

FOAR705 - Learning Journal - Elaboration

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26/8/19 - 10:21am

One of the pains I regularly experience when doing academic work is that I am very poor at time management. I spend a lot of time trying to remember where I found a particular quote, or which source I got an idea from. It doesn't help that I am not sure exactly what I'll be doing for my MRes project. I have some ideas, but I don't have *the* idea.

26/8/19 - 3:15pm

I just finished meeting Dr. Norbert Ebert. He was my lecturer for the Social Theory class I did in semester one. My supervisor is currently away in Germany on study leave so I thought it would be a good idea to meet with him and get some advice regarding my MRes project. I explained to him that I was torn between different ideas, some ideas I was more passionate about, whilst others were more practical. The advice he gave was that I should choose the more practical topic. The rationale behind it was that an MRes thesis is very short. I had ambitious ideas regarding what I want to do and I conceded the fact that it be better suited to a PhD project. He also said that the research that I carry out can and should be used as a springboard onto a PhD.

So now I have resolved myself to a definitive topic. It will involve analysing the way that the East German state were portraying the first (and only) football match between East and West Germany. Of particular significance was the fact that this football match would take place in West Germany, during the World Cup Finals. Newspaper articles from *Neues Deutschland* would be my primary source for the research.



26/8/19 - 5:29pm

With a clearer idea of what I want to do in my MRes project, I would probably need to redefine some things I had outlined in my Scoping exercise.

Decomposition

- Collect newspaper articles from *Neues Deutschland*
- Store them on my computer
- Find a way to analyse the text
- Write notes on my findings

Although the above is very rudimentary, it is a rough outline of the stages I will need to go through when doing my research.

28/8/19 - 8:53pm

I had emailed my supervisor Dr. Ulrike Garde about the status of my MRes project. She was happy that I had finally gained some clarity around what my project would be. It was always going to be about football and Germany. It was just a question of how these two concepts could fit together.

29/8/19 - 1:21pm

I will now see if *Neues Deutschland* has any articles about the 1974 World Cup in West Germany.

Objective: Find out if *Neues Deutschland* has articles about the 1974 FIFA World Cup.

Action:

- Go to the website www.nd-archiv.de
- Go to the bottom right hand corner where it says *Archiv durchsuchen* (lit. Archive search through)
- Type in *Weltmeisterschaft* (lit. World Championships)

Error: None

Result: There are some articles about the World Cup. However, it is showing articles from before and after the 1974 World Cup.

29/8/19 - 1:25pm

After the previous search, a new advanced search appeared at the bottom of the search results. This advanced search gives the user the ability to specify a time range.

Objective: Find out if *Neues Deutschland* has articles about the 1974 FIFA World Cup by restricting the date range to the years of 1973 and 1974.

Action:

- Go to the website www.nd-archiv.de

- Use the advanced search option
- Type in *Weltmeisterschaft* (lit. World Championships) in the *Suchausdruck* (lit. search expression)
- In the *In welchem Zeitraum* restrict the search from 1/1/1973 to 31/12/1974
- Leave all other options in their default settings

Suchausdruck

weltmeisterschaft

In welchen Rubriken?

Die Rubrikenzuordnung erfolgte im Zuge der Digitalisierung und ist nicht zuverlässig.

Rubrik

Wähle optional...

In welchem Zeitraum?

Zwischen

01. Jan. 1973

und

31. Dez. 1974

Suchparameter

Suchmodus

☒ UND

☐ ODER

☐ EXAKT

Sortieren nach

☒ nach Trefferwert

☐ chronologisch absteigend

☐ chronologisch aufsteigend

Suchfelder

☒ Alle

☐ Titel

☐ Untertitel

☐ Inhalt

☐ Autor

Anzeige der Suchergebnisse

☒ Fundstellen

☐ Artikelbeginn

Suchen

Error: None

Result: The search result returned articles only from 1973 and 1974. However, it does return results from other sports' World Cups. I have considered adding

the term *Fußball* in the search query, but I think it may rule out articles that do not specifically mention football in the article, but are still about the FIFA World Cup.

