NewRadial is a web-based digital environment for humanities research and collaboration that encourages users to occupy, search, sort, and annotate databases in a visual field. It has been designed to function as a workspace in which primary objects from existing databases can be browsed, gathered, correlated, and augmented by multiple users in a dynamic visual environment. In addition, NewRadial offers a space in which secondary scholarship, exchange and debate can be centralized and mapped onto the primary data without deforming or destabilizing the original databases.

The NewRadial prototype encourages three types of work:
1. A simple search, sorting and manipulation of database objects in a visual field for the purposes of early scholarly inquiry and curiosity-based research.
2. Initial, raw and in-process commentary on connections and associations between database objects. Within the database's visual field, scholars can add comments on such correlations, thus starting conversations, discussions and debates relating to such ideas. These discussions are hosted and archived by the NewRadial server.
3. Larger projects in which a community is able to curate and sort specific selections from a number of larger, independent databases. NewRadial can be used to construct these edition environments for users to browse, and (if desired) encourage secondary scholarship to proliferate in and around such collections.

Essential points:
1. It resembles a data visualization application, but the nodes either iconically represent the source material or contain the source material.
2. Its primary advantage is that it makes use of adapters to display various types of databases and database content. The adapters do not have to be locally hosted (and any distantly accessed material is cached, but not saved on the NewRadial server—like a web browser). The adapters can be customized for any kind of media (images, text, video and audio) and can be used to display any database with a public API.
3. Significantly, NewRadial's meta-adapter frontend can be used to simultaneously display content from databases that have NOT been standardized or are not usually compatible. Unlike something like NINES (in which each database needs to achieve a common metadata standard to "work" within its Collex tool), NewRadial's meta-adapter calibrates the adapters from various databases to work together.
4. Any user-created data can be viewed and exported for use in other software tools.   User-created edges between nodes resemble RDF data model triples, but current eschew the traditional directionality of subject—>predicate—>object. Still, directional edge creation is a possibility if required, and work is being done to develop adapters which will import existing RDF maps into the workspace.
5. It has (so far) been designed to function both as a browser and as an environment for critical correlation and commentary (i.e. a centralized social edition space that can host collected commentary from a knowledge community.) It is NOT a close reading environment.
6. NewRadial is released under the GNU GPL (v3 and above) and the source code is thus available for further customization and development.

Radial	Circular arrangement of related nodes
Node	Represents the individual aspects of the medium (ie: pages, artwork, etc.)
Edge	Visual representation of user-generated connections between two nodes
Group	A user created collection between a group of nodes
Collection	A specific selection of nodes saved or collected by the user from various search results. After signing in, Users can select nodes on the canvas and use the "Collect Items" function found in the **info panel**. Users can then save these cached nodes to a collection. Collections can be accessed, curated and annotated by using the "NewRadial collections" adapter and the username toolbar options.
Adapter Search Panel	Found on the right side of canvas under "S" tab. Select checkbox to the left of the adapter name for database search parameters, and select the "search" below adapters list to initiate the search. Multiple adapters can be searched simultaneously. Return to this panel to initiate another search.
Info Panel	The "I" panel on the right side of the screen containing information on the selection object. Context-sensitive options to work with data in NewRadial are also offered in this panel.
Explore Panel	Panel on the bottom left side of the screen which allows users to search results and to navigate the workspace via corresponding item titles under the categories of *Nodes*, *Edges*, and *Groups.*
Search box	Search box found in **Explore Panel** menu which allows users to further search and sort the nodes within NewRadial that are returned from an adapter search.
Select Results	Button used to select search results for group and radial creation
Reset Button	Located at the bottom of the display field, resets the workspace
Comment	Comment section is located within the **Info Panel** on the right-hand side of the canvas after clicking on an edge.
Create Edge	Right-click on first node, hold and drag edge and right click on second node
Create Group	Select nodes, then hit **Create Group from Selection** button in the info panel
Create Radial	Select nodes, then hit **Create Radial from Selection** button in the info panel
Selecting a node	Left-click on a node
To Select Multiple Nodes	Either: 1. Draw a box around a group of nodes by left-clicking and dragging while not on a node 2. Left-click on nodes while holding down ctrl-key
Moving a node to a new location	Left-click (hold) & drag
Data source Info	On Info Panel, left-click on image or click on **More Info** link
To create a grouping box	Left-click in empty space and drag the box outline around selected nodes
To pan within the workspace	Right-click & drag
To zoom in	Z
To zoom out	Shift + Z
Moving a Radial	In all adapters: Left-click and hold on circle at center of radial, then move radial to new location In adapters which feature parent and child nodes: 1. Right-click a yellow connection to pick up the child radial 2. Left-click a yellow connection to pick up the parent node