

# Exploring Emily Dickinson Letters

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New 2005 Project  
Early exploratory work

this project is part of the larger

## nora project

It brings together humanists, computer scientists  
and library and information specialists

### Institutions

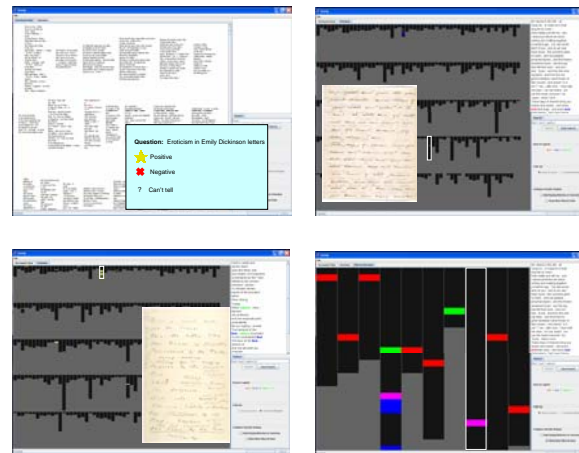
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
School of Library and Information Sciences  
National Center for Supercomputing Applications  
University of Maryland  
Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory  
Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities  
University of Georgia  
Department of English  
University of Virginia  
Department of Computer Science

18th and 19th Century British and American Literature

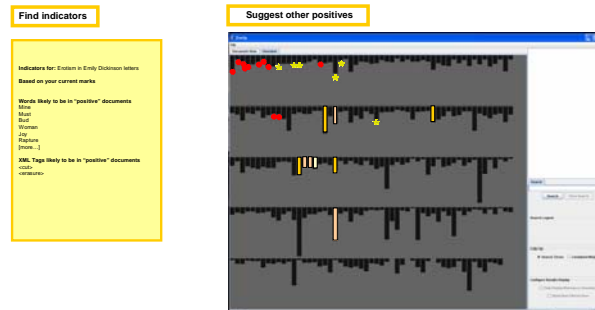
### Guiding Principles

Web-deliverable services  
Visualizations as interface  
State of the art text mining  
Structured digital library data

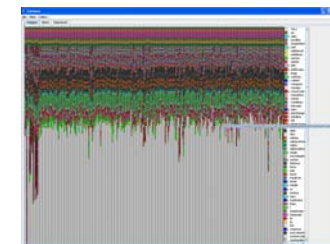
## 1 Emily: early exploratory prototype



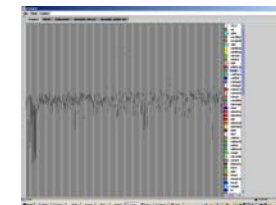
1. Identify question
2. Manual exploration  
Search for indicators  
(e.g. keywords, form of speech, tags, etc.)
3. Mark positives and negatives
4. Request suggested indicators  
(naïve bayesian analysis)
5. Request suggestions  
of other possible positives
6. Review and annotate



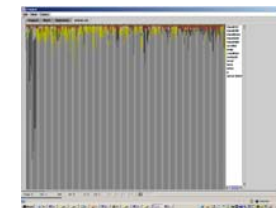
## 2 Using Compus [Fekete, 2000] to visualize the tagging structure of the collection <http://www.lri.fr/~fekete/compus/>



Overview of entire collection.  
The letters are ordered by  
time. The top corresponds to  
the header tags, i.e. the bulk  
of the XML document, which  
varies little between  
documents.



Filtering to show only the  
coverage of the <body> tag



After extracting new tags from  
attributes, we can reveal the  
names of persons that wrote on  
the letter, e.g. here yellow  
indicates the hand of Susan.

## 3 Possible next steps



Integration with InfoVis toolkit  
(<http://ivtk.sourceforge.net>)

Cluster analysis (e.g. Ramsay et al. 2004)

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