

Exploring Intertextual Networks in Women's Writing: A digital tool and its story

Julia Flanders, Northeastern University
[@julia_flanders](https://twitter.com/julia_flanders)

What did pre-Victorian women writers read? How did they use and cite their reading, and how did their writing shape the literate cultures of their times? What can parody, adaptation, quotation, and paraphrase tell us about the web of knowledge in which these texts participate?

Explore Intertextual Networks and find out!

Bibliography

The books, articles, poems, songs, and other works referenced in Women Writers Online texts.

Intertextual Gestures

The quotations, citations, and other references made by women writers in the WWO collection.

Authors in WWO

The women writers of WWO, drawing from and engaging with other works in their own creations.

Topics & Genres

“Current events,” “philosophy,” and the many other kinds of writing represented in the bibliography.

Elizabeth Ogilvy Benger in *The Female Geniad*, 1791:

Miss Seward unites so many exquisite beauties in her poetry, that it would be difficult to pronounce where she excels the most. In 1779 she composed the *Prize Monody on the death of Mr. Garrick*; in 1780 she publish'd an *Elegy on Captain Cooke*; with a Hymn to the Sun; the *unhappy fate of Major André* received the same tribute. She has since written *Louisa*, her Poetical Novel (a new species of composition) and beside those already mentioned, several miscellaneous pieces.

The Women Writers Project is a long-term research project devoted to early modern women's writing and electronic text encoding. Our goal is to bring texts by pre-Victorian women writers out of the archive and make them accessible to a wide audience of teachers, students, scholars, and the general reader. We support research on women's writing, text encoding, and the role of electronic texts in teaching and scholarship.

FEATURED

[Women Writers in Review](#)

About · Explore · API

WOMEN AS WRITERS AND READERS

Other tags in the "Theme" category

[nation or empire](#) [literary circulation](#) [class or socioeconomic status](#) [gender identities](#) [theories of genre and literature](#) [religious identities](#) [education](#)
[place, space, or geography](#) [racial identities](#) [slavery and abolition](#) [moral impacts of literatures](#) [review cultures](#)

34 RELATED REVIEWS

1790: *The Edinburgh Magazine, or, Literary Miscellany*
on Smith's *Ethelinde*, or, the *Recluse of the Lake*

1790: *The Monthly Review*
on Smith's *Ethelinde*, or, the *Recluse of the Lake*

Source
Unknown. "Art. VIII. Ethelinde, or, the Recluse of the Lake. By Charlotte Smith. 12mo. 5 Vols. 15s. sewed. Cadell, 1789." *The Monthly Review; or, Literary Journal*. Volume no 2: pp. 161-65. London, England: 1790.

Works
Ethelinde, or the Recluse of the Lake

Authors
Smith, Charlotte (Turner)

Tags
Theme: women as writers and readers
Genre: literary review
Format: article or essay
Reception: very positive

Women Writers in Review is here!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 1, 2023

Intertextual Networks White Paper Published »

March 3, 2023

Call for Submissions: Race and Racialized Identities in Early Women's Writing »

February 27, 2023

WWO is Free for the Month of March »

February 13, 2023

Updates on WWP Outreach »

FEATURED QUOTATION

My mind was at that moment a sort of vacuum, my thoughts unemployed, when casting my eyes upon the paper that covered the strawberries, I perceived it was part of a fairy tale, but wrote in an uncommon poetic style.

Susanna (Haswell) Rowson

The Inquisitor; or Invisible Rambler, 1794

UPCOMING EVENTS

No events are currently scheduled. Please check back later or contact us at WWP@neu.edu for details of future events.

BLOG POSTS

March 21, 2023

Using Encoding to Teach Textual Analysis II – Bigger and Badder »



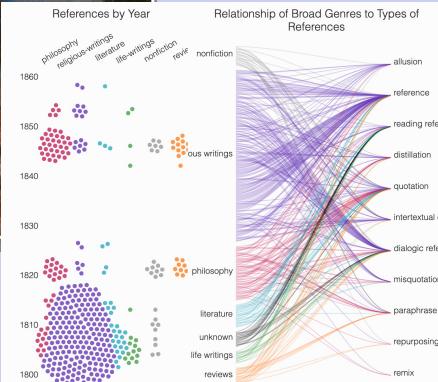
Introduction to Dorothy Burch's A Catechisme of the severall Heads of Christian Religion

Margaret Thickstun



FEATURED

Introduction to Margaret Cavendish's The Several Wits
Laura Rosenthal



Women Writers Online



Women Writers in Review



Women Writers Vector Toolkit

Internal Encoding Documentation

Women Writers Project

Elements	All
<ab>	
<abbr>	
<acrostic>	
<acrostics>	
<actor>	
<add>	
<addSpan>	
<adds>	
<advertisement>	
<anchor>	

Advertisements

Encoding advertisements within a text as “ad”

Appendices

Instructions for encoding

Back matter



- Currently about 450 texts, roughly 1530-1850
- Text by women, translated by women, co-authored by women, texts reporting women's words, texts which circulated as being by a female author
- Printed texts, with experimental exceptions

<text>

<pb n="001"/>

< milestone unit="sig" n="B1r"/>

<body>

<div xml:id="p01" type="poem">

<head rend="case(allcaps)post(#rule)">Epistles

<lb/>on the

<lb/>Character and Condition of Women,

<lb/>in

<lb/>Various Ages and Nations.</head>

<head rend="case(allcaps)" type="sub">Epistle I.</head>

<argument>

<head rend="post(#rule)case(allcaps)">Argument of Epistle I.</head>

<p rend="first-indent(-1)indent(0)">Subject proposed—the fame of man extended over
every period of life—that

<lb/>of woman transient as the beauty on which it is founded—Man renders

<lb/>her a trifler, then despises her, and makes war upon the sex with

<persName>Juvenal</persName>...</p></argument>

<lb/>and <persName ref="p:apope.xmo">Pope</persName>. A more impartial view of the
subject to be attempted.

