

Bigger Smarter Data

Extracting, Modeling and Linking Data for Literary History

Christof Schöch
(Trier University, Germany)

Korea University
Seoul, South Korea

23 May 2024

Introduction

Thanks

KOREA
UNIVERSITY

KADH Korean Association for
Digital Humanities

Korea University, as well as
KADH (Korean Association
for Digital Humanities).



The Ministry for Research
and Education in
Rhineland-Palatinate,
Germany, for funding this
research (Mining and
Modeling Text, 2019-
2023)



Thanks to all the project
contributors: Maria
Hinzmann, Matthias
Bremm, Tinghui Duan, Anne
Klee, Johanna Konstanciak,
Julia Röttgermann and
many others.

Overview

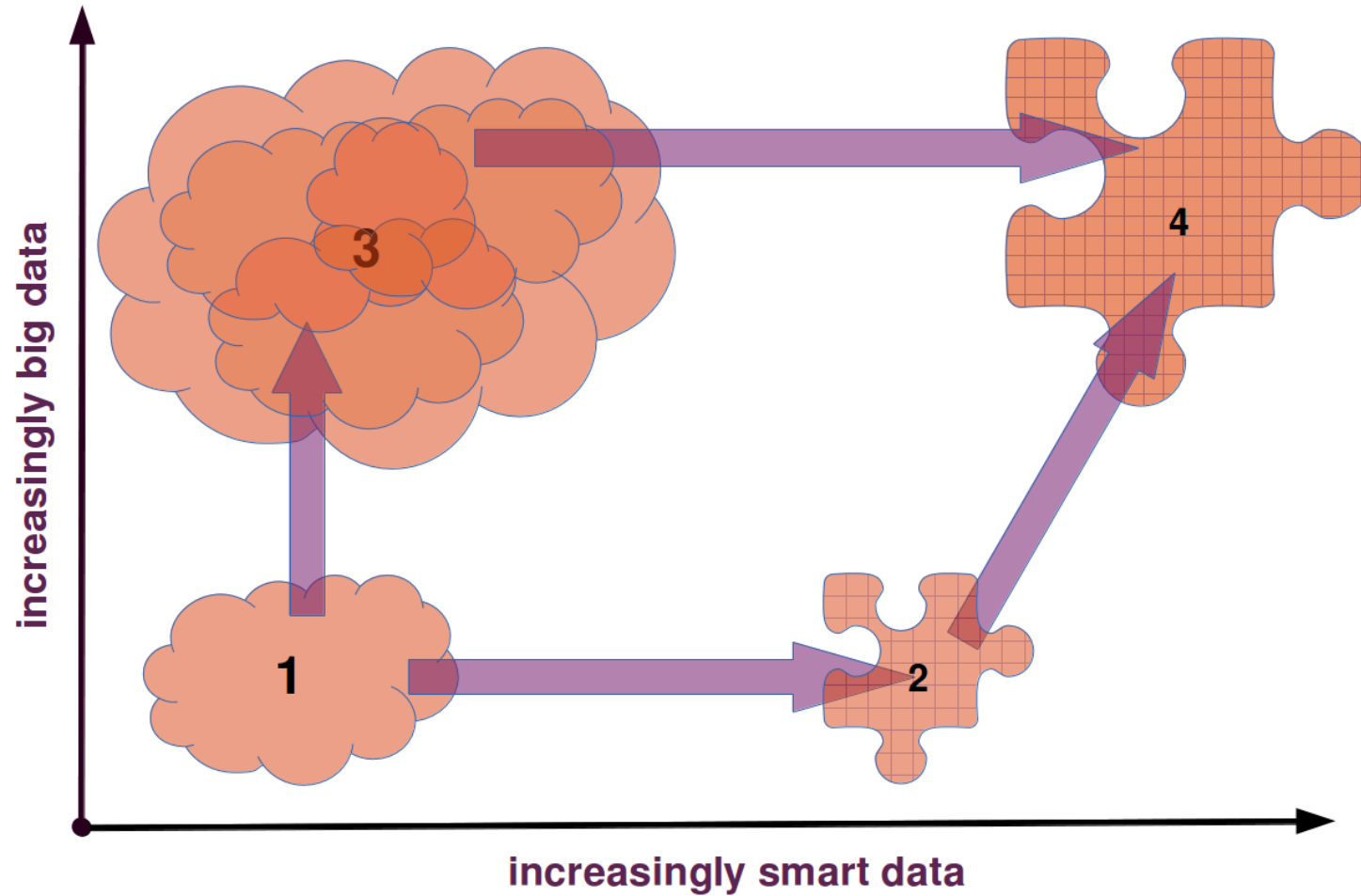
- 1 – Introduction
- 2 – Bigger Smarter Data and Linked Open Data
- 3 – Mining: Information Retrieval
- 4 – Modeling: Linked Open Data
- 5 – Results: Queryable Database
- 6 – Conclusion

