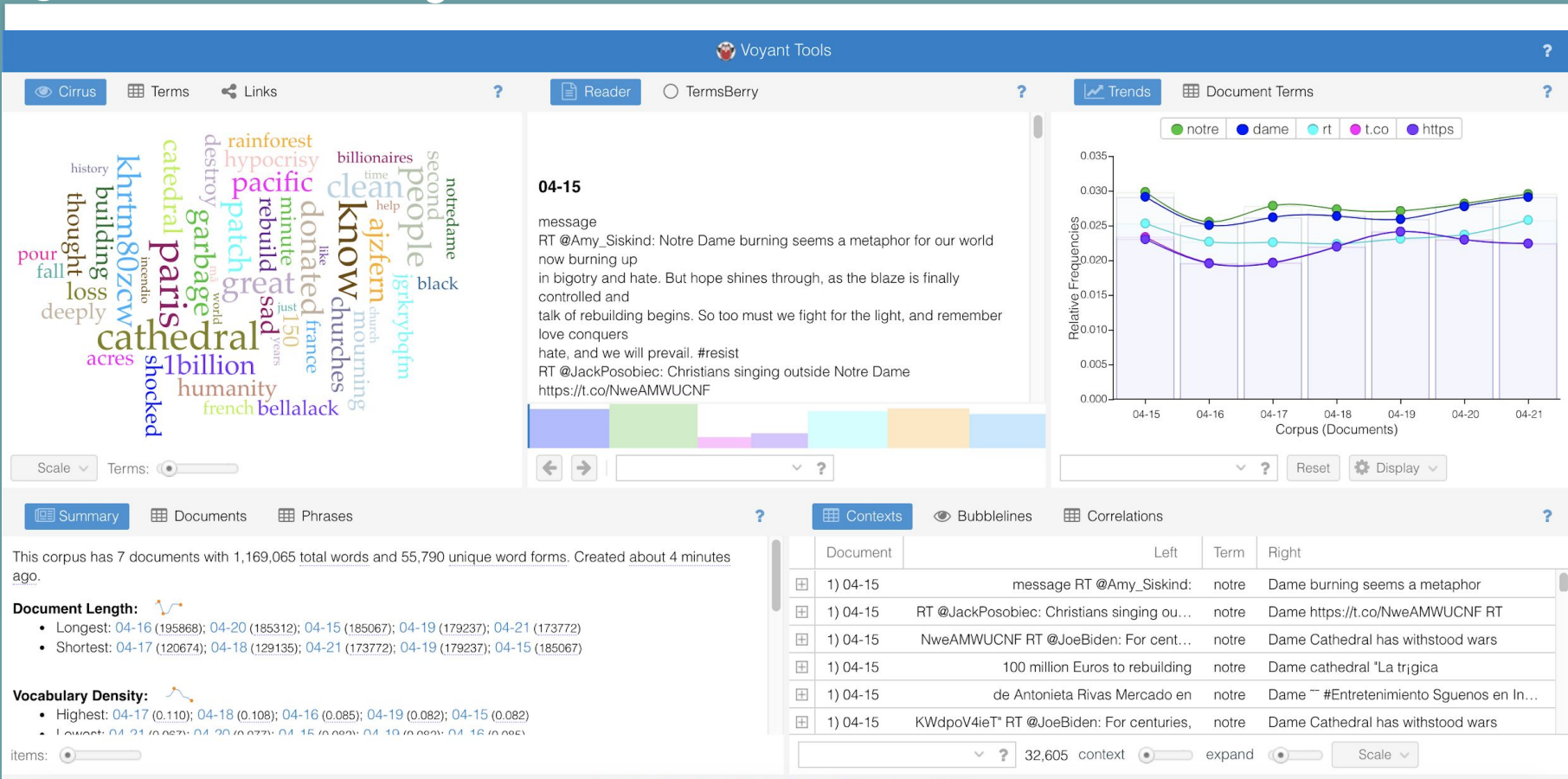
Place your mouse over the **?** in the word cloud box and click on the the button that looks like a toggle switch to edit the stopwords. Add one stopword per line. Then click "Save" and "Confirm."