<lb/>Weakness of woman, and her consequent subserviency. General view

<lb/>of various states of society undertaken. Birth of <persName>Eve</persName>—Angels prophesy

<lb/>the doom of the sex—description of <persName>Adam</persName> before he sees her—a joyless,

<lb/>hopeless, indolent creature. Meeting of <persName>Adam</persName> and
<persName>Eve</persName>—Change pro-

<lb/>duced in both—their mutual happiness and primary equality. Reflec-

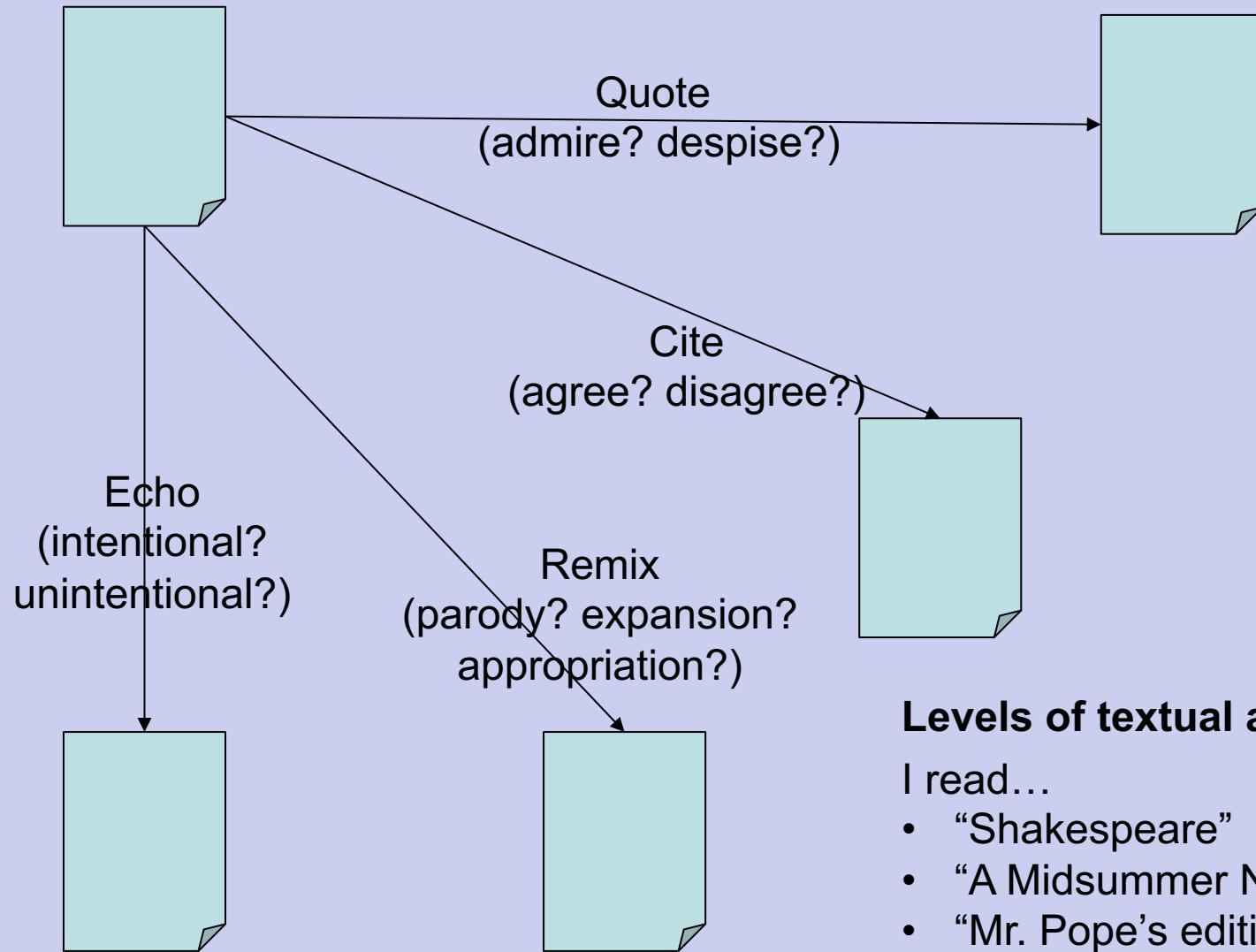
<lb/>tions. Conclusion.</p>

</argument>

</div>

</body>

</text>



Levels of textual abstraction

I read...

- “Shakespeare”
- “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
- “Mr. Pope’s edition of 1725”

```
<div type="chapter">
  <head>Evening Retrospection.</head>
  <epigraph>
    <quote>
      <lg type="poem" subtype="indeterminate">
        <l>Did I this day for small or great,</l>
        <l>My own pursuits forego,</l>
        <l>To lighten by a feather's weight,</l>
        <l>The mass of human woe?</l>
      </lg>
    </quote>
    <bibl>
      <author>
        <persName>Jane Taylor</persName>
      </author>.
    </bibl>
  </epigraph>
  [...]
</div>
```

The bibliography:

- 3,431 book-level work entries
- 942 chapter-level work entries
- 126 simple bibliographic entries (e.g. books of the bible).