Bigger Smarter Data: Linked Open Data

Three Modes of Data (and Digital Humanities)

- Qualitative DH:
 - Datasets are typically small, curated, heavily annotated, flawless, specialized ('smart data')
 - Prototype: digital scholarly editions, e.g. *Faust Edition*
- Quantitative DH:
 - Datasets are typically large, scraped, unannotated, with errors and biases, generic ('big data')
 - Prototype: Large Language Models trained on lots of text, e.g. ChatGPT

Third Way: Bigger Smarter Data



Background: What is Machine Learning?

- Fundamentally, ML involves detecting relations between features and labels
 - Features that we can observe in data
 - Labels, classes, or values that are relevant to our research
- We use this approach primarily for information retrieval
 - We start from a text collection
 - We may annotate part of the data, or use an existing model
 - And then derive labels, classes, values from the text

Background: What is Linked Open Data?

The screenshot shows the Wikidata page for 'Han Kang' (Q5646626). Red annotations highlight key concepts in Linked Open Data:

- subject:** The main entity being described, 'Han Kang'.
- identifier:** The unique ID for the entity, 'Q5646626'.
- description:** The descriptive text for the entity, such as 'South Korean writer'.
- predicate:** The relationship between the subject and object, 'instance of'.
- object:** The entity being related to, 'human'.

The page also displays a table of labels in various languages and a list of statements:

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Han Kang	South Korean writer	
German	Han Kang	südkoreanische Schriftstellerin	
French	Han Kang	écrivaine sud-coréenne	Han Gang
Bavarian	No label defined	No description defined	

Statements:

- instance of: human (2 references)
- image: HanKang.jpg (486 x 600; 53 KB) (0 references)
- sex or gender: female (1 reference)
- country of citizenship: South Korea (0 references)

Translations (Wikipedia):

- ar: هان كانغ
- arz: هان كانج
- azb: هان کانی
- az: Han Kang
- bcl: Han Kang
- be_x_old: Хан Канг
- be: Хан Канг
- bg: Хан Канг
- br: Han Kang
- cs: Han Kang
- de: Han Kang
- en: Han Kang
- es: Han Kang
- fa: هان کانگ
- fi: Han Kang
- fr: Han Kang
- he: האן קאנג
- hy: Հան Կանգ
- id: Han Kang
- it: Han Kang
- ja: 韓江 (小説家)
- ko: 한강 (소설가)
- ml: ഹാൻ കാംഗ്
- nl: Han Kang
- pa: ਹਨ ਕਾਂਗ
- pl: Han Kang
- pt: Han Kang
- ro: Han Kang
- ru: Хан Канг
- sv: Han Kang
- tr: Han Kang
- uk: Хан Канг
- vi: Han Kang
- zh: 韩江 (作家)

Multilingualism

The screenshot displays the Wikidata page for Douglas Adams (Q42) in a multilingual interface. The page is split into two panes: the left pane shows the Chinese version, and the right pane shows the Arabic version. A central 'Statements' section is highlighted with a green box, showing details for the 'educated at' property.

Labels: The label '道格拉斯·亚当斯' (Douglas Adams) is shown in Chinese on the left and 'دوغلاس آدمز' (Douglas Adams) in Arabic on the right. Both are enclosed in red boxes and labeled as 'label' and 'item identifier' respectively.

Description: The description 'English writer and humorist' is shown in the center, with 'English writer and humorist' in Arabic on the right.

Statements: The 'educated at' statement is highlighted with a green box. It includes the following details:

- Property: educated at
- Value: St John's College
- Qualifiers: end time (1974), academic major (English literature), academic degree (Bachelor of Arts), start time (1971)
- References: 2 references, including one from Encyclopædia Britannica Online.
- Statement Group: Brentwood School (with 0 references)

Other Properties:

