Collections as Data

Conditions of Possibility

Thomas Padilla
@thomasgpadilla
British punk fanzines from the 1970s, wikimedia
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Self-portrait, Vincent van Gogh, Rijksmuseum
Paris attack victims: All 129 people killed in terrorist attacks identified by French government, Independent
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Use the check boxes next to the file name to download multiple files. Data files will be downloaded in their default format. You can also download all the files in a category by checking the box next to the category name. You will be prompted to save a single archive file. Study files that have restricted access will not be downloaded.
The central issue of architecture . . .
is to create those configurations and social situations, which provide encouragement and support for life-giving comfort and profound satisfaction - sometimes excitement - so that one experiences life as worth living.

C. Alexander, H. Neis, M. Alexander. *Battle for the Life and Beauty of the Earth*
When this purpose is forgotten or abandoned, then indeed, there is no architecture to speak of.

C. Alexander, H. Neis, M. Alexander. *Battle for the Life and Beauty of the Earth*
In very general terms, an agent is a being with the capacity to act, and ‘agency’ denotes the exercise or manifestation of this capacity.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Agency
Alone, andrein
Button - Push
Switch - Flip
Knob - Rotate

Light Feedback
Every surrogate has its own query potential, which for some purposes may exceed that of the original.

Martin Mueller, *Morgenstern’s Spectacles or the Importance of Not-Reading*, 1.21.2013
REMEMBER THE DICKSON COUNTY FAIR AND HOME-COMING OCTOBER 4, 5, 6 AND 7

TENNESSEE CITY
POSTOFFICE ROBBED

R. A. Wright's store and the postoffice at Tennessee City were entered by robbers presumably between midnight and one o'clock Tuesday morning. The safe in the postoffice was blown open and all cash and postage stamps were taken.

The robbery was discovered by Walter Harris of Rusklin and R. A. Wright on Thursday morning. Wright started to go in the store and found the door had been opened. He called Mr. Harris, who had come in to an early train, and they entered the building and found what had taken place.

Mr. James T. Johnson, of Cumberland Furnace, was sleeping at the hotel and was awakened by the robbers, as was also another man, but the general thought at first was that a tempest had existed on the railroad track and had been exploded.

Nothing was stolen from the store except a few smaller articles which consisted of watches, sewing machines, and stamps. The robbers made for the railroad. A freight train stood on the siding here for some time and the goods of the robbers made their way onto it.

The greatest loss is Postmaster Phillips in the money safe, which had been installed a few months ago.
Biblical Passages Frequently Quoted Together

Often more than one verse appears on a single newspaper page. A sermon, for instance, would quote multiple texts, or a political statement might marshal several passages in evidence. These multiple quotations can be thought of as a network, where the passages that are quoted together on the same page are connected to one another.

The visualization below shows the relationship between 140 chapters in the Bible. For a chapter to be included, it had to have been quoted on the same page as another chapter at least 350 times in the Chronicling America newspapers.

Biblical passages frequently quoted together
Chip in before the March 31st deadline.

READ TOM'S REFLECTIONS

EDMONTON 2016: REGISTER
Buzzfeed, Introducing Pound: Process for Optimizing and Understanding Network Diffusion
Agency
Empowerment
Ethics
empowerment . . .
to promote the self-actualization or influence of.

Merriam-Webster, *empowerment*
With the children on Sundays, through eye-gate, and ear-gate into the city of child-soul.
When small projects become big without changing the nature of the project, we call that design feature ‘scalability’.

Anna Tsing, *On Scalability: The Living World is not amenable to Precision Nested Scales*
Scalability is possible only if project elements do not form transformative relationships that might change the project.

Anna Tsing, *On Scalability: The Living World is not amenable to Precision Nested Scales*
But transformative relationships are the medium for the emergency of diversity.

Anna Tsing, *On Scalability: The Living World is not amenable to Precision Nested Scales*
If you want unusual results, you can’t expect that they will come from playing by the usual rules.

Bethany Nowviskie, *a skunk in the library*
EXPERIMENTAL STUFF!

There are 4 experimental features for ... experimenting with, right now! They are:

- Albers boxes — this feature is disabled
- Object timeline — this feature is disabled
- Big thick borders — this feature is disabled
- Rijkscolors — this feature is disabled

ALBERS BOXES

this feature is not enabled
There are 4 experiments disabled for ... experimenting with, right now! They are:

- Albers boxes
- Object time
- Big thick brush
- Rijkscolor

ALBERS BOXES

this feature is disabled

Albers boxes are a series of warm and sloppy kisses for the artist Jo boxes when and when an image has not yet been digitized using
know about an

The outer ring denotes the two department that an object belongs to; for example:
The Mechanical Curator

Randomly selected small illustrations and ornamentations, posted on the hour.

