




Using Metadata as Data for Enhanced Discovery and Access of Digital Archival Collections

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What we usually see:



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

[Digital Collections Home](#)[Archives Home](#)[Reproduction Orders](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

Collections

☐ Select All Collections

☐ Alabama Photographs and Pictures Collection

☐ Alabama Textual Materials Collection

☐ Alabama Maps and Blueprints Collection

☒ Jim Pepler Southern Courier Photograph Collection

☐ Alabama Media Group Collection

Show All

Cancel

Update

Subject

montgomery county (ala.) (6884)

montgomery (ala.) (6522)

african americans -- civil rights (4010)

african americans -- social life (3375)

business & industry (2581)

nightclubs (2381)

civil rights demonstrations (2160)

civil rights leaders (1798)

african americans -- music (1755)

african americans -- children (1470)

Show More

Browsing items in:

Jim Pepler Southern Courier Photograph Collection

Sort by:

Item Title Ascending

Results per page:

200

Records 1-200 of 13,471

<

1

2

3

...

50

>

Go to page

>



"Baby Brother" Tucker standing in the dirt road in front of a house in Newtown, a neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama.

This image was taken for (but not used in) the article and photo spread "Newtown"--A Community Apart," which appeared on pages 4 and 5 of The Southern Courier for August 26-27, 1967. The issue is available online (not on the ADAH website): http://www.southerncourier.org/low-res/Vol3_No35_1967_08_26.pdf

1967 August

Q25595



"Baby Brother" Tucker standing in the dirt road in front of a house in Newtown, a neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama.

This image was taken for (but not used in) the article and photo spread "Newtown"--A Community Apart," which appeared on pages 4 and 5 of The Southern Courier for August 26-27, 1967. The issue is available online (not on the ADAH website): http://www.southerncourier.org/low-res/Vol3_No35_1967_08_26.pdf

1967 August

Q25596



"Bessie Bill" Williams and Ben Williams on the porch of a brick house in Newtown, a neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama.

Bessie Bill is holding two bottles of Red Mustang wine. This image was taken for (but not used in) the article and photo spread "Newtown"--A Community Apart," which appeared on pages 4 and 5 of The Southern Courier for August 26-27, 1967. The issue is available online (not on the ADAH website): http://www.southerncourier.org/low-res/Vol3_No35_1967_08_26.pdf

1967 August

Q20575



"Bessie Bill" Williams and Ben Williams on the porch of a brick house in Newtown, a neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama.

Bessie Bill is holding up a bottle of Red Mustang wine. This image was taken for (but not used in) the article and photo spread "Newtown"--A Community Apart," which appeared on pages 4 and 5 of The Southern Courier for August 26-27, 1967. The issue is available online (not on the ADAH website): http://www.southerncourier.org/low-res/Vol3_No35_1967_08_26.pdf

1967 August

Q20580



Item View:

Title: Roscoe Williams and Barbara Howard Flowers speaking to a man at the Laicos Club in Montgomery, Alabama.

Description: The man is seated in a desk chair, smoking a cigar; behind him is a sign advertising Sunday as "Ladies Night": "All Ladies Free." Williams owned the club, and Flowers was a staff member at the Southern Courier.

Subjects: Howard, Barbara

Williams, Roscoe

African Americans--Social life

Business & industry

Nightclubs

Montgomery (Ala.)