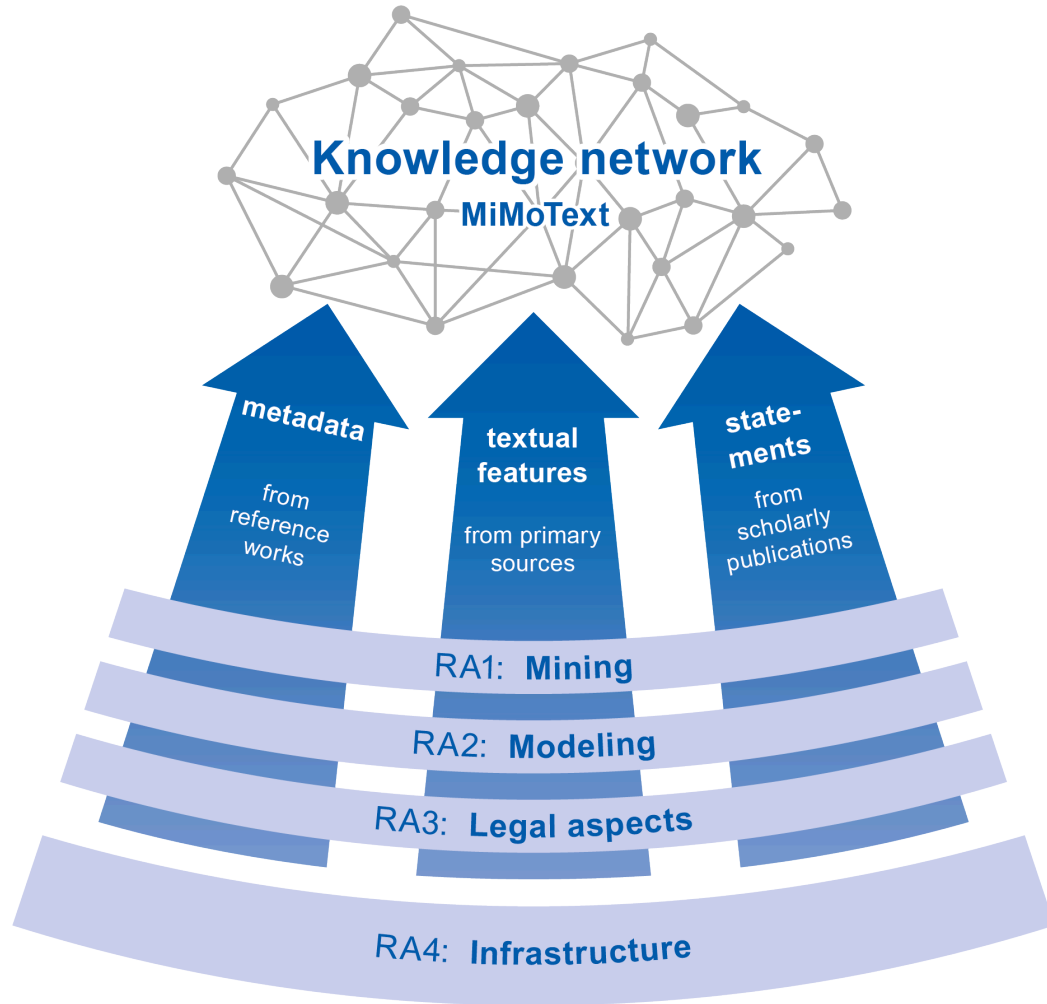
- Aliases:** 'دوغلاس نويل آدمز' (Douglas Noel Adams) and 'دوغلاس نويل آدمز | دوغلاس ن. آدمز | دوغلاس آدمز | دوغلاس | دوغلاس
- Aliases:** 'كاتب إنجليزي فكاهي' (English humorist writer)
- Aliases:** 'بلغات أخرى' (Other languages)
- Rank:** 'rank' property is shown for the 'educated at' statement.
- Statement Group:** 'statement group' property is shown for the 'Brentwood School' statement.
- References:** 'opened references' and 'collapsed reference' are shown for the 'Brentwood School' statement.
- Other Properties:** 'النموذج من إنسان' (instance of human), 'الجنس ذكر' (gender male), 'بلد المواطنة المملكة المتحدة' (country of citizenship United Kingdom), and 'الاسم الأول دوغلاس' (first name Douglas).

Navigation and Tools: The top navigation bar includes 'بحث في Wikidata في' (Search in Wikidata in) and 'اقرأ | تاريخ | نقاش' (Read | History | Discussion). The left sidebar contains navigation links like 'الصفحة الرئيسية' (Main page) and 'مناقشة' (Discussion).

Background: What is Literary History?