The intertextual gestures:

- 11,787 quotations
- 5,692 titles
- 4,825 Biblical references
- 1,968 other bibliographic references
- 233 intertextual gestures in the files for our pilot commonplace book.

```
<biblStruct xml:id="TR00858" corresp="#frbr.work" ana="#poetry">
  <monogr corresp="#frbr.expression">
    <author>
      <persName gender="female" ref="p:aseward.lkj">Seward,
        Anna</persName>
    </author>
    <title type="display">Elegy on Captain Cook</title>
    <title type="woo">Elegy on Captain Cook</title>
    <title type="full">Elegy on Captain Cook.
      To which is added, an Ode to the sun. By Miss
      Seward</title>
    <imprint corresp="#frbr.manifestation">
      <date when="1780">1780</date>
      <pubPlace>
        <placeName>London, England</placeName>
      </pubPlace>
    </imprint>
  </monogr>
</biblStruct>
```

<title ref="b:IT00659" xml:id="t003">Midsummer-night's Dream</title>

<quote source="b:IT07317" xml:id="q061">They
are all up—the innumerable stars!</quote>

<persName ref="p:egibbon.wjh">Gibbon</persName>

```
<div type="chapter">
  <head>Evening Retrospection.</head>
  <epigraph>
    <quote source="b:IT07019">
      <lg type="poem" subtype="indeterminate">
        <l>Did I this day for small or great,</l>
        <l>My own pursuits forego,</l>
        <l>To lighten by a feather's weight,</l>
        <l>The mass of human woe?</l>
      </lg>
    </quote>
    <bibl source="b:IT07019" xml:id="b007">
      <author>
        <persName ref="p:jtaylor.doq">Jane Taylor</persName>
      </author>
    </bibl>
  </epigraph>
  [...]
</div>
```

Full text transcription

...and I am piecing scraps from the
<title ref="b:IT00659"
xml:id="t003">Midsummer-night's
Dream</title>, &c., to make a little
scene... We have read **<persName**
ref="p:egibbon.wjh">Gibbon
lately, who is certainly a very
elegant and learned writer...

Bibliography

<biblStruct xml:id="IT00659">

Personography

<person xml:id="egibbon.wj">

- **allusion:** An implied or indirect, but deliberate, reference to another text
- **dialogic_reference:** Dialogue or direct address to authors or source material, or commentary on both in the form of debate, argument, or pondering/musing; or placement of authors in dialogue with each other
- **distillation:** A synthesis of materials from a text or set of texts; may include direct quotation
- **intertextual_echo:** A reproduction of ideas from another text or set of texts; a key distinction here is that the reproduction is not clear or specific enough to be identified as another form of intertextual gesture
- **paraphrase:** A summary or representation of the meaning and content of material from another text that may or may not include some direct quotation of the original language
- **reading_reference:** A mention of having read or otherwise engaged with another text
- **reference:** A mention, typically brief, of material from another text
- **repurposing:** A representation of material from another text that deliberately changes the meaning of the original

<itg type="dialogic_reference" source="b:IT5555 b:IT50072">
 <itg type="reading_reference" source="b:IT5555">I have
 been these some days reading a little portion of scripture
 with attention</itg>

— Can I ever forget the eternal consequence of love & humility—

 <quote type="misquotation" source="b:IT50072">
 rather may my right hand forget her use
 </quote>.

