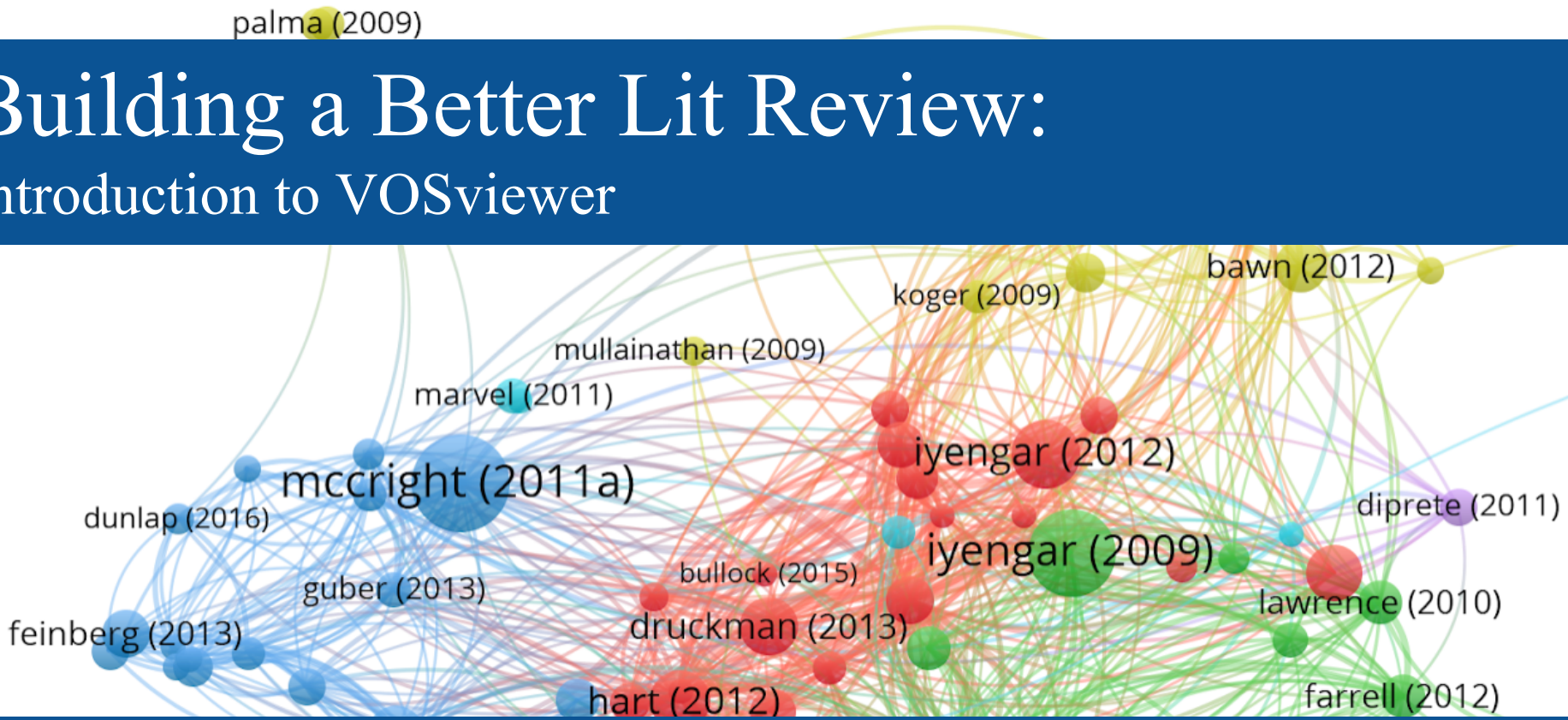
Building a Better Lit Review:

Introduction to VOSviewer

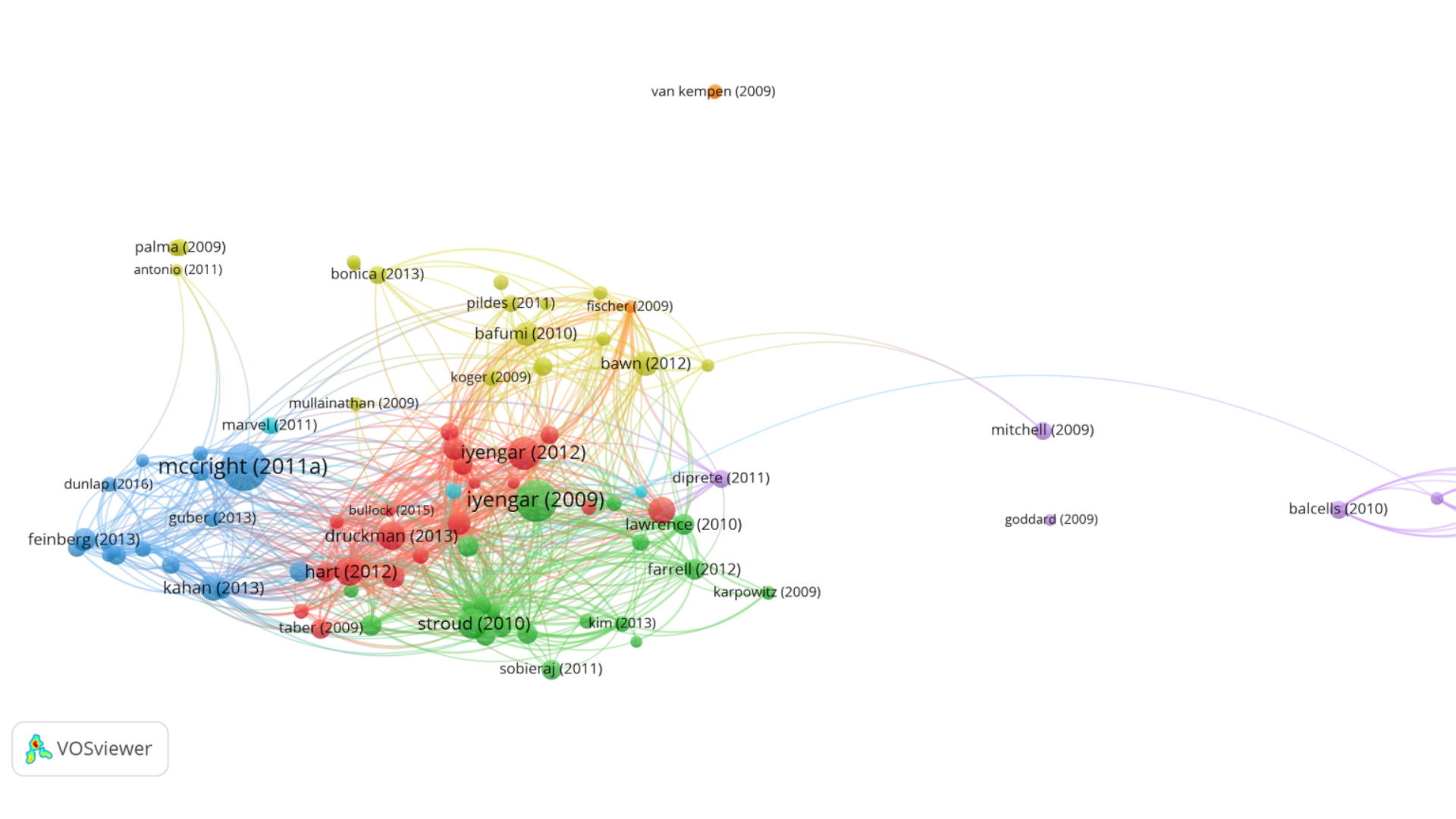


Mark Robison, Political Science & Peace Studies (& Econ) Librarian

What’s the problem?

- The literature is vast
- Where to focus?
- Identify schools of thought?

