HIST 3814 Week 5 Notes

Goals:

* Experience the cycle of digital history by trying some exploratory analysis with the tools/approaches learned so far

Listen

* We’ve digitized and retrieved digital historical data
* We’ve cleaned it, transformed it, made it more useable
* Done some exploratory and explanatory analysis
* How to communicate what we’ve found and kept reflective paradata about the process
* A complete project includes several cycles of all of these steps
* This week is the first pass, first exploration—think: I wonder what I might find?
* **Research compendium:** well-organized repository with sub-folders for original data, cleaned data, any analytical scripts written, any analysis describing the different steps, and findings
  + People can see where you left off and build off of it
* This week: findings is more like further questions

Do

* Make a corpus
* Use **at least three** appropriate techniques from weeks 1 to 4 to identify and surface some interesting historical observations from the sources
* Imagine the possible directions that the research might take
* **Share results** using an appropriate technique encountered in week 5

Visualizing Schneemann American Art History and Digital Scholarship: New Avenues of Exploration by Michelle Moravec

* Links between feminist art and women’s liberation movement
* Centrality of Carolee Schneemann to networks
  + Can visualize her circles
* Converted pdf to plain text and html
* Hand-cleaned the text and separated the letters into individual files
* Complied metadata on correspondents
* Ran corpus through a software that tagged for places, names, and organizations
* Linux to extract the tagged entities
* Hand-cleaned and ran through RAW to get different visualizations
* Used Antconc to do a preliminary corpus linguistics analysis of Schneemann’s letters
* Intended to use Gephi to visualize the results, but realized that Antconc produced more legible visualization
* One of the themes: battle for feminist principles
* 418 letters in the corpus
* One-third written to women and two-thirds written to men, but almost equal numbers of female and male recipients
* Occupations of the correspondents
* Visualize patterns in the content of the letters
  + Content of her letters are heavily male
* Geographic locations mentioned in the letter
* Look for word patterns in the letters based on statistical probabilities
  + Collocates
  + Keywords
  + Based on looking at her letters as compared to letters written to her
* “I want to include Schneemann’s published writings in the corpus linguistics analysis, but also in visualizations of her citations and references to people and places in the texts”
* “the questions of Schneemann’s larger position within the feminist community of knowledge producers also intrigues me”
* Compare two ways of visualizing the same data: which seems clearer?

From the video:

* Research questions:
  + What does network analysis of Schneemann’s correspondence reveal about her overlapping circles?
  + What does a corpus linguistics approach to Schneemann’s correspondence reveal about her as female artist in a largely male milieu?
* Do you work with your messy data or not? (Moravec did !)
* Couldn’t really answer her research questions
  + Corpus is too small
  + Do another collocate to “bookend” her findings about “THE PAST” in Schneemann’s correspondences