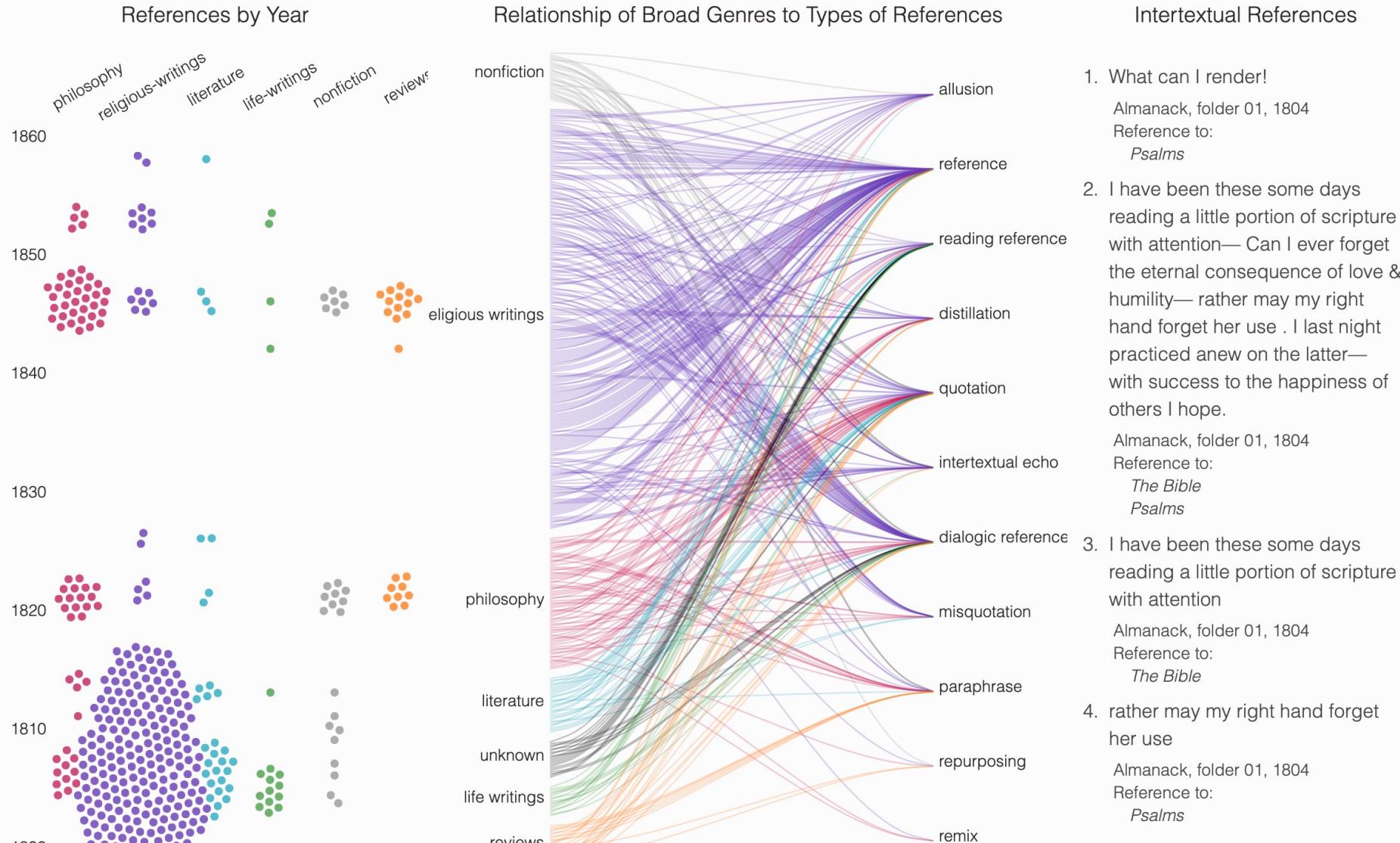
I last night practiced anew on the latter—with success to the
happiness of others I hope.

</itg>

Intertextual References in the Almanacks of Mary Moody Emerson: Visualization for Close and Distant Reading

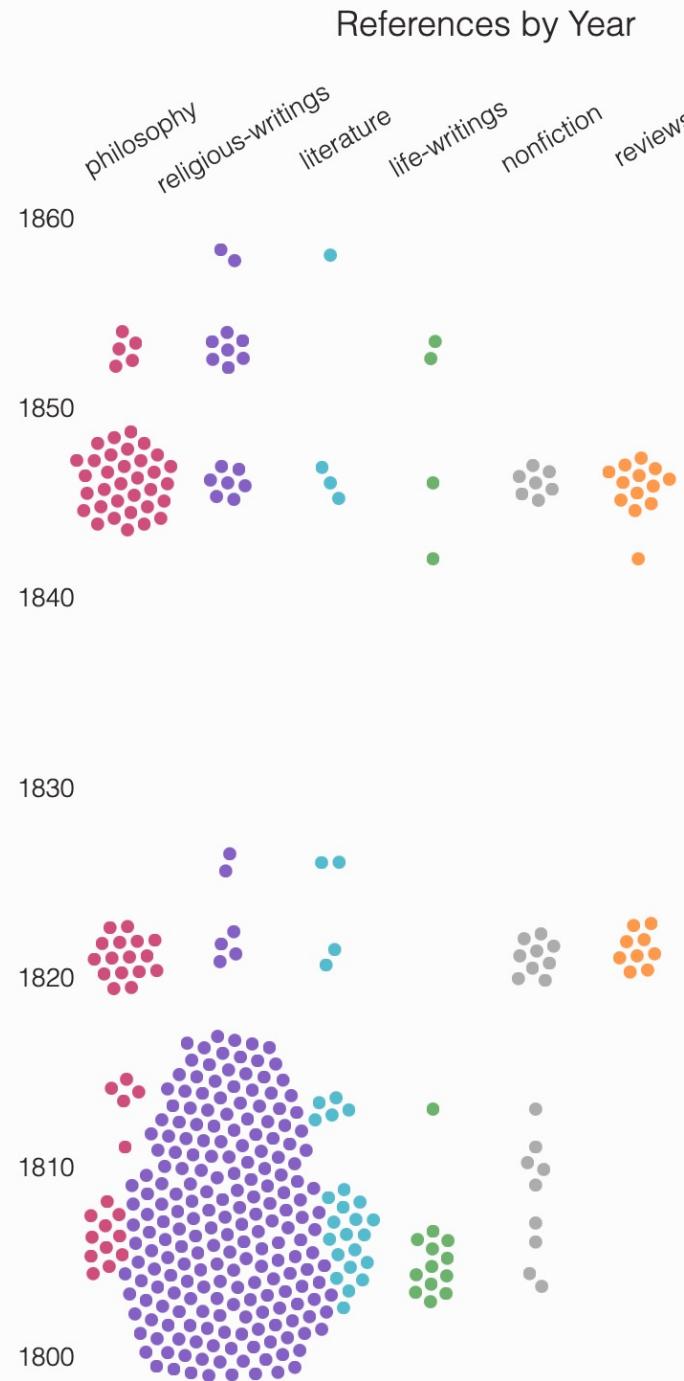
Update visualization on:
Click Mouseover

This visualization was produced as part of the Intertextual Networks project, working with data from the *Almanacks of Mary Moody Emerson: A Scholarly Digital Edition*, an NEH *We the People* designee and recipient of two NEH Scholarly Edition Grants that is edited by Noelle A. Baker and Sandra Harbert Petrulionis. This edition is being published in phases, with twenty-one of a projected forty-eight Almanacks published to date, the data from which populate this visualization. To read more about the project, discover how the data was prepared, and learn how to navigate the interface, see the [About page](#).