Created by Adrien Coquet
from Noun Project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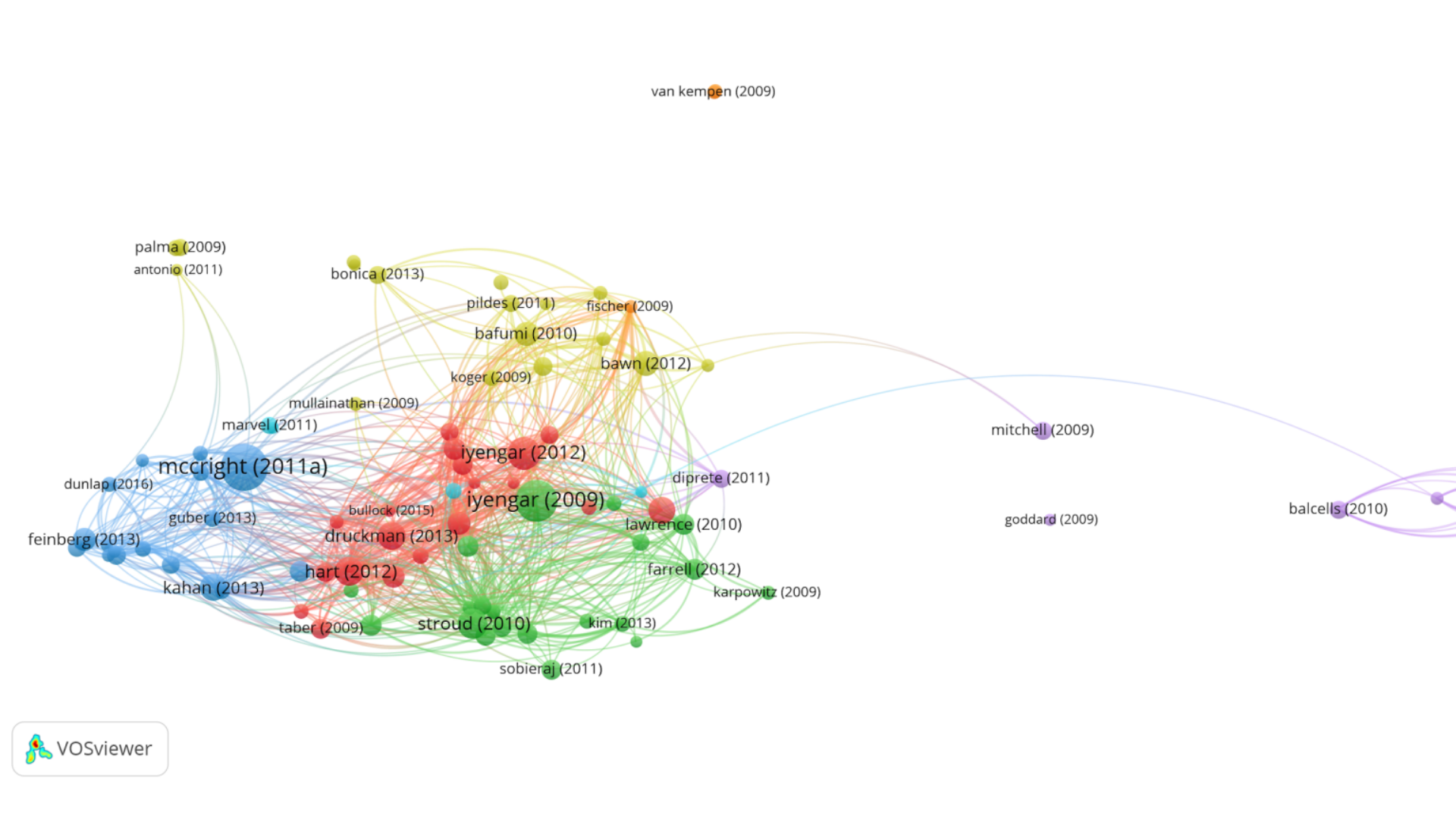
VOSviewer

How does VOSviewer work?

