volume 3
no.1

# NEWSLETTER

# Ariadne - Concept Mapping

**From the team**

We keep you posted about the developments around the software program Ariadne with this newsletter. Over the past three months we have worked intensively on a new version. The results can be found below.

You can contact Carlijn van Randeraad-van der Zee for more information or if you have any questions (carlijn.vanderzee@talcott.nl or +31 651 12 03 97).

**New employee, new version, new name!**

On March 1st Carlijn van Randeraad-van der Zee was recruited by Talcott to assist the promotion and development of the new version of the concept mapping software Ariadne. After graduating for her master of science in human movement sciences at the VU University in Amsterdam, she earned her PhD in rehabilitation medicine last August (in Utrecht, the Netherlands). Right after her dissertation she was hired by the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam. This is where she was introduced to concept mapping.

Concept mapping is a scientific research method, which combines qualitative and quantitative aspects and which was introduced by Trochim in 1986. Trochim's research department uses the software program Concept Systems to support the concept mapping sessions. Talcott developed another program during the '90's: Ariadne. Over time this program has evolved into a web-based service and all procedures can be performed using the internet. At the end of 2013 the Dutch Ministry of Justice requested to use Ariadne in a large project and in 2014 there was a request from the VU medical center in Amsterdam for a user-friendly program to support concept mapping. This gave Ariadne an extra boost and since March we have been working very hard to develop a new version: Ariadne 3.0. Furthermore, we changed the name of the company into Minds21.org.

Using internet you can organize your Ariadne sessions completely autonomously. However, Talcott can also arrange the complete concept mapping session for you. We have 15 fast laptops with a large screen, which facilitates grouping and prioritizing the statements. Furthermore, it is possible to let us arrange location, coffee/ tea and some lunch or even get our full support in interpreting the results.

The software is under continuous development; this means that there are great possibilities to modify the software based the feedback from the users. We adapt our services to your wishes!

**Demo meeting**

To introduce our new version of Ariadne, we hereby invite you to attend our demonstration meeting. During this demonstration all features of the software will be presented and there will be plenty of hands on time to discover the possibilities yourself.

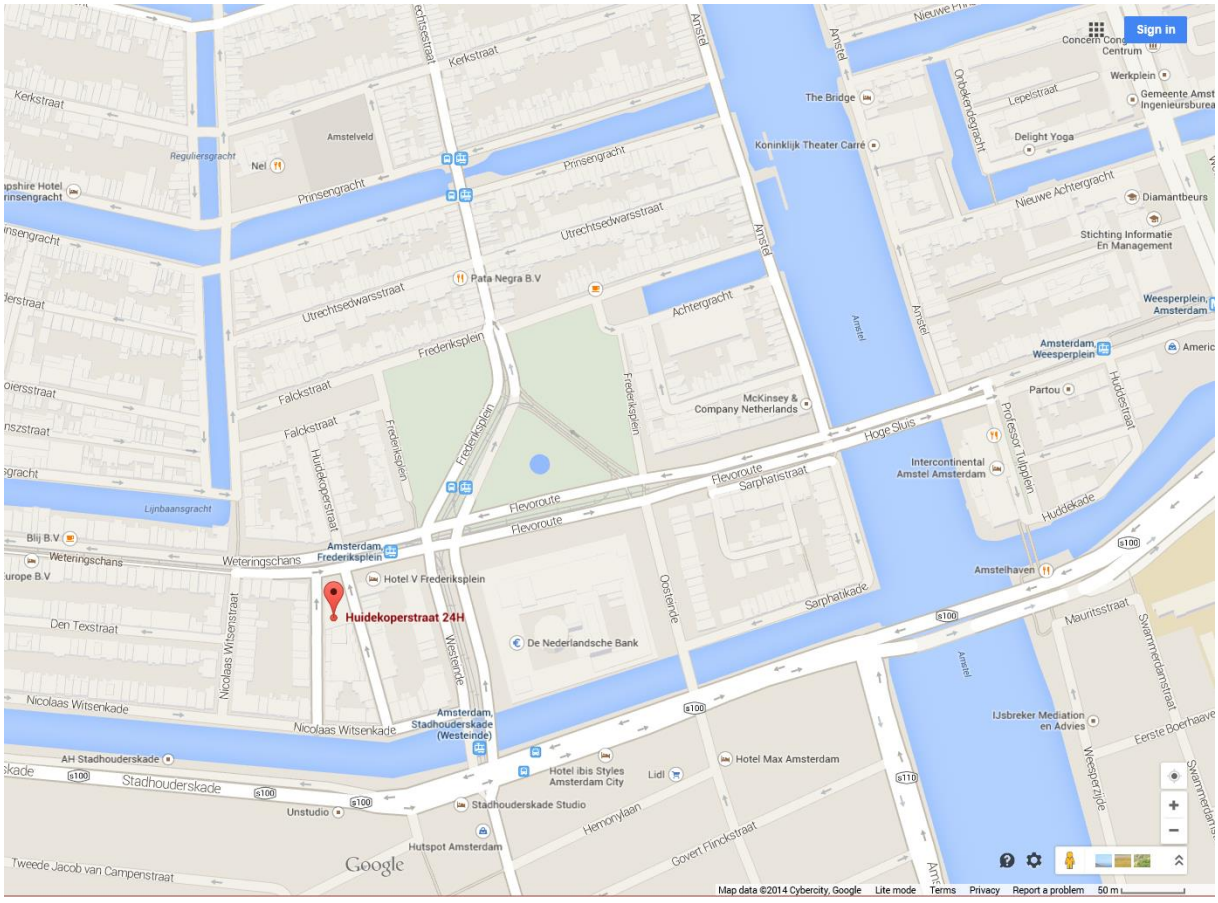
These demonstrations will take place on:

- Wednesday September 17th, 9am-12pm
- Friday September 19th, 1pm-4pm
- Monday September 22nd, 9am-12pm

Location: Huidekoperstraat 24H, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Tram stops nearby are Frederiksplein (tram 4, tram 7 and tram 10) and Stadhouderskade (Westeinde) (tram 4). Consult www.9292.nl for a personal travel advise.

Please register before September 13th so we can make sure that there is a delicious lunch for everyone: carlijn.vanderzee@talcott.nl.

If you are interested in our new version of Ariadne, but you are not able to visit our office, please contact Carlijn van der Zee. She can provide a log in name and password, so you can discover the new features at home!



**Scientific committee**

Concept mapping can be used for several different purposes; to support scientific research, for marketing objectives and as a management tool. To encourage the use of Ariadne in scientific research, we have composed a scientific committee. The aim of the committee is to inspire and to critically discuss concept mapping topics in order to guarantee quality. Furthermore the scientific committee will be an important source of feedback for developing and enhancing the software. This way, we can make sure that the software will follow the wishes and demands of the users.

Right now the scientific committee contains three Dutch experts: Udo Nabitz (Arkin), Marja van Bon (Trimbos) and Nils Duits (NIFP). We are planning on expanding the committee with international experts.

If you would like to participate in this scientific committee, please contact: carlijn.vanderzee@talcott.nl.

**Ariadne examplified -- Treediagram**

Each newsletter we will present a feature of Ariadne. A new feature in Ariadne 3.0 is the tree diagram (see Figure 1). The tree diagram shows how clusters split or merge when more or less clusters are allowed. The number of clusters varies from 2 up to 20 (figure 1 only shows up to cluster node 8 due to readability). Default cluster names are 2-1, 2-2, 3-1, 3-2, 4-1, etc. These cluster names are shown at the top of the cluster or in the label in the cluster and are adjustable.

Increasing the number of clusters from 2 to 3, cluster 2-1 splits. This results in the following clusters: 2-2, 3-1 and 3-2. Cluster 3-2 divides when we allow 5 clusters in the concept map and cluster 1-2 divides after those 8 displayed clusters. The other way around, when we decrease the number of clusters from 7 to 6, cluster 7-1 and 7-2 are merged into cluster 6-1. Cluster 5-1 and 5-2 are merged when we go back to 3 clusters. Allowing 7 clusters results in the following clusters: 7-2, 7-1, 6-2, 4-2, 5-1, 5-2 and 2-2.