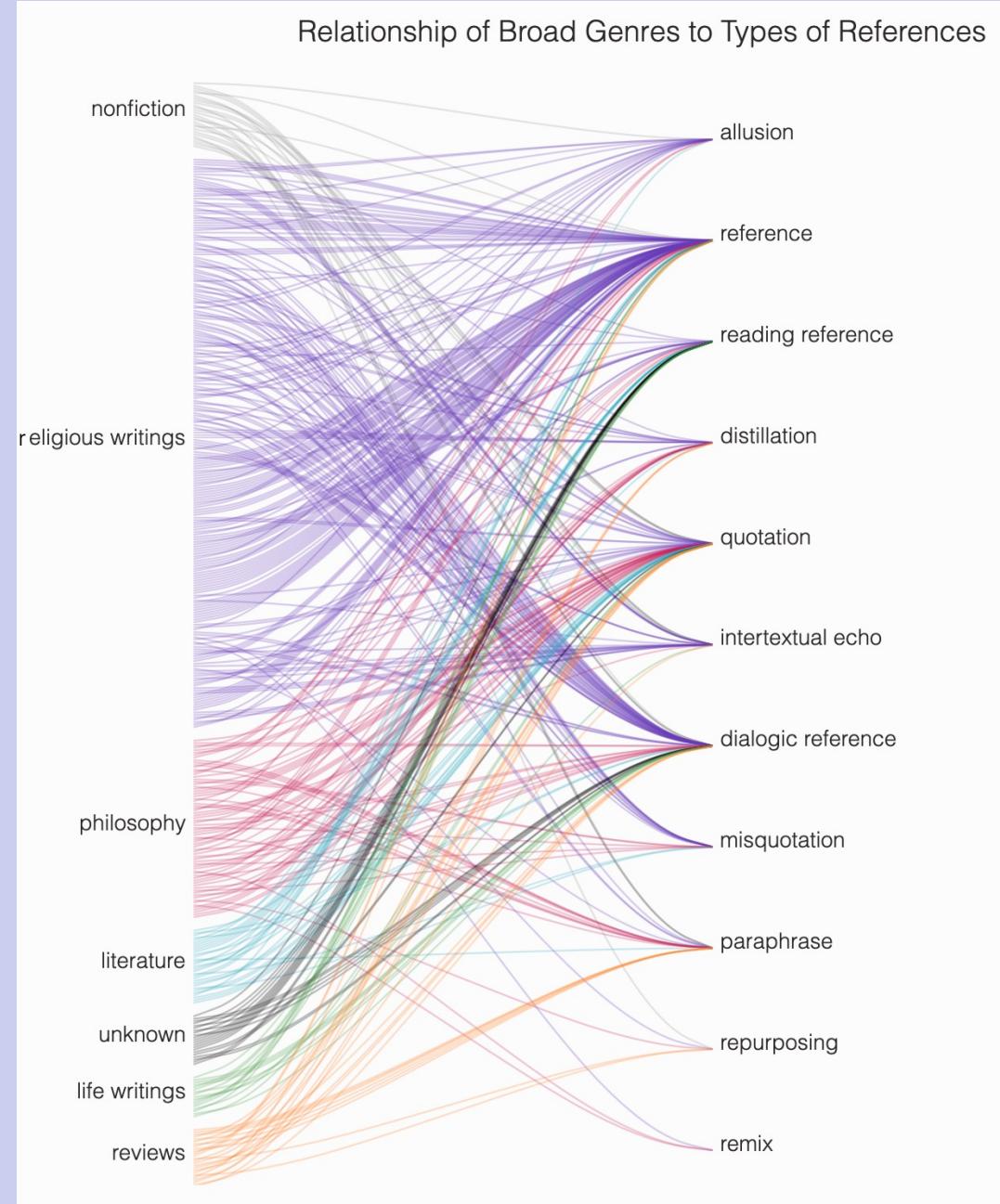
Intertextual references in Mary Moody Emerson's Almanacks

- By year
 - By genre



Intertextual references in Mary Moody Emerson's Almanacks

Mapping the genre of the referenced text to the type of intertextual gesture



What did pre-Victorian women writers read? How did they use and cite their reading, and how did their writing shape the literate cultures of their times? What can parody, adaptation, quotation, and paraphrase tell us about the web of knowledge in which these texts participate?

Explore Intertextual Networks and find out!

Bibliography

The books, articles, poems, songs, and other works referenced in Women Writers Online texts.

Intertextual Gestures

The quotations, citations, and other references made by women writers in the WWO collection.

Authors in WWO

The women writers of WWO, drawing from and engaging with other works in their own creations.

Topics & Genres

“Current events,” “philosophy,” and the many other kinds of writing represented in the bibliography.

Elizabeth Ogilvy Benger in *The Female Geniad*, 1791:

Miss Seward unites so many exquisite beauties in her poetry, that it would be difficult to pronounce where she excels the most. In 1779 she composed the *Prize Monody on the death of Mr. Garrick*; in 1780 she publish'd an *Elegy on Captain Cooke*; with a Hymn to the Sun; the *unhappy fate of Major André* received the same tribute. She has since written *Louisa*, her Poetical Novel (a new species of composition) and beside those already mentioned, several miscellaneous pieces.

