

Work-in-progress

[because of the methodological part and the demo character best to be presented as presentation]

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Between information retrieval services and bibliometrics research – new ways of semantic browsing and visual analytics

We are confronted with growing information spaces for which we have little possibilities to gain an overview effectively and efficiently. Information about the size and composition for instance of a library collection automatically conveyed when visiting the library physically, is made invisible by on-line interfaces. In other words we trade remote access for intangibility. [2] In the last couple of years, this problem has been explicitly addressed by Information Retrieval specialists [3]. Incidentally, we see *macroscope* like structures [4] emerging, which allow the visitor to browse through an information space also remotely, and to experience serendipity [5].

We report in this paper about a recent initiative of OCLC to create an alternative access to its products, among them ArticleFirst, a database with 65 million articles. The interactive interface ARIADNE has been created at the beginning of 2015, and is continuously updated since [1]. (<http://thoth.pica.nl/relate>)

The main idea behind the ARIADNE interface is to create a browseable representation of related and interlined context for any query. By context we mean related terms, authors, journals, but also Dewey classifications, and other parts of the bibliographic record. Those are visualized in the form of a network where more related entities are positioned closer to each other and vice versa.

Relatedness or similarity is defined on the basis of a shared lexical profile in a high dimensional word space. To achieve a reactive, click-through interface the original sparse semantic matrix of a size of four million vectors of 1 million dimensions is pre-processed by means of Random Projection, a well-established technique for dimension reduction [8,9]. The resulting much smaller semantic matrix makes it possible to calculate relatedness or similarity between different types of entities on the fly.

The interface is lightweight. More recently, different connections to other open access information spaces, such as GoogleScholar, Wikipedia, WorldCat, have been implemented. Via hyperlinks the query (simple search) or a selection of prominent terms around the query (context search) can be automatically transferred to those other information services. This new feature allows for an iterative, back and forward search for contextualization both inside of ArticleFirst and beyond. (Fig 1)

In this presentation we give a demo of the tool. We also discuss different possible use applications:

- as entity disambiguation tool for information providers
- as contextualization engine for researchers
- as bibliometric tool to find related documents in information spaces without citations

Concerning the latter, we report about an experiment with a specific dataset that contains records and citations – the so-called astrophysics dataset - used by a group of researchers to compare methods of topic delineation [6,7]. For this specific collaboration we created a separate ARIADNE instantiation, called Little Ariadne (<http://thoth.pica.nl/astro/relate>). Little Ariadne provides an interface to a set of about 100k documents. Since the ISSI2015 citations have been added as entities to the semantic matrix. The matrix further also includes cluster assignments produced by different research teams, and treats them as additional attributes to a document. (Fig 2) The OCLC team applied themselves standard clustering algorithms (K-Means and the Louvain community detection algorithm) on the semantic representation of articles built from the semantic matrix, both with and without citations. The clustering results are comparable with other results based on well-accepted citation-based approaches. Based on this experiment we discuss possibilities to use the semantic-matrix approach for bibliographic information spaces where citations are not available.