29/8/19 - 2:05pm

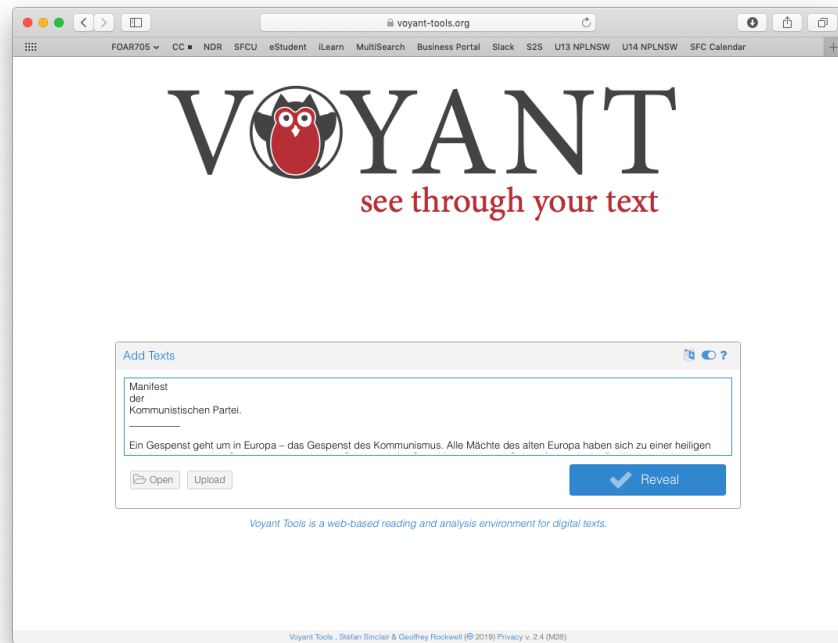
Now that I know I have sources I can use, the next step is to find out whether Voyant Tools can analyse German text. I remember a discussion in class about Voyant Tools being used as a textual analysis tool. I also remember a former classmate talking about how they used it for their semiotic analysis of text. The web address is www.voyant-tools.org.

29/8/19 - 2:11pm

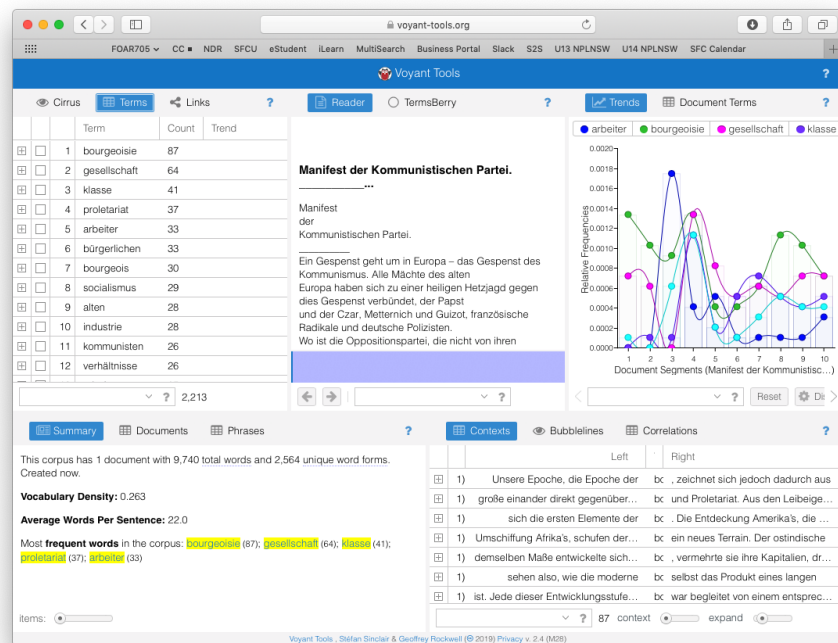
Objective: Find out if Voyant Tools can analyse German text.

Action:

- Copied the entirety of Marx's *Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei*
- Pasted the text in the Voyant Tools text box
- Clicked reveal



Error: None.



Result: Voyant Tools indeed does work with German. It is also unsurprising that the most common word in the Communist Manifesto is *bourgeoisie*.