Bibliography Entries

JSON XML

The books, articles, poems, songs, and other works referenced in Women Writers Online texts.

4,354 results

Sort method Number of References t ▾ Direction Descending: Z-A, 9-0 ▾ Apply

Page 1 of 88 [Previous](#) [Next](#)
 Page 1 [Go](#)

Filter results

Contributor ^	
A person (or organization) whose efforts shaped the work.	
58	Barbauld, Anna Laetitia (Aikin)
42	Dryden, John
40	Cavendish, Margaret (Lucas), Duchess of Newcastle
40	Horace (Q. Horatius Flaccus)
36	Pope, Alexander
35	Shakespeare, William
30	Smith, Charlotte (Turner)
28	Haywood, Eliza (Fowler)
27	Cowley, Hannah (Parkhouse)
26	Davies, Lady Eleanor
Topics & Genres ^	
A categorization of a work based on its apparent contents.	
964	Poetry
661	Theology
420	Drama
342	History
335	Novel
256	Classical
175	Biography
165	Letter
161	Political writing

Number of References to	Title ⓘ	Contributors ⓘ	Publication Date ⓘ	Publication Location ⓘ	Topics & Genres ⓘ	Links
861	Psalms	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
854	Matthew	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
721	Revelation	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
709	No external source	[unknown]	not applicable	not applicable		 
690	Proverb or saying	[unknown]	not applicable	not applicable		 
684	Isaiah	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
566	Referenced work not found	[unknown]	not applicable	not applicable		 
538	John	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
493	Luke	[unknown]			Sacred text	 
455	Unlikely to be published elsewhere	[unknown]	not applicable	not applicable		 

Filter results

Contributor

A person (or organization) whose efforts shaped the work.

- 58 [Barbauld, Anna Laetitia \(Aikin\)](#)
- 42 [Dryden, John](#)
- 40 [Cavendish, Margaret \(Lucas\), Duchess of Newcastle](#)
- 40 [Horace \(Q. Horatius Flaccus\)](#)
- 36 [Pope, Alexander](#)
- 35 [Shakespeare, William](#)
- 30 [Smith, Charlotte \(Turner\)](#)
- 28 [Haywood, Eliza \(Fowler\)](#)
- 27 [Cowley, Hannah \(Parkhouse\)](#)
- 26 [Davies, Lady Eleanor](#)

Has Contributor of Gender

- 2,605 [male](#)
- 1,073 [female](#)
- 474 [unknown](#)
- 58 [not applicable](#)

Publication Location

The place where the work was printed and sold.

- 2,316 [London, England](#)
- 741 [undetermined](#)
- 162 [not applicable](#)
- 161 [Boston, Massachusetts](#)
- 91 [Paris, France](#)
- 90 [\[s.l.\]](#)
- 90 [Edinburgh, Scotland](#)
- 83 [Dublin, Ireland](#)
- 74 [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)
- 69 [New York, New York](#)

Topics & Genres

A categorization of a work based on its apparent contents.

- 964 [Poetry](#)
- 661 [Theology](#)
- 420 [Drama](#)
- 342 [History](#)
- 335 [Novel](#)
- 256 [Classical](#)
- 175 [Biography](#)
- 165 [Letter](#)
- 161 [Political writing](#)
- 161 [Comedy](#)

Intertextual Gestures

JSON XML

The quotations, citations, and other references made by women writers in the WWO collection.

25,727 results

Sort method Source Text ▾ Direction Ascending: 0-9, A-Z ▾ Apply

Page 1 of 515 Previous Next

Page 1 Go

Filter results

Gesture Type
12,136 quote
7,148 citation
5,305 title
772 advertisement
347 adaptation
13 remix
6 parody
Referenced Work
A work which has been utilized in an intertextual gesture within a source text.
861 Psalms.
854 Matthew.
721 Revelation.
709 No external source.
690 [unknown]. Proverb or saying.
684 Isaiah.
566 Referenced work not found.
538 John.
493 Luke.
455 Unlikely to be published elsewhere.

Source Text	Gesture	Referenced Work			
		Text	Topics & Genres		
Text	Topics & Genres	Text	Topics & Genres		
Adams, Hannah. <i>A Summary History of New-England</i> . 1799.	History	<p>"Hail, O hail My much lov'd native land! New Albion hail! The happiest realm, that, round his circling course, The all searching sun beholds. With read more wisdom, virtue, and the generous love Of learning fraught, and freedom's living flame, Electric, unextinguishable, fir'd, Our Sires establish'd in thy cheerful bounds, The noblest institutions man has seen, Since time his reign began."</p>	quote	Dwight, Timothy. <i>Greenfield Hill: A Poem in Several Parts</i> . 1794.	Poetry
Adams, Hannah. <i>A Summary History of New-England</i> . 1799.	History	Greenfield Hill	title	Dwight, Timothy. <i>Greenfield Hill: A Poem in Several Parts</i> . 1794.	Poetry
Adams, Hannah. <i>A Summary History of New-England</i> . 1799.	History	History of New-Hampshire	title	Belknap, Jeremy. <i>The History of New Hampshire</i> . 1784 – 1792.	History

Filter results

Gesture Type

- 12,136 [quote](#)
- 7,148 [citation](#)
- 5,305 [title](#)
- 772 [advertisement](#)
- 347 [adaptation](#)
- 13 [remix](#)
- 6 [parody](#)

