I don't know what my arguments about the individual case studies are yet. It may turn out that I am able to make some interesting historical claims about them-- I have my suspicions about what will be interesting-- but even if I cannot my project is worth doing because

Networks are popular right now but folks need more models of how to do it

My biggest asset is my technical skill, so incorporating (and in some ways centering) that in my project is important to me

My questions are "in what ways could network analysis be useful to studying book history?" and "how can we use existing humanities research as data?" I only have an answer to the second right now

While the obsession with "big data" as such is dying, DH is the new normal, and that means finding and using data.

A lot of DH has been about the finding part, we're moving to the using part.

But at the same time, certain kinds of data haven't been \*treated\* as data.

First off ty

**Context in terms of my trajectory:** I have a Thing for old libraries, even though I wouldn't say I know the most about them even still-- worked on some Parker stuff as an undergrad, love Cotton's whole deal, found out about this Tite book and was amazed at the info it has, and subsequently at how little it seems to have been used.

But it’s all COVID-y so looking for ways to do really library-focused research that don’t necessarily require primary source access (but that could be supplemented by it)

Aaron told me about the Pforzheimer catalog

**Placing me in the field**: Networks growing in popularity in DH; DH growing in popularity with the rest of the field. Also, for NA people, having different kinds of data is helpful because we learn what kinds of metrics apply to what. Early on in networks, having a variety of cases was important because it allowed people to notice that many things behaved similarly.

Lit people should care about this because they should care about books as objects, because that’s the only evidence we have of the lit. If networks can tell us something about use and collecting, they can tell us something about survival.

**Professional & personal stakes:** My asset has always been my technical skills, want to continue leveraging that. I would love to be in a consulting role or something else that let me collaborate with people on their work-- since I started on DH in UG, I've said that if I could be a research assistant for life, that's what I would do. Thinking about DH centers, libraries, freelancing, etc.

**Rationale for the project, lit-review:**

**Case for the parameters**-- what's in there, what's not; what's the literary connection/why do this stuff in literature

**THINGS I WANT FEEDBACK ON:**

* American book trade—help!
* What extent to incorporate other data sources (BL catalog, other collectors)
* Scope creep ^
* Advice on articulating what the *argument* of this project is? I do really well with process and “isn’t this cool” but have a hard time with *argument*

Language in the Cotton usage

The perverseness of the difference between what people like now (the literarary stuff) vs the nationalistic historical stuff that htye cared about and allowed the lit to survive

I can give an account of the dev of the literary history as a field

Beineke library journal

Old hrc journal

Devote a section of each section to talk about the payoff for the network analysis

Consider foregrounding the digitization issue—real dig vs fake dig. A def of digitization that depends on the payoffs it lets you have.

Think about the max intervention—you can’t think about this category without thinking about my project

Filling in gaps – brain wave

What gets checked out together, does it correspond to medieval lib divisions?

Another way to zoom in, going back to the paleography on the mss themselves

What is the text?? It’s the reference works, it’s not the Cotton and Pforzheimer collections themselves. Gotta be rigorous about that.

Scott Weingart