
Ville Vaara & Mikko Tolonen
18.7.2018
University of Helsinki
Computer scientists researching open workflows, algorithms and interfaces for humanities text and metadata

Linguists exploring the relationship between words and concepts

Historians interested in conceptual and actual historical processes
What is text reuse?
“Boscobel: or, the compleat history of His Sacred Majesty's most miraculous preservation after the battle of
Worcester, which was fought Sept. 3, …” (1660), Blount, Thomas, 1618-1679

“broad pieces to the king, judging they would be necessary to him in his present condition; for he durst carry no money
about him in his mean garb and short cut hair, except about ten or twelve Lhillings in silver. Windham hereupon went to
Lime, and spoke with Elef- don about hiring a lhip, which he undertook; but not till he was told, it was for His Ma- jefty's
transportation. During the four or five dayv" which the King this first time staid at Windham's, where he was was known by
most of the family, e heard the bells ring, and feeing a company got to- gether in the church-yard, which wa4 very near the” [...]

A general history of England. ... . Containing an Account of the first Inhabitants of the Country, and the
Transactions in it, from the earliest ... (1754) Carte, Thomas, 1686-1754

" 300 broad pieces to the king, judging they would be necefhry for him in his prefelit condition; for he durst carry no money
about him in his mean garb and his short cut hair, ex- cept about ten or twelve shillings in silver. Windham hereupon went to
Lyme, and 1poke to Elef'lon about hiring a lhip, which he undertook: but not till he was told, it was for his majefty's
transportation. During the four or five days, which the king, this sirss time, flaid at Windam's (where he was known to most
of the fa- mily) he heard the bells ring, and feeing a company got together in the church- yard, which was very near the” [...]

Quantifying sources in Hume’s History

- Proof of concept for computational intertextual analysis
- How Hume’s history fits into its context

- What kind of history is Hume’s History of England?
- Is it an impartial account or is it part of a political project?
- To what extent was it influenced by seventeenth century Royalist authors?
- What does it mean in terms of Hume being a “Whig” or a “Tory”?
Sources

- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
  - ~200,000 texts
  - full text OCR (optical character recognition) collection
- Early English Books Online - Text Creation Partnership (EEBO-TCP)
  - ~25,000 texts, hand corrected
- English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC)
  - library metadata catalogue
  - ~500,000 titles (pamphlets, books, newspaper collections, ...)

Histories in focus

Composition of the *Histories* in terms of references
Hume's History of England, found source fragments by volume

- 1. Anglo-Saxons - Henry II
- 2. Richard I - Edward III
- 3. Richard II - Henry VII(1/2)
- 4. Henry VIII(2/2) - Mary
- 5. Elizabeth
- 6. James I - Charles I(1/2)
- 7. Charles II(2/2) - The Commonwealth - Charles II(1/2)

Volume:

- Reuse Fragments

0 200 400 600
Reuse by political affiliation of source
A closer look at the sources in volumes covering the Civil War (1642–1651) and Charles I’s execution (1649)
Charles I execution and Hume’s impartiality
Hume’s History, 1754-61 and 1778 editions compared
First edition - redactions

vol. 5, p. 7. "Character of the puritans"
with regard to some particular bills, which should be agreed on. Lord Herbert, created earl of Glamorgan, (though his patent had not yet paffed the seals) having occasion for his private affairs to go to Ireland, the king considered, that this nobleman, being a Catholic and allied to the best Irish families, might be of service: He also foresaw, that further concessions with regard to religion might probably be demanded by the bishop of Ireland; and that, in these concessions, however necessary, would give great foundation to the protestant faction in his three kingdoms, it would be requisite, both to conceal them during some time, and to preserve Ormonde's character, by giving private orders to Glamorgan to conclude and sign their articles. But as he had a better opinion of Glamorgan's zeal and affection for his service, than of his capacity, he enjoined him to communicate all his measures to Ormonde; and though the final conclusion of the treaty must be executed only in Glamorgan's own name, he was required to be directed, in the first directions in, by the opinion of the 3rd lieutenant. Glamorgan, bigoted to his religion, and passionate for the king's service, but guided in his pursuits by no manner of judgment or discretion, secretly, of himself, without any communication with Ormonde, concluded a peace with the council of Kilkenny, and agreed in the king's name, that the Irish should enjoy all the churches, of which they had ever been in possession, since the commencement of their installation; on condition that they should assent the king in England with a body of ten thousand men. This treaty was discovered by accident. The titular archbishop of Tuam being killed by a fall of the garrison of Sligo, the articles of the treaty were found among his baggage, and were immediately published every where, and copies of them cut over to the

English
1778 edition, volume 7 - additions by section
Conclusions and future directions

- Hume as historian
  - helps dispute quantitative claims of Hume’s Toryism
- “Wide” approach: Historiography
  - can be refined to create an author’s “fingerprint” of source use
  - can be applied to trace changes over editions both to support close reading and to detect more general trends in historiography such as changes in source use practices
- “Deep” approach: Further refinement of the Hume case
  - analysis of the nature of added and redacted segments
  - analysis of later influence by looking at reuses of Hume
- “Complex”: Combining with other dimensions developed in COMHIS
  - analysing how publishers and their connections line up with patterns in text reuse
  - texts handled as part of intertextual tradition & analysis of that intertextuality as whole
- Study of a computational approach to intertextuality & proof of concept
Thank you
Change in text reuse in *Histories*, over volumes, with high point in the volumes covering the English Civil War.
Influence on later Histories
Rapin's History reused by others

The chart shows the number of fragments reused by others from different volumes of Rapin's History, with the following volumes and fragments:

- Caesar - Danes (Edward the Merry): 3200 fragments
- Etterick II - Henry III: 4200 fragments
- Henry II: 3500 fragments
- Henry IV: 3800 fragments
- Edward IV: 3600 fragments
- Henry VIII: 2800 fragments
- Edward VI: 2500 fragments
- Edward VI - Elizabeth: 3600 fragments
- James I: 4000 fragments
- Charles I (1/3): 1100 fragments
- Charles I (2/3): 1200 fragments
- Charles I (3/3): 1300 fragments
- The Commonwealth - Charles II (1/2): 3500 fragments
- Charles II (2/2): 4600 fragments
Conclusions

● Regarding DH and History
  ○ show how dh methods can open new approaches to historiography
  ○ mapping intertextual connections on this level hasn’t been done
  ○ can reveal previously unknown or overlooked influences

● Hume as historian, Historiography
  ○ help refute quantitative claims of Hume’s Toryism
  ○ can be refined to create author’s “fingerprint” of source use
Some future directions

- refining the approach here - creation of “automatic critical editions”
- linked with ESTC publisher data
- profiling publishers, their connections, shared texts and copying practices