Stopwords

TF-IDF in Voyant Tools

1. Switch Trends (in the upper right) to Document Terms.

2. Add a column for "Significance," which is calculated using tf-idf.

3. Sort in descending order

4. **What do the tf-idf scores tell you about how reactions surrounding the fire at Notre Dame changed over time?**

In the upper right corner, you will see your Trends tool. Select the **"Document Terms"** tool. Mouse over a column header, click on the small gray arrow, and check **"Significance."** Then, click on the gray arrow that appears on the Significance column header and choose **Sort Descending**.

Document Terms => Significance

49
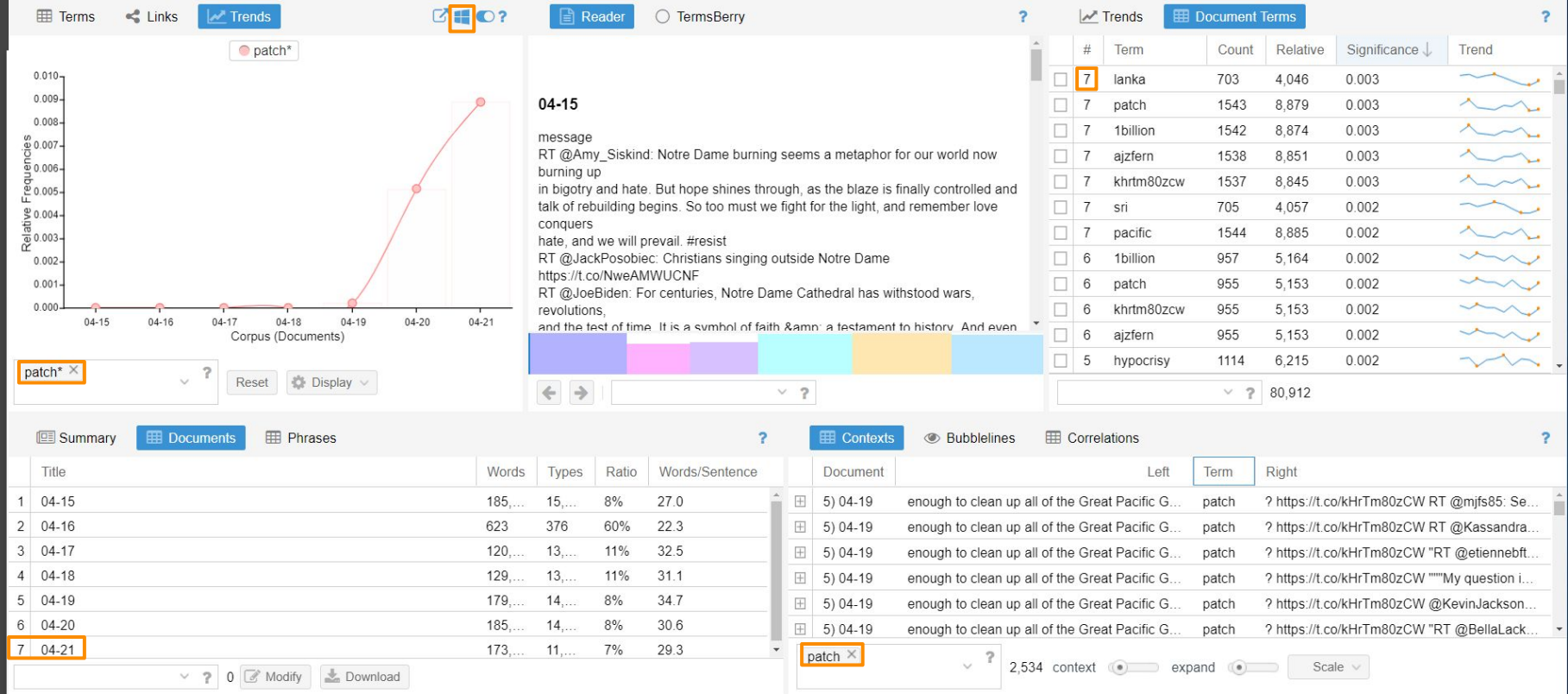
Change your word cloud to the Trends tool by hovering your mouse over the question mark and clicking the window icon. Then select Trends. Search for the word(s) of interest in the search boxes in the Trends and Contexts tools. Finally, change your Summary tool to the Documents tool to cross reference the document number in which the word appears.

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Questions?

@throughthe_veil

@dr.ashleysanders

@asanders.scholar.social

asandersgarcia@ucla.edu

Have questions or project ideas after the workshop that you'd like to discuss?

Book a **1-1 consultation**