Rediscovered artwork from the pages of 17th, 18th and 19th Century books.

@MechCuratorBot - British Library Digital Scholarship Blog
16 x 16 Colourful Faces from the British Library Collection, by quasimondo
American Cookery

By Amelia Simmons
Hartford: Printed for Simeon Butler, Northampton, (1798)
Interest: The First American Cookbook & Northeast & The Great Ladies
Feeding America: The Historic American Cookbook Project

Melt half a pound of butter in a stewpan, put in six onions sliced; add two heads of celery cut small, one-half a head of white cabbage, and a bunch of chopped parsley; let them boil twenty minutes, then stir in three rolled crackers; pour in two quarts of boiling milk, or milk and water; let this boil up gently for half an hour, and just before serving stir in two well-beaten eggs.

Download Data

The Feeding America Dataset

Description

The "Feeding America: The Historic American Cookbook" dataset contains transcribed and encoded text from 76 influential American cookbooks held by MSU Libraries Special Collections. Features encoded within the text include but are not limited to recipes, types of recipes, cooking implements, and ingredients. The 76 texts were chosen among more than 7000 cookbooks that MSU Libraries holds as representative of periods and themes in American cookbook history spanning the late 18th to early 20th century.
Agency

Empowerment

Ethics
ethic . . .
a theory or system of moral values.

Merriam-Webster, *ethic*
The New American Slavery: Invited To The U.S., Foreign Workers Find A Nightmare

From BuzzFeed's H-2 visa investigation

HOW-TO / REPRODUCIBLE DATA ANALYSIS

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT SHARING OUR DATA ANALYSIS

Publishing reproducible data that's genuinely useful
Analyses

- **Passage:** "Since 2005, Labor Department investigation records show, at least 800 employers have subjected more than 23,000 H-2 guest workers to violations of the federal laws designed to protect them from exploitation, including more than 16,000 instances of H-2 workers being paid less than the promised wage."
- **Analysis:** For the methodology and calculations, see [this notebook](#).

- **Passage:** "Those numbers almost certainly understate the problem, as the federal government doesn’t check up on the vast majority of companies that bring guest workers into this country."
- **Analysis:** For the methodology and calculations, see [this notebook](#).

- **Passage:** "[Crystal Rock chief executive Arthur] Gillette, whose company has been certified for at least 358 visas since 2002, [...]
- **Analysis:** See [this spreadsheet of visa certifications](#).

- **Passage:** "A Labor Department investigation opened in 2011 found that Harvest Time owed workers more than $52,000 in back wages for 167 violations of worker protection laws."
- **Analysis:** See [case details here](#).
Aggregated H-2 Guest Worker Violations

The Python code below loads all WHISARD violations since 2005 (based on the end-date of the violation period); isolates the violations of laws meant to protect H-2 workers; and provides aggregate counts of the number of employers, certain violations, and workers.

Methodology

1. Load all violations, and limit them to those that meet all of the following criteria: (a) DATE_END_VIOL_YEAR is 2005 or later; (b) Classified as having an ACT_ID of "H2A" or "H2B"; and (c) has an E (employee) record flag, as opposed to an R (employer) record flag.
2. Group all of these violations by their violation "description." Count the number of matching violations for each description.
3. Identify violations that pertain to U.S. workers, rather than guest workers, and exclude them from the analysis.
4. Identify violations that pertain to underpaying guest workers.
5. Calculate the number of workers affected by each set of violations, and the number of employers named (based on the first available of the following: federal EIN, legal name, trade name).

Data loading

In [1]:
```python
import pandas as pd
import sys
sys.path.append("../utils")
import loaders
```

Note: loaders is a custom module to handle most common data-loading operations in these analyses. It is available here.

In [2]: employers = loaders.load_employers().set_index("CASE_ID")

In [3]: violations = loaders.load_violations().set_index("CASE_ID")
Global Outlook::Digital Humanities (GO::DH) is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organisations (ADHO). The purpose of GO::DH is to help break down barriers that hinder communication and collaboration among researchers and students of the Digital Arts, Humanities, and Cultural Heritage sectors in high, mid, and low income economies.

GO::DH is not an aid or an outreach programme. Participants come from all over the world, and we all recognize that excellent work is being done around the world; furthermore, we know that students, researchers, and institutions in all geographic regions and types of economies all have much to contribute to the development of digitally enabled work in the arts, humanities, and cultural heritage sector.
Welcome to Minimal Computing

We envision this web space as a place for thought pieces on minimal computing, examples and how-to pieces, listings of events and resources, and as a place to find collaborators. Please watch this space for further developments.