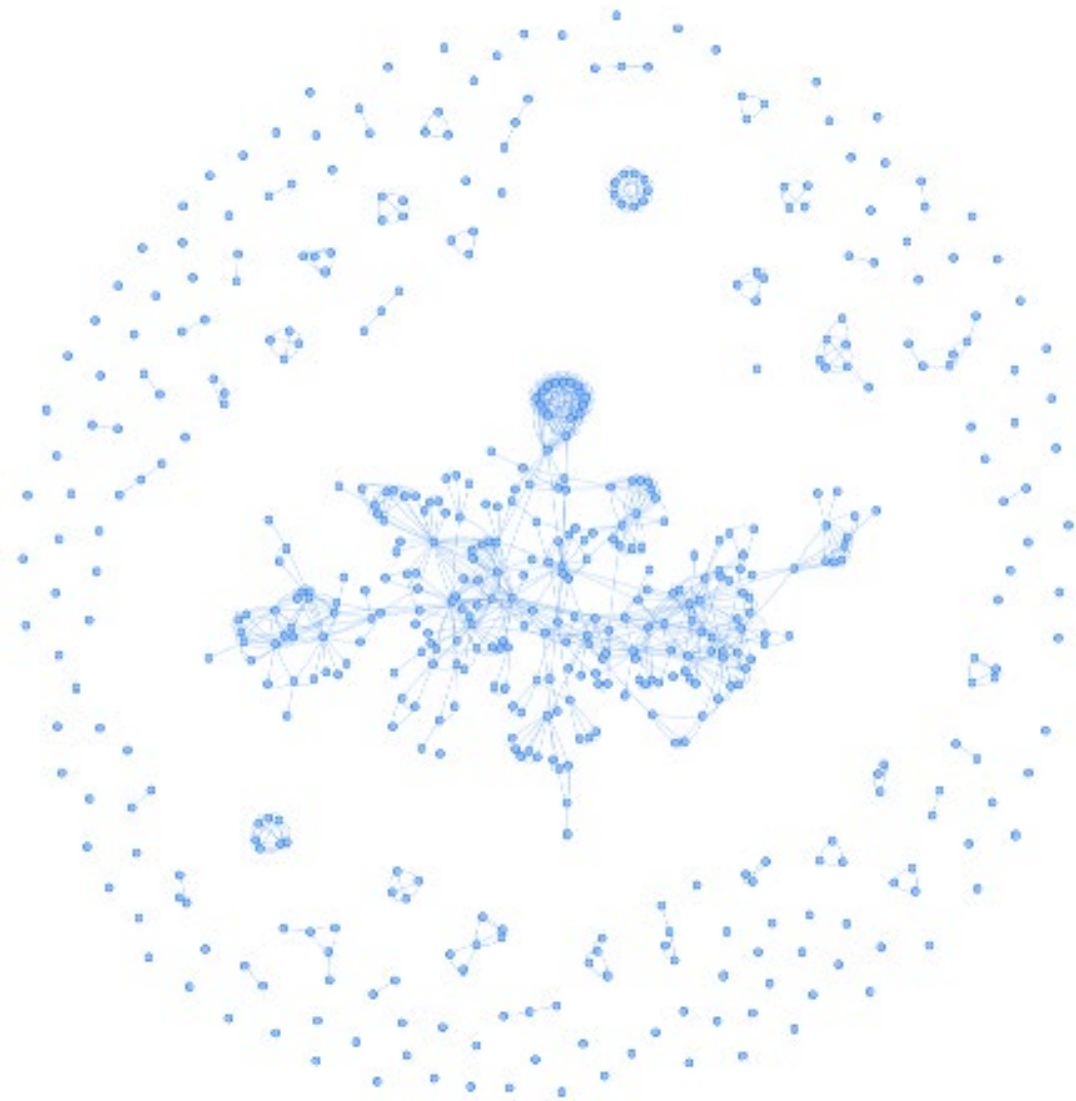
Montgomery County (Ala.)



Metadata is...

- informed by the context in which it is created, including:
 - the culture and history of a society and institution.
 - the standards and vocabularies used.
- not (and cannot be) objective. It is informed by:
 - the person creating the metadata and their identities and perspectives.