- Free bibliometric software
- Developed by two researchers at Leiden University
- Shows relationships between articles, journals, and concepts
- All about **clustering**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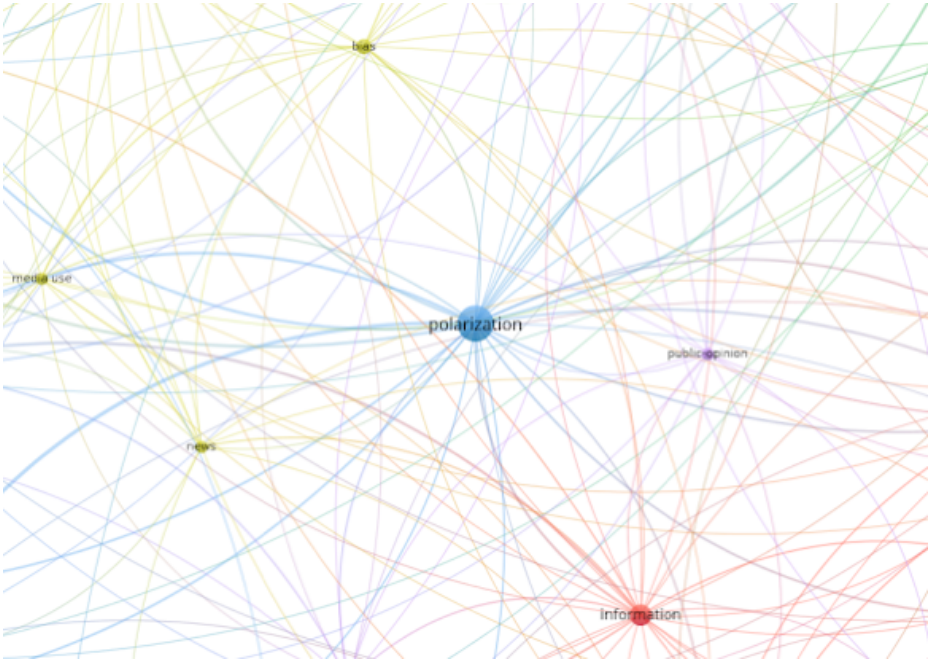
Didn’t Web of Science used to do this?

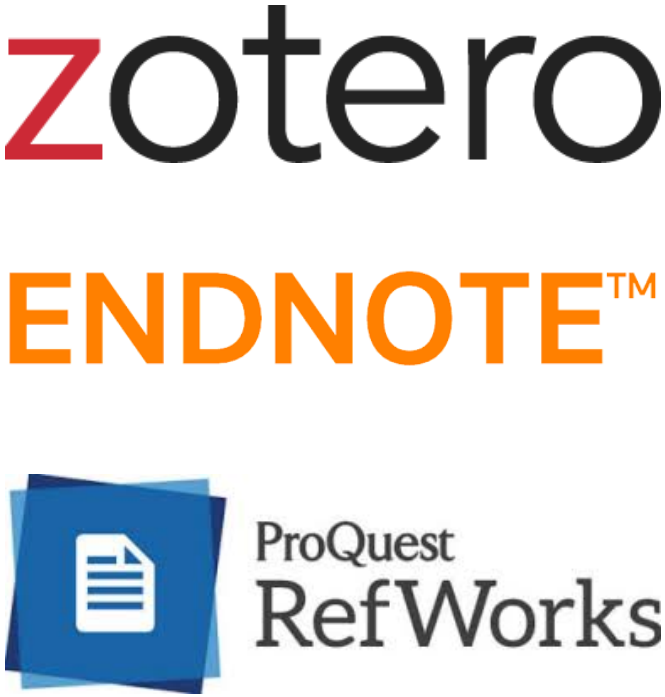
Yes, but no longer.

What are the major types of bibliometric networks?

- Citation
- Co-Citation
- Bibliographic Coupling
- Co-Authorship (Yawn)

- Keyword Co-Occurrence



What is an RIS file?

- An interoperability success story!
- File format used across citation management systems.