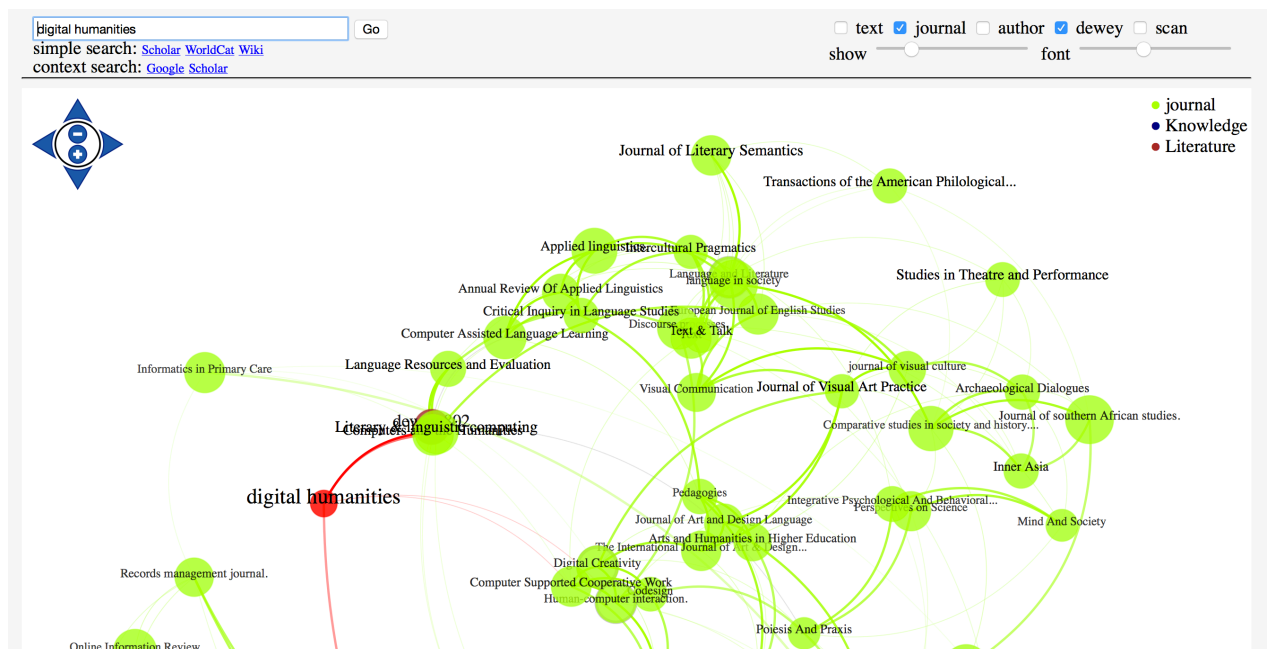


Fig1: Snapshot from ARIADNE for the query “digital humanities”, link: <http://thoth.pica.nl/relate?input=digital+humanities+&type=1&type=3&dots=&hubness=5&show=100&fsize=100>

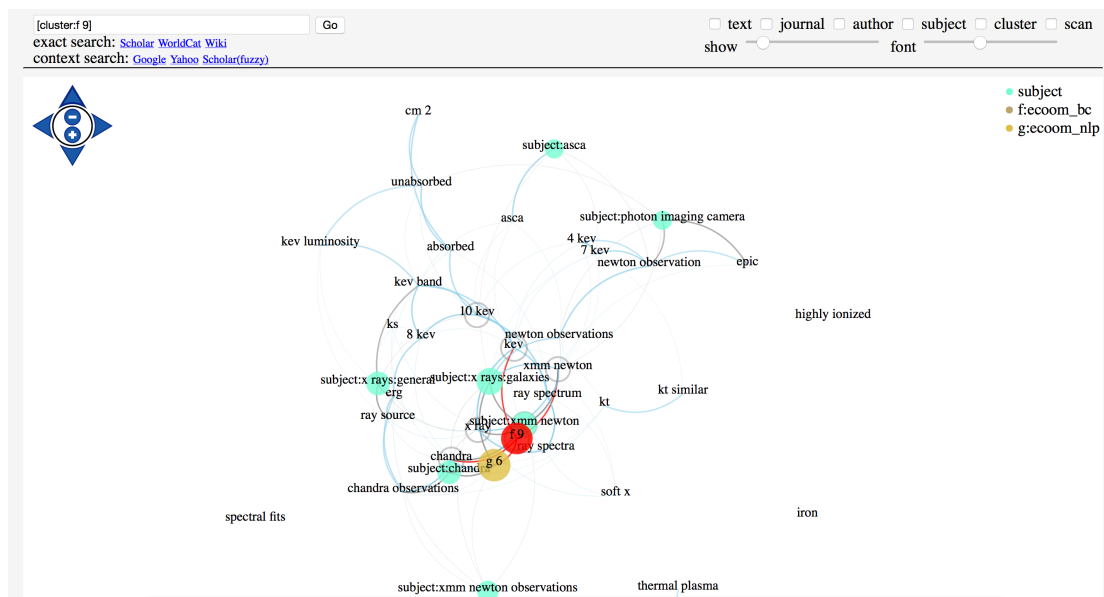


Fig 2: Snapshot from Little Ariadne showing the context of one specific cluster solution in the astrophysics dataset [link:

[http://thoth.pica.nl/astro/relate?input=\[cluster:f+9\]](http://thoth.pica.nl/astro/relate?input=[cluster:f+9])]

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