29/8/19 - 2:29pm

Now that I know Voyant Tools can work with German text, my next question is whether it can work with a corpus of text. This will require saving numerous articles on my machine ready to be analysed.

Objective: Save three articles from *Neues Deutschland*.

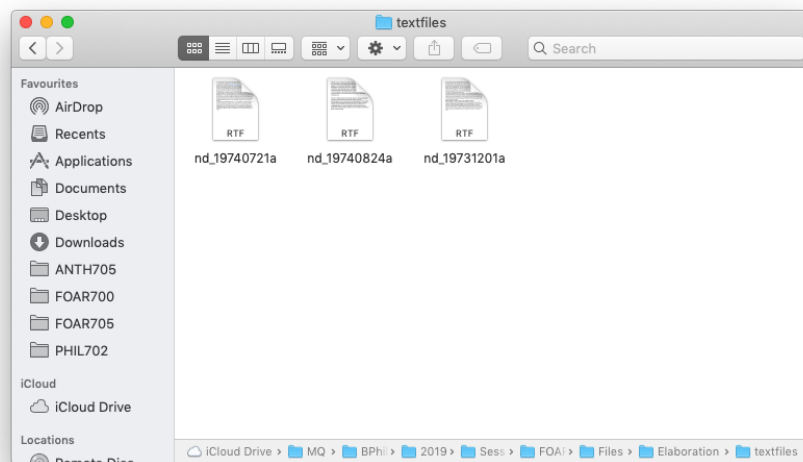
Action:

- Performed *Weltmeisterschaft* search within the years of 1973 and 1974
- Entered the first article that was returned in the search
- Copied the text of the article
- Opened Text Edit on my machine

- Pasted the article
- Saved the article with the naming convention 'nd_yearmonthday' with the with a letter appendage signifying difference if there were multiple articles published on the same day
- Article saved under 'nd_19740721a.rtf' in textfiles folder
- Repeated this process of copying, naming and saving the next two articles

Error: None.

Result: Three articles successfully saved as .rtf files.



29/8/19 - 2:46pm

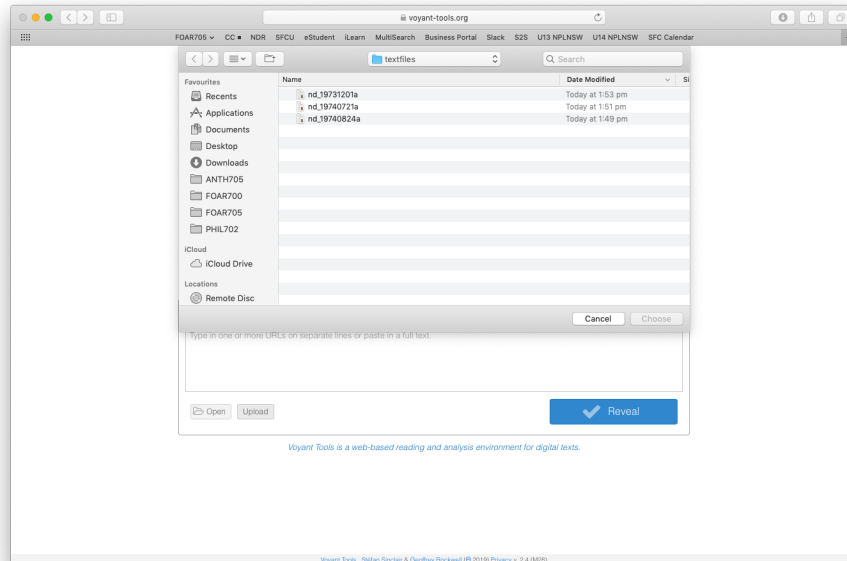
Now that I have three .rtf files, I want to see if Voyant Tools can accept all three in an upload.