Referenced Work

A work which has been intertextual gesture wit

- 861 [Psalms.](#)
- 854 [Matthew.](#)
- 721 [Revelation.](#)
- 709 [No external source.](#)
- 690 [\[unknown\]. Proverb or saying.](#)
- 684 [Isaiah.](#)
- 566 [Referenced work not found.](#)
- 538 [John.](#)
- 493 [Luke.](#)
- 455 [Unlikely to be published elsewhere.](#)

Referenced Work's Topic/Genre

- 10,353 [Sacred text](#)
- 2,613 [Poetry](#)
- 2,519 [History](#)
- 2,324 [Theology](#)
- 1,155 [Drama](#)
- 800 [Classical](#)
- 690 [Philosophy](#)
- 649 [Novel](#)
- 502 [Political writing](#)
- 482 [Ethnography](#)

Source Text

The work in which an intertextual gesture appears. All source texts have been published in Women Writers Online.

- 1,925 [Adams, Hannah. *The History of the Jews*. 1812.](#)
- 1,107 [Adams, Hannah. *A Summary History of New-England*. 1799.](#)
- 860 [Cary, Mary. *The Little Horns Doom and Downfall, and A New and More Exact Map*. 1651.](#)
- 839 [Francis, Anne \(Gittins\). *A Poetical Translation of the Song of Solomon*. 1781.](#)
- 790 [Cavendish, Margaret \(Lucas\), Duchess of Newcastle. *Philosophical Letters*. 1664.](#)
- 635 [Hutchinson, Lucy \(Apsley\). *Order and Disorder*. 1679.](#)
- 479 [Ochino, Bernardino. *Sermons of Barnardine Ochine*. 1548.](#)
- 430 [Kilham, Hannah \(Spurr\). *Memoir of the Late Hannah Kilham*. 1837.](#)
- 430 [Bullard, Anne Tuttle \(Jones\). *The Reformation*. 1832.](#)
- 416 [Child, Lydia Maria \(Francis\). *An Appeal in Favor of that Class of Americans Called Africans*. 1833.](#)

Source Text's Topic/Genre

- 10,528 [Theology](#)
- 4,211 [Poetry](#)
- 3,825 [History](#)
- 3,016 [Novel](#)
- 2,606 [Gender commentary](#)
- 2,307 [Letter](#)
- 1,537 [Autobiography](#)
- 1,293 [Philosophy](#)
- 1,199 [Political writing](#)
- 1,193 [Gender-addressed](#)

WWO Author

A contributor, usually female, who substantially shaped the source text.

- 3,032 [Adams, Hannah](#)
- 1,089 [Cavendish, Margaret \(Lucas\), Duchess of Newcastle](#)
- 924 [Smith, Charlotte \(Turner\)](#)
- 873 [Francis, Anne \(Gittins\)](#)
- 860 [Cary, Mary](#)
- 783 [Davies, Lady Eleanor](#)
- 747 [Haywood, Eliza \(Fowler\)](#)
- 689 [Askew, Anne](#)
- 635 [Hutchinson, Lucy \(Apsley\)](#)
- 605 [Sigourney, Lydia Howard \(Huntley\)](#)

Topics and Genres

"Current events," "philosophy," and the many other kinds of writing represented in the bibliography.

73 results

Page 1 of 1 Previous Next

Page 1 Go

Sort method

Name

Direction

Ascending: 0-9, A-Z

Apply

Jump to section ▾

Agriculture

Works about farming.

There are 2 works tagged "Agriculture" in the bibliography.

There are 3 references to "Agriculture" works:

2 quote

1 title



Medicine

Works on the subject of medicine.

There are 38 works tagged "Medicine" in the bibliography.

There are 266 references to "Medicine" works:

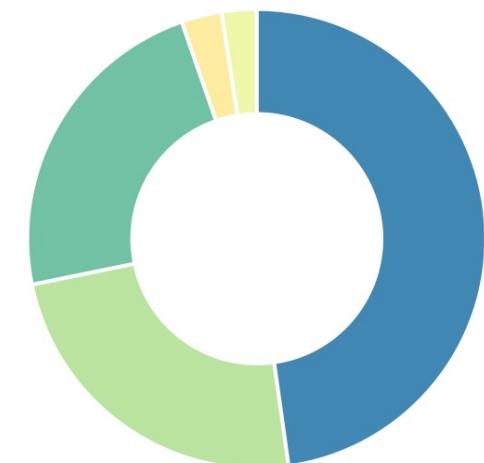
128 quote

64 title

61 citation

7 adaptation

6 advertisement



Bibliography Entries

The books, articles, poems, songs, and other works referenced in Women Writers Online texts.

38 results

Page 1 of 1 Previous Next

Page 1 Go

Topics & Genres: ② Medicine X

Number of References to	Title ③	Co
71	Oriatrike; or, Physick Refined	van Fra

Referencing

36 Referenced in WWO

2 Published in WWO

Bibliography Entries

JSON XML

The books, articles, poems, songs, and other works referenced in Women Writers Online texts.

2 results

Sort method Primary Contributor Na Direction Descending: Z-A, 9-0 Apply

Page 1 of 1 Previous Next

Page 1 Go

Referencing: Published in WWO X

Topics & Genres: Medicine X

Filter results

Contributor ^

A person (or organization) whose efforts shaped the work.