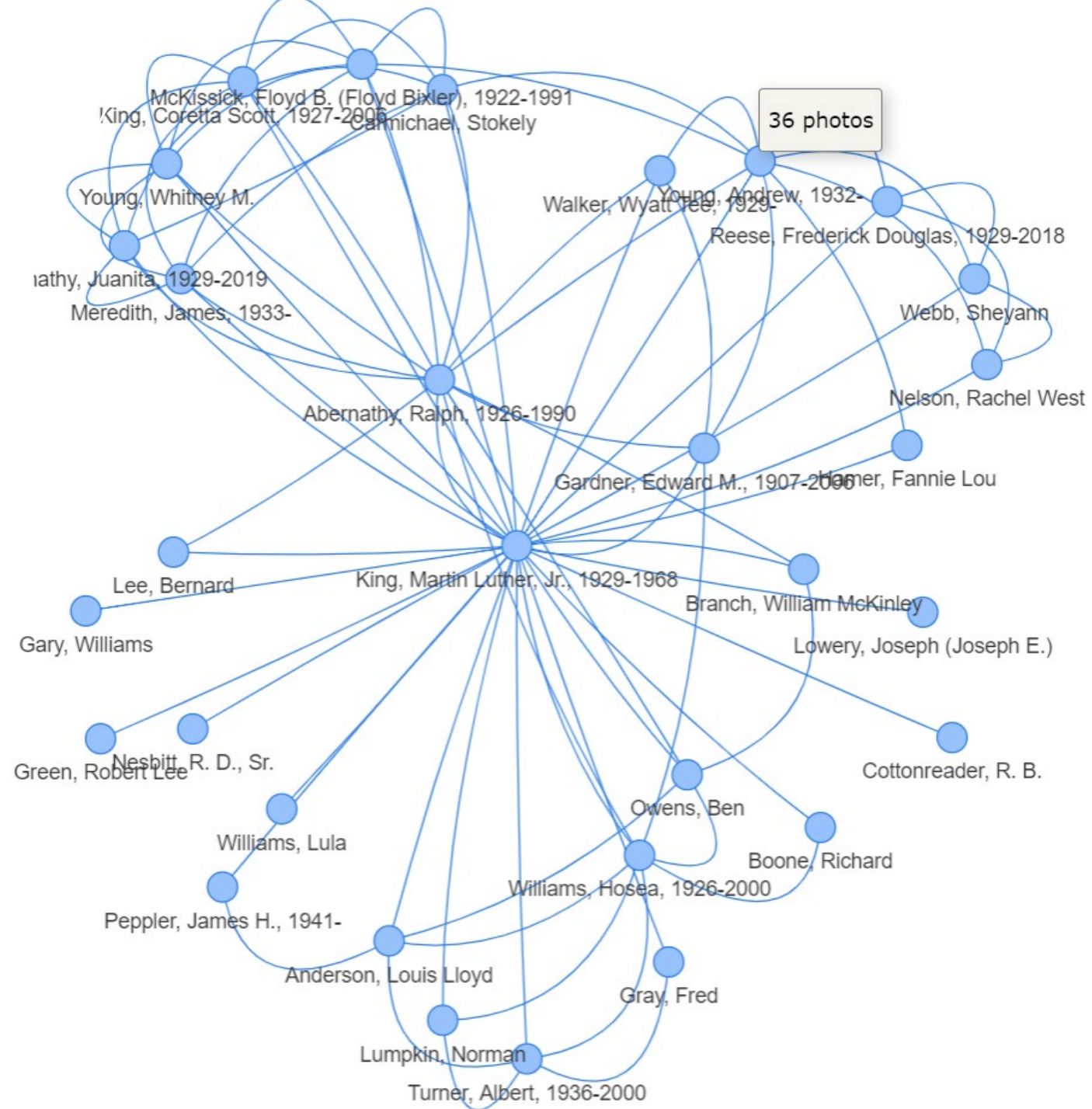


Aggregate View:

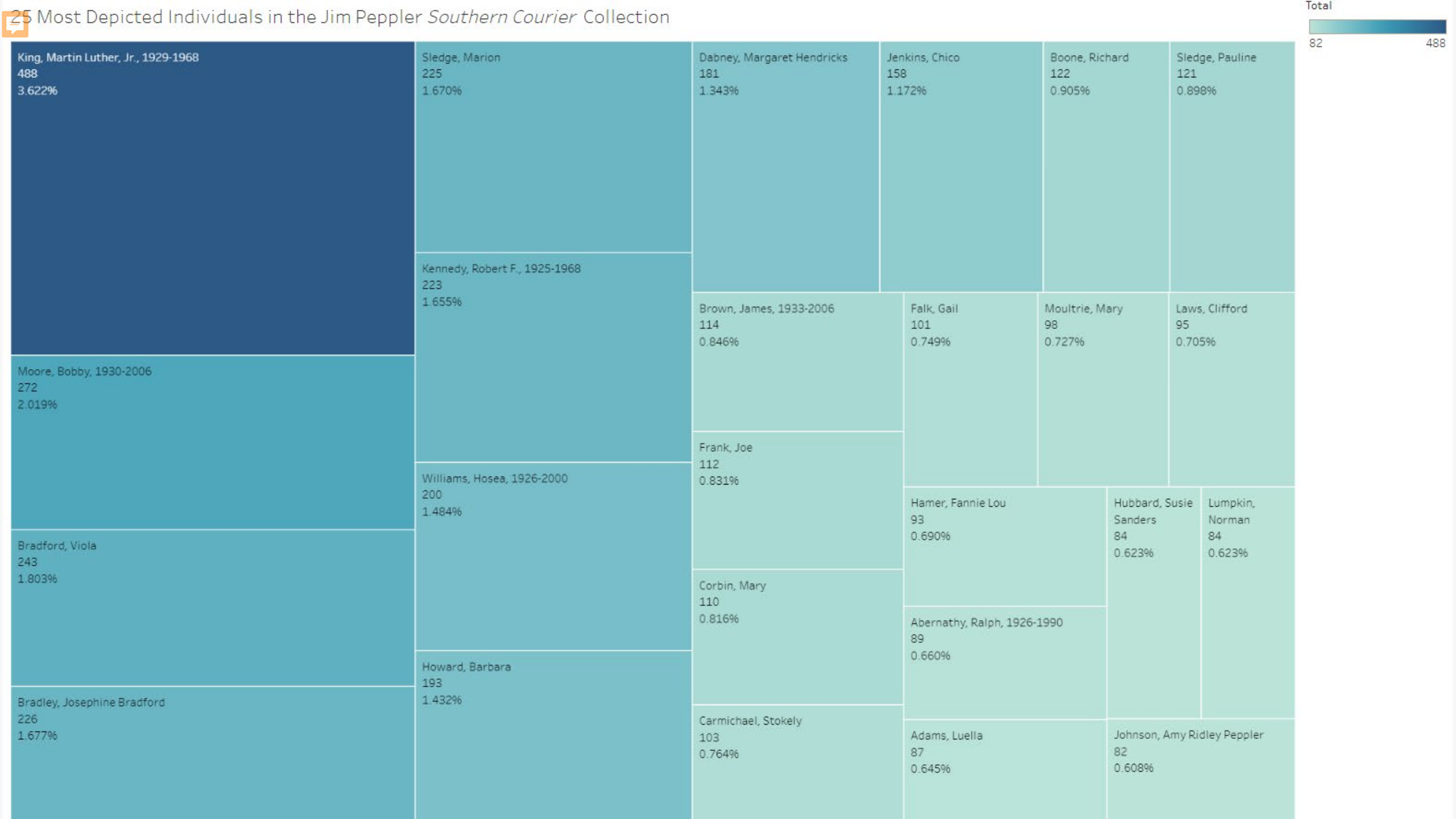
- The good:
 - Allows us to connect archival principles of working in the aggregate rather than item level
- The bad:
 - Can reinscribe and amplify existing biases in the original metadata



