



Late Antique Epistolography

Geography and Social Interactions in the Letters of Libanius

Who is Libanius?

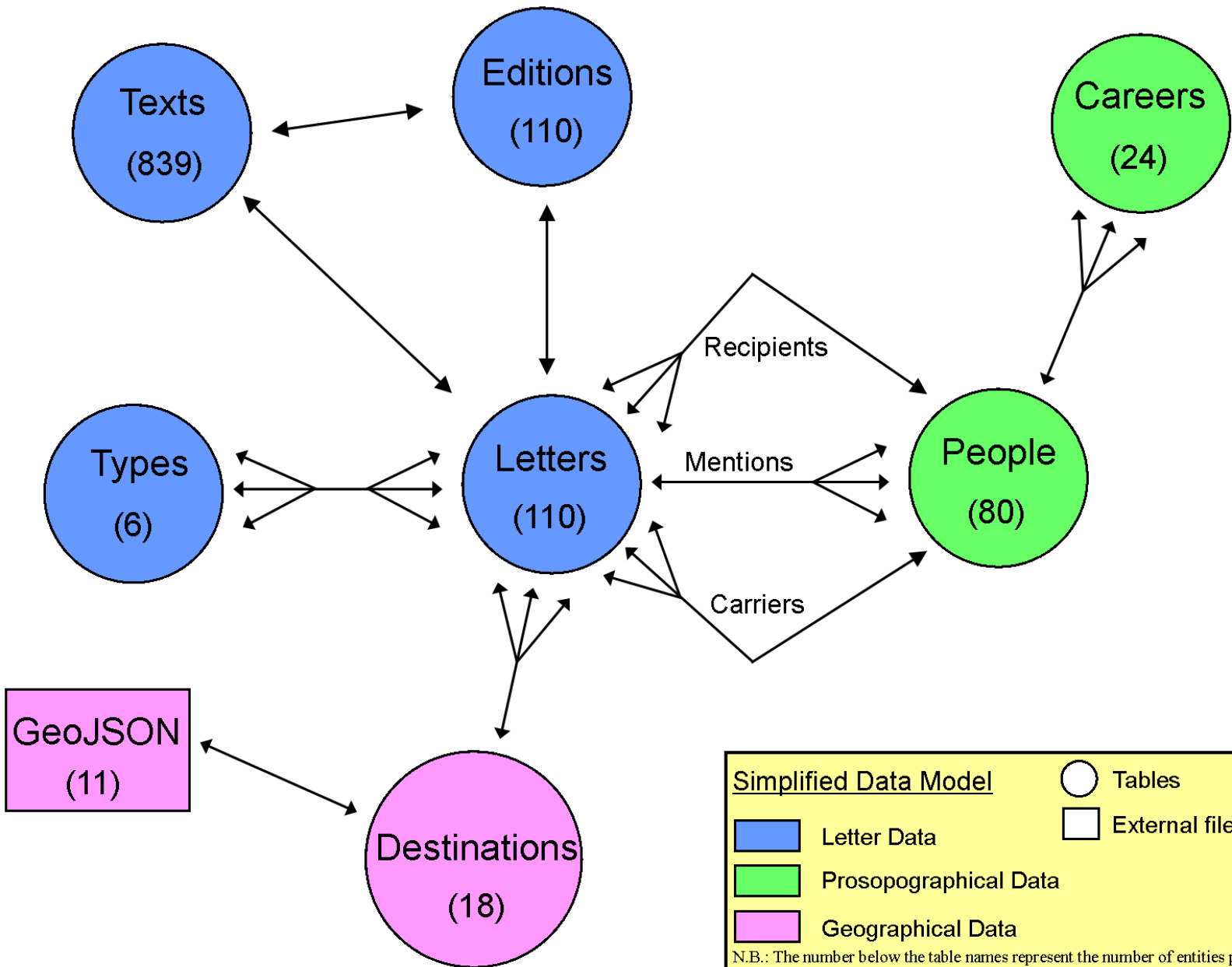
- Professor of Rhetoric in Antioch during the 4th c.AD (314-392)
- Friend of the emperor Julian
- Wrote a lot:
 - 64 Orations
 - 51 Declamations
 - 57 Introduction to the speeches of Demosthenes
 - *Progymnasmata* (school exercises)
 - 1544 Letters

Why the letters?

- Libanius left behind the largest collection of letters to have survived from Antiquity
- Despite that fact, the letters have not generated a lot of interest among scholars
- Why?
 - Sheer size of the corpus
 - Manuscript tradition is very complex (250+ manuscripts)
 - Only a fraction have been translated
 - No general monographs to guide scholars
 - Generally, not accessible enough

The Letters of Libanius Project

- Goals:
 - Make the letters of Libanius more accessible
 - Gather data that allows web applications to generate meaningful information
- 5 components:
 - MySQL Database
 - Website
 - Maps
 - PHP Web Application
 - Python Web Application



Getting information from the data

- Show me all the letters that Acacius received or in which he was mentioned throughout his career from the earliest to the latest
- Show me a ranking of all of the destinations based upon how many letters were sent there
- Show me a map that illustrates where all of the letters went
- <http://bit.ly/2oEZO9E>

PHP Web Application

- CakePHP Framework
 - Links directly to the database
 - Creates basic application files automatically through a process called “baking”
 - Allows to show basic information and make simple links between tables
 - However, it makes it difficult to make more complex links
- <http://mikepnyu.hosting.nyu.edu/LibaniusData/index.php>

Python Web Application

- Flask Application on Heroku
 - Very minimal framework
 - Developers have to create most of the application
 - Gives you the freedom to do much more
- <https://mikepnyu-adsq.herokuapp.com/>