- 1 Grey, Elizabeth (Talbot), Countess of Kent
- 1 Cellier, Elizabeth (Dormer)

Number of References to	Title ⓘ	Contributors ⓘ	Publication Date ⓘ	Publication Location ⓘ	Topics & Genres ⓘ	Links
1	A Choice Manual, or Rare and Select Secrets	Grey, Elizabeth (Talbot), Countess of Kent	1653	London, England	Medicine	   
0	To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives	Cellier, Elizabeth (Dormer)	1688	London, England	Gender commentary Letter Medicine	  

Page 1 of 1

Previous

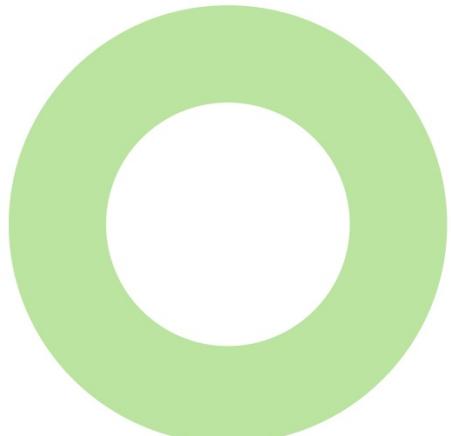
Next

Page 1 Go

Gestures within this work

There are 2 gestures within [A Choice Manual, or Rare and Select Secrets](#).

2 title



Gestures within this work

There are 16 gestures within [To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives](#).

8 quote

6 citation

2 title



Intertextual Gestures

JSON XML

The quotations, citations, and other references made by women writers in the WWO collection.

16 results

Page 1 of 1 Previous Next

Page 1 Go

Source Text: [Cellier, Elizabeth \(Dormer\). To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives. 1688.](#) 

Filter results

Gesture Type
 8 quote
 6 citation
 2 title
Referenced Work
A work which has been utilized in an intertextual gesture within a source text.
 13 Exodus.
 2 Ecclesiastes.
 1 Acts.
Referenced Work's Topic/Genre
 16 Sacred text

Sort method Source Text Direction Ascending: 0-9, A-Z Apply

Source Text 	Gesture 			Referenced Work 
Text	Topics & Genres 	Text of the Gesture	Gesture Type 	Text
Cellier, Elizabeth (Dormer). <i>To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives. 1688.</i>	Gender commentary Letter Medicine   	Exodus	title	<i>Exodus.</i>  
Cellier, Elizabeth (Dormer). <i>To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives. 1688.</i>	Gender commentary Letter Medicine   	Vers. 15.	citation	<i>Exodus.</i>  
Cellier, Elizabeth (Dormer). <i>To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives. 1688.</i>	Gender commentary Letter Medicine   	"And the King of Egypt spake to the Hebrew Midwives, of which the Name of the one was Shiprah, and the other Puah"	quote	<i>Exodus.</i>  

“Where the Word of a King is, there is Power: and who shall say unto him, What doest thou?”

“And he said unto them, When ye do the Office of a Midwife to the Hebrew Women, and see them upon the Stooles; if it [read more](#) be a Son, you shalt kill him: but if it be a Daughter, then she shall live”

“But the Midwives feared God, and did not as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the Men Children alive”

“And the King of Egypt spake to the Hebrew Midwives, of which the Name of the one was Shiprah, and the other Puah”

“there was an Altar therein dedicated to the unknown God, &c.”

“That God built them Houses, and blessed them”

“Wherefore God dealt well with the Midwives: and the People multiplied, and waxed very mighty”

“And it came to pass, because the Midwives feared God, that he made them Houses”

Cellier, Elizabeth
(Dormer). *To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of Midwives.* 1688

[Gender commentary](#)
[Letter](#)
[Medicine](#)

“But the Midwives feared God, and did not as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the Men Children alive”

[Full text: Cellier, *To Dr. ---- An Answer to his Queries, Concerning the College of ...*](#)

To Dr. ----- An Answer to his Queries, concerning the Colledeg of Midwives.

To answer your Query, Doctor, “Whether ever there were a Colledeg of Midwives in any part of the World?” According to my Promise made the 12th Instant, I will now prove, there was some Hundreds, if not Thousands of Years before you can prove one of Physicians: As appears both by Sacred and Prophane Histories. I will begin with the first; and desire you to read the first Chapter of *Exodus*.

Vers. 15. *“And the King of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew Midwives, of which the Name of the one was Shiprah, and the other Puah”*.

Vers. 16. *“And he said unto them, When ye do the Office of a Midwife to the Hebrew Women, and see them upon the Stooles; if it be a Son, you shalt kill him: but if it be a Daughter, then she shall live”*.

Vers. 17. *“But the Midwives feared God, and did not as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the Men Children alive”*.

Vers. 20. *“Wherefore God dealt well with the Midwives: and the People multiplied, and waxed very mighty”*.

Vers. 21. *“And it came to pass, because the Midwives feared God, that he made them Houses”*.

I believe no Rational Person will think that these two Women could in their own Persons act as Midwives to all the Women of that *mighty People*, who about 100 Years after went up



What you want to do

Basic document display, navigation	Searching, visualization	Data mining	Production-level publication, access control	Long-term sustainable publication, data integrity over time
------------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------	--	---

Small data set

Large data set

Multiple data sets

← **Small, Simple, Cheap**

Big, Complicated, Expensive →

XSLT, CSS

XML database

Large-scale publication frameworks

Desktop + you

Web server + simple technical support

Web server + professional systems administration

Server + Institutional IT

Institutional repository + data curation

What and whom you need

Thank you!