Network Graph Subset



25 Most Depicted Individuals in the Jim Pepler *Southern Courier* Collection





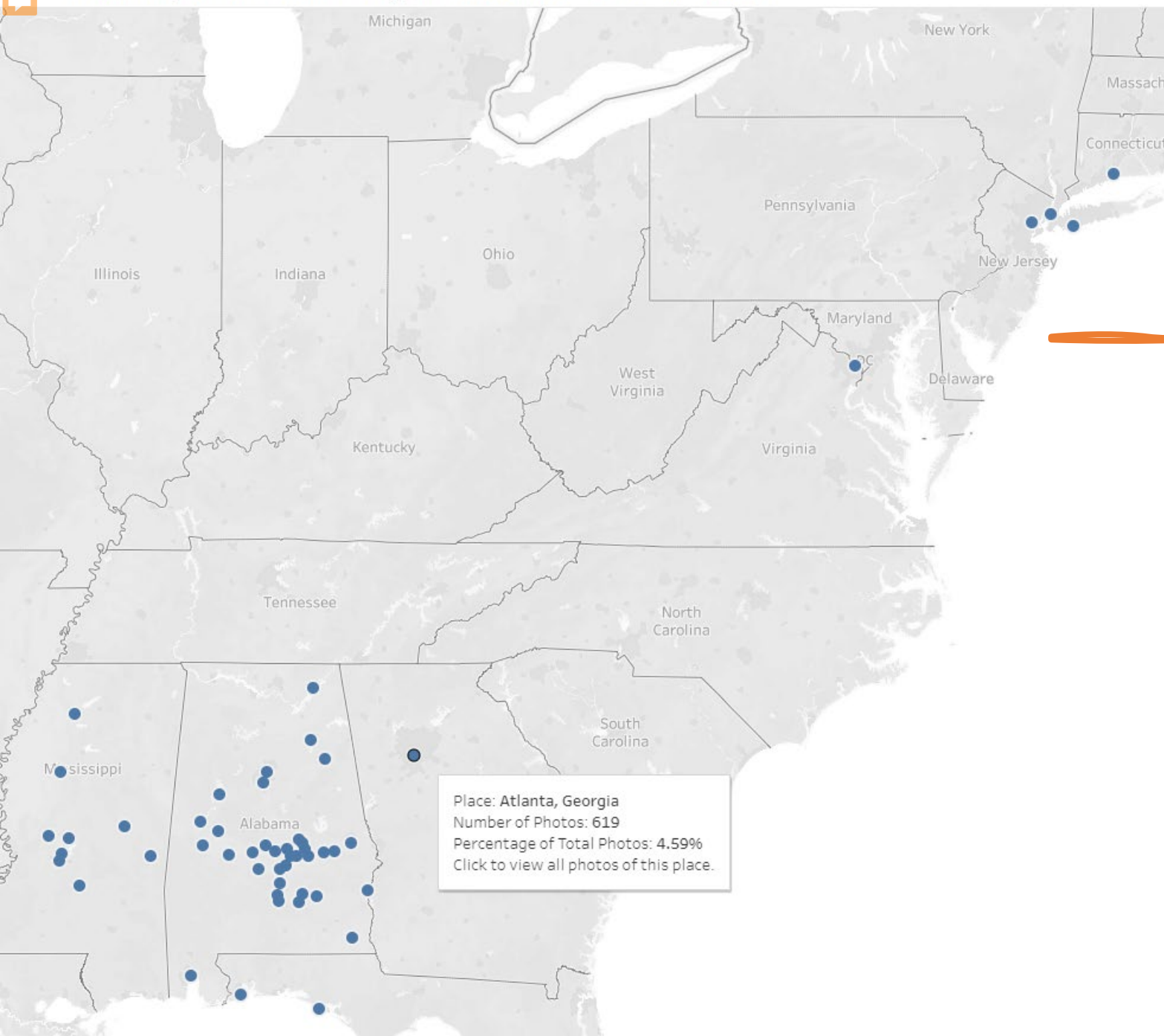
Highlight Tables

All Subjects Used in the Jim Pepler *Southern Courier* Collection



Heading

Actors	22 0.16%
African Americans	1,033 7.66%
African Americans--Children	1,472 10.92%
African Americans--Civil Rights	4,014 29.79%
African Americans--Commemoration	39 0.28%
African Americans--Domestic life	1,362 10.11%
African Americans--Economic & social conditions	90 0.66%
African Americans--Education	468 3.47%
African Americans--Employment	1,313 9.74%
African Americans--Music	1,755 13.02%
African Americans--Political activity	22 0.16%
African Americans--Social life	3,375 25.05%
African Americans--Spiritual life	111 0.82%

Subject Heading: Actors
Number of Photos: 22
Percentage of Total Photos: 0.16%
Click to view all photos of this subject.



Maps



Remember the “why”

- My “why” for this case study was to encourage student exploration of archival principles.
- I invited students to critique the data visualizations, the context in which those visualizations were presented, and the way collections were described.
 - These perspectives help inform how I approach description and access to collections.
- Project site: <https://bit.ly/3sLcmjS>