Objective: Upload three .rtf files into Voyant Tools

Action:

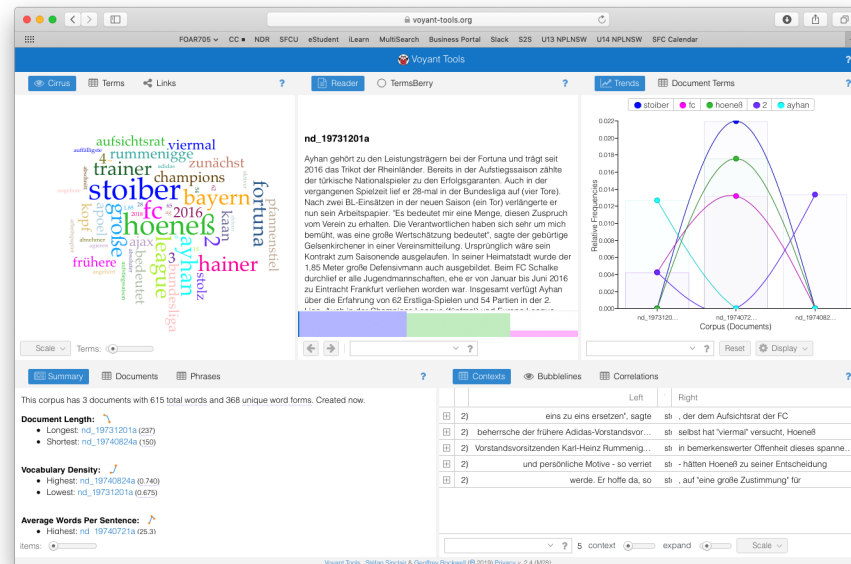
- Go to www.voyant-tools.org
- Select the upload option

- Navigate to the textfiles folder
- Selected the three .rtf files
- Click on choose



Error: None.

Result: Voyant Tools can indeed analyse text from a number of .rtf files.



31/8/19 - 10:12am

Reflecting on our last meeting in FOAR705, I recall discussion around APIs and how they can help with collecting data. As my current workflow of copying articles and pasting them in Text Edit requires me to manually do one article at a time, I wondered if there was an API available.

31/8/19 - 10:32am

After some searching, there is **no API available** for the *Neues Deutschland* archive. It seems that I will have to continue copying the articles manually.

1/9/19 - 11:01am

Revisiting my Elaboration I document, I realise that I probably need to rewrite some of the work I did for Scoping. This includes what is part of my Decomposition, Pattern Recognition and Algorithm.

1/9/19 - 1:27pm

After sitting down for some time with a pen and a pad, I was able to mind map what would be involved in this research process. Listed below are the individual items that comprise my research workflow.

- identifying a date search range
- identifying key search terms
- sorting out irrelevant news articles
- downloading the text from the newspaper articles onto my machine
- storing the articles in a directory on my machine
- labelling and tagging articles for ease of re-use
- uploading the articles to a text analysis website
- interpreting the textual analysis
- identify key themes from the analysis

1/9/19 - 3:45pm

I have a better understanding of what Pattern Recognition means. I previously thought it meant what type of patterns my software solution could recognise. This was then reflected in my Scoping I exercise. I now conceive of Pattern Recognition as the processes that would often be repeated in my research. Below are the list of patterns that I have recognised.

- the repetition of the search process when using a new search term (including the sorting out of irrelevant articles, downloading articles and storing them in a directory)
- the repetition of the process to uploading the articles to a word analysis website
- the repetition of the process to log and key findings that may emerge from the textual analysis

1/9/19 - 6:19pm

After spending some time away from my computer, I was able to brainstorm again on the good ol' real life note pad. This gave me the ability to figure out what my algorithm looked like. Below is what I came up with.

1. Access web archive of the newspaper
2. Delimit search time period (i.e. 1/1/1973 - 31/12/1974)
3. Enter search term in the search window
4. Sort out relevant and irrelevant newspaper articles
5. Download (or copy) the text from the newspaper article
6. Save the text onto a .txt file on my machine
7. Tag metadata information of the article including publish date, authors name and location
8. Organise articles by date (or theme, I have not yet decided which is best)
9. Upload the corpus of text to textual analysis website
10. Identify themes that emerge from the analysis
11. Note down findings in research journal.

4/9/19 - 12:53pm

Revisiting Elaboration I, I recognised that I had mentioned that I will take notes of what I found in Voyant Tools, but did not actually mention this process. I currently use Microsoft OneNote for my note taking in all my university subjects and have done so since my first year as an undergraduate. OneNote has been an integral part of my workflow in academic work.