The tree diagram is helpful to determine the number of clusters in your concept map; careful examination of items in clusters will help to decide whether or not to divide clusters. This is needed when different aspects are combined in 1 cluster. Furthermore, the aim of the concept map is important. Mostly, the maximum of 20 clusters is not useful. The default number of clusters is 8.

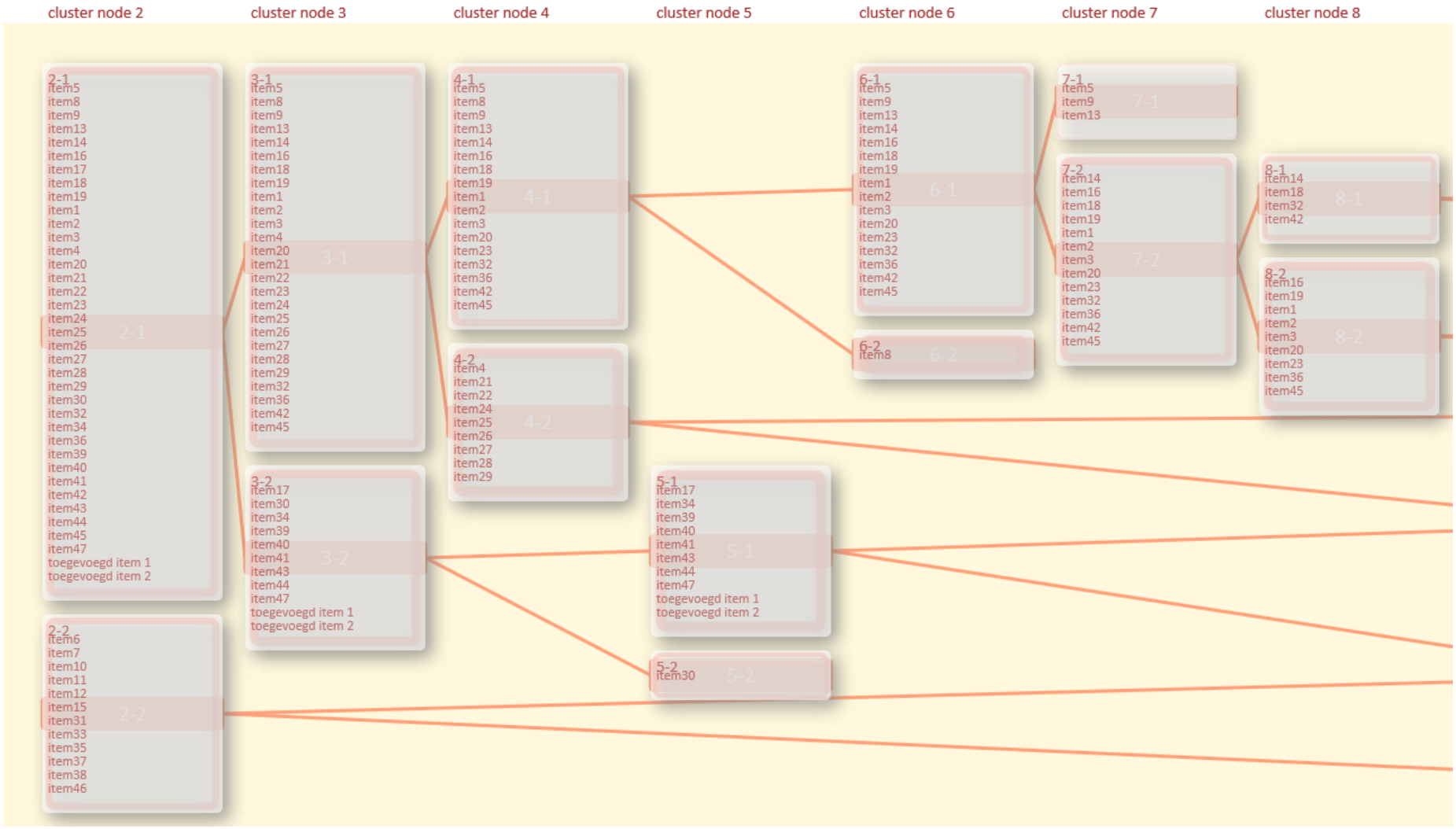



**Figure 1:** Part of tree diagram as presented by Ariadne 3.0