The GO::DH Minimal Computing Working Group kickstarted itself into life with a workshop on July 8 at the DH2014 conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. For more information about that workshop, please see the GO::DH call for presentations.

If you would like to contribute, all you need to do is send us a pull-request or send us a line.
Public Domain Collections: Free to Share & Reuse

Did you know that more than 180,000 of the items in our Digital Collections are in the public domain?

That means everyone has the freedom to enjoy and reuse these materials in almost limitless ways. The Library now makes it possible to download such items in the highest resolution available directly from the Digital Collections website.

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Below you’ll find tools, projects, and explorations designed to inspire your own creations—go forth and reuse!

Explore what’s in the public domain with our visualization tool.
Today, we make sense of our “topological culture” — with its locative media, volatile financial markets, real-time databases, mobile borders, and so forth — through lists, networks, clouds, fractals, flows, and assemblages . . . while we may appreciate these new topologies, we have not stopped trying to pin down their wings. Instead of butterfly boxes, we make animated maps, trace-routes, and circuit diagrams.

Shannon Mattern, *Cloud and Field*
DocNow

DocNow is a tool and a community developed around supporting the ethical collection, use, and preservation of social media content.
GIFT AGREEMENT

1) Gift. Twitter, Inc. ("Donor") hereby donates to the United States of America for the benefit of the American people and inclusion in the Library of Congress ("Library") a collection consisting of public Tweets from the Twitter service from its inception to the effective date of this agreement ("Collection"). Any additional materials that the Donor gives to the Library, including materials accessed by a feed established for this purpose, will be governed by the terms of this agreement unless the Donor and the Library agree upon different terms in writing in advance of such additional gift.

2) Copyright. Donor grants an irrevocable nonexclusive license to the Library for such rights as the Donor has the right to transfer or license under the Twitter Terms of Service in place at the time of the gift or before. The current, as of the effective date, and previous Terms of Service are appended.

3) Access. Any portion of the Collection originally posted to the Twitter service six months prior to the then-current date may be made available to Library staff and to

Gift Agreement from Twitter to the Library of Congress

Some Thoughts on Ethics and DocNow
The digital influences the way that I approach the archive . . . how to read into things that are more ephemeral . . . those moments or spaces that are more ephemeral are both analogous to me of social media spaces and also of the ways and moments that diasporic black folk have played in the fragments of the archives.

Jessica Marie Johnson, The Digital in the Humanities
How I spend free time, by urbanoasis
To the first task of confronting complicity, special collections libraries and archives cannot responsibly document the Black Lives Matter movement without first realizing that you and your repository are part of the problem the movement is highlighting. *I am part of the problem.*

Jarrett M. Drake, *Expanding #ArchivesForBlackLives to Traditional Archival Repositories*
Assessment: Cultural Assessment

This sub-group of the DLF Assessment Interest Group (DLF AIG) was formed in February 2016 to discuss ways by which we may assess our digital collections and their cultural impact.

Contents
1. Our defined purpose:
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4. To work with us:

Our defined purpose:

Members of the DLF AIG for Cultural Assessment aim to first identify institutional data and practices that may be relevant to building a robust understanding of “cultural assessment.” Then, the group will investigate and attempt to surface underlying assumptions within our data and practices to help the community better understand the social structures that both influence our work and result from it. Ideally, the group will develop helpful and nuanced rubrics for institutional measurement and analysis of cultural biases and assumptions. The DLF AIG Cultural Assessment group intends to raise awareness of cultural bias and institutional “blind spots,” as well as recommend a set of data points, to create more inclusive cultures within DLF member organizations.

We will explore whether and how cultural biases/assumptions are embedded in:

- materials we have available in physical collections - special collections, institutional archives;
- in librarians' and archivists' selections of what to digitize;
- in the requests their patrons and communities make for content;
- in choices about levels of digitization and preservation;
- in metadata-creation/descriptive activities;
More bluntly, when software is created in environments hostile against women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups, many kinds of inequity result.

Bess Sadler and Chris Bourg, *Feminism and the Future of Library Discovery*
The central issue of architecture . . . is to create those configurations and social situations, which provide encouragement and support for life-giving comfort and profound satisfaction - sometimes excitement - so that one experiences life as worth living.

C. Alexander, H. Neis, M. Alexander. *Battle for the Life and Beauty of the Earth*
thank you.