4/9/19 - 1:08pm

I want to know how OneNote can help me organise my notes for my MRes project. This use of OneNote will be different than my previous uses because I only had one workbook, with one section for each of the units I studied.

OneNote gives the user the ability to have multiple sections in a workbook, which then contain multiple pages. To conceive of a way to organise my notes, I thought of note categories I could use.

- Key Concepts
- Notes from Literature
- Notes from primary sources
- Misc ideas

5/9/19 - 12:43pm

Objective: Create sections for the different note categories in OneNote

Action:

- Added section
- Named new section Key Concepts
- Added section
- Named new section Notes from Literature
- Added section
- Named new section Notes from primary sources
- Added section
- Named new section Misc ideas

Error: None.

Result: New sections created in OneNote that correspond to the note categories.

5/9/19 - 1:31pm

I just finished a YouTube video about OneNote. One feature that I had not used yet was the Tag feature. I do not yet want to add the Tagging feature as part of this elaboration as I have not yet figure out how I would use it. It is nice to know I have that feature if I want it.

5/9/19 - 1:39pm

After watching that video, I also had a lightbulb moment. It regards to back ups. I had learnt that OneNote is based entirely off their cloud, with no offline save option. This could be hazardous if the cloud is somehow corrupted.

5/9/19 - 1:45pm

Now worrying about potential data loss, I have been thinking about other note taking solutions. I have consider two others:

1. Microsoft Word
2. Text files

Both would require me writing notes in a new document every single time and saving them to a directory on my machine. This would then require me to manage the file structure of my notes and I would lose the sync workflow that I use so much between my devices.

5/9/19 - 1:51pm

I want to explore the possibility of using .txt files as a means of writing my notes. This is inspired by the work we've been doing in Software Carpentry. It also allows for shell use in the future.

5/9/19 - 2:02pm

Objective: Copy my notes that I have from different places and store them as .txt files in a directory on my machine.

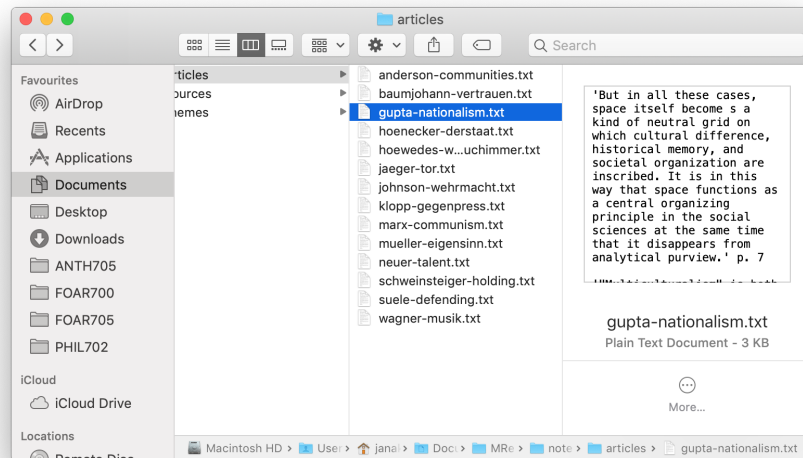
Action:

- Copy notes from Gupta - Nationalism.docx
- Open Text Edit
- Go to Format menu

- Select Make Rich Text
- Paste text
- Save file as gupta-nationalism.txt in articles directory
- Repeat process for other article notes

Error: None.

Result: Notes are now in .txt format.



5/9/19 - 2:25pm

Having these notes saved as .txt files means I can commit notes to GitHub. Now I need to choose which way I will go.

5/9/19 - 2:29pm

I think I will still use OneNote. I'm a creature of habit. However, I will keep on looking for back up options that work with OneNote.

5/9/19 - 10:30pm

Some final thoughts about this Elaboration assessment. I am not sure if the Proof of Concepts I have chosen are complex enough. What has guided me through this process have been two main criteria:

- Is it achievable in a short time?
- Will it help my workflow

What I have proposed satisfies both. It also allows me to build on this as a platform. I will continue to look at ways to economize the way I work.