- Goals of literary history
 - Collecting and documenting knowledge of literary history
 - Providing explanations for the development of literature
- Organizational principles
 - Nations, periods, movements/currents, genres
 - Authors and works
 - Similarities and differences, continuities and change
- Functions
 - Explanations for literary developments
 - a. by cultural or socio-historical context
 - b. by internal dynamics of the literary system

The project 'Mining and Modeling Text'



Literary History in Linked Open Data

- Building blocks
 - Subjects, including persons (author, etc.) and works (primary text, scholarly literature, etc.)
 - Objects, including works, but also themes, locations, protagonists, literary genre, etc.
 - Predicates, as required, including: author_of, about, sameAs etc.
 - Qualifications, e.g: Source (with type, date, URL)
- Some exemplary statement types
 - Bibliographic: [person] author_of [work]
 - Contentual: [work] about [theme]
 - Formal: [work] narrative_form [type]
 - and many more.

Wikidata for Literary History

- Idea: Create a “Wikidata for the history of literature”
 - Literary history information system
 - LOD-based, with explorative interface and SPARQL endpoint
 - Approach of an “atomization” of the historical knowledge
 - Linking with other knowledge systems (taxonomies, standard data, knowledge bases)
 - Key values: human and machine readable, open, collaborative, multilingual
- Compared to Wikidata
 - Focused on one domain (French novel, 1750-1800)
 - Better coverage / higher density of information for this domain
 - Development of a systematic ontology
 - much smaller: 300k vs. 1.5 billion statements

Mining: Information Extraction

Pillar 1: Bibliographie du genre romanesque français

- 59.25 VOLTAIRE, François-Marie Arouet de**
Candide ou l'Optimisme, traduit de l'allemand de Mr. le docteur Ralph
 1759, in - 12
 BN
 AL 1759 II 203-210; AT 1761 (1759); CorrL mars 1759
 Bengesco Dufrenoy Gay Morize Q
 Il paraît y avoir eu jusqu'à une vingtaine d'éditions datées de 1759. Sur la question de la véritable édition *princeps*, voir Bengesco; Morize; I.O. Wade, *Voltaire et Candide*, Princeton, 1959; B. Gagnebin, ds *Bulletin du bibliophile*, 1960, pp. 22-31; J.-D. Candaux, ds *Studies on Voltaire*, XVIII, 1961, pp. 173-178.
3e personne; Europe, Amérique; Candide, Cunégonde, Pangloss, Martin; voyages, aventures romanesques, désastres; thèmes philosophiques, ton satirique.
- Autres éditions:**
- s.l., 1759. Bengesco donne 10 éditions s.l. 1759; Morize en cite 12; selon Besterman il y aurait une vingtaine d'éditions portant la date de 1759.
 - Londres, 1759 (Bengesco, Morize)
 - s.l., 1760 (Morize donne une édition; Bengesco en donne deux)
 - s.l., 1761 (Bengesco)
 - Genève, 1761 (Morize)
 - ds *Seconde suite des Mélanges*, 1761 (Bengesco, Morize)
 - Aux Délices, 1763 (Bengesco, Morize)

Pillar 2: primary literature (novels)

README.md
✎

DOI 10.5281/zenodo.4061903

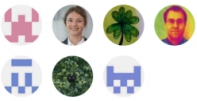
roman18

Collection de romans français du dix-huitième siècle (1750-1800)
/ Collection of Eighteenth-Century French Novels (1750-1800)

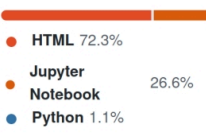
Introduction

This collection of Eighteenth-Century French Novels contains digital texts of novels created or first published between 1751 and 1800. The collection is created in the context of Mining and Modeling Text, a project which is located at the Trier Center for Digital Humanities (TCDH) at Trier University. Work on the collection is ongoing.

Contributors 7



Languages



Language	Percentage
HTML	72.3%
Jupyter Notebook	26.6%
Python	1.1%

- Corpus of 200 French novels (1750-1800)
- Coding: in XML-TEI, with metadata, according to ELTeC schema
- Analysis methods: Topic modeling, NER, stylometry, etc.

Collection of Eighteenth-Century French novels (1750-1800), ed. Julia Röttgermann. See <https://dhtrier.quarto.pub/ku> – CC BY

Pillar 3: Scholarly Literature

Vielleicht hängt damit die Tatsache zusammen, daß die "großen" Aufklärer n

Denis Diderot (Supplément au voyage de Bougainville) die Ut
kaum gepflegt und sie allenfalls zuweilen in ihre Werke inkorporiert haben,
Montesquieu die historische Gesellschaftstheorie der "Histoire des Troglody

in die Lettres persanes von 1721 (Briefe XI-XIV) oder Voltaire die im Kontex

(Sub)

Erzählung fragwürdige Utopie von Eldorado in seinem Candide von 1759 (Kap.
XVII-XVIII) oder wie der Marquis de Sade in seinem Briefroman Aline et Valcour.
In der zweiten Jahrhunderthälfte wird die literarische Utopie häufig als "

[1] **Candide**
<http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q215894>
1759 book by Voltaire

[2] **Candide**
<http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q44703489>
fictional character from the book 'Candide' by
Voltaire

[3] **Candide**
<http://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q450360>
Wikimedia disambiguation page

50 items found

candide

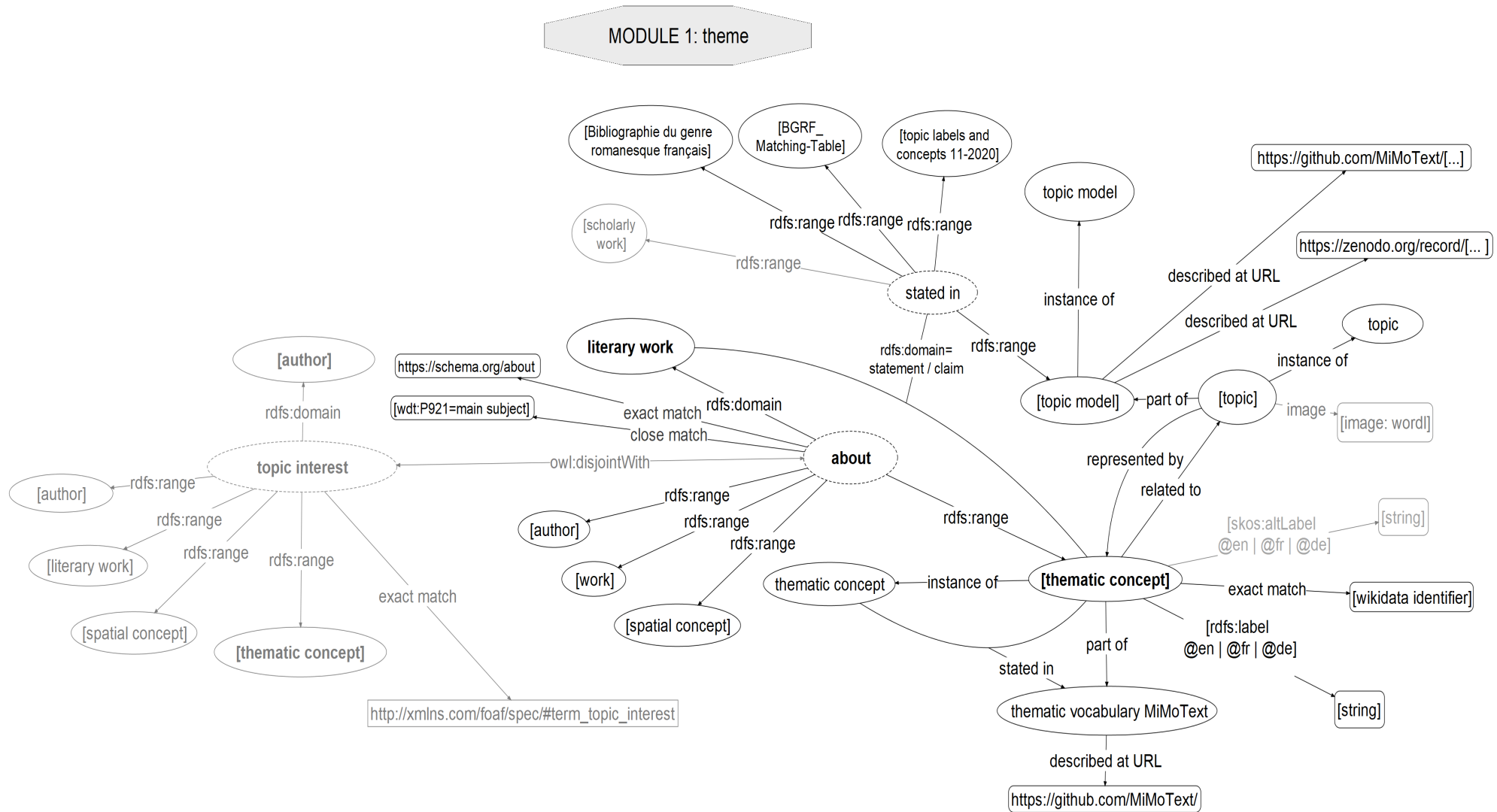
- Annotation Guidelines (based on the data model)
- Manual annotations (using INCEpTION)
- Linking of INCEpTION with MiMoTextBase and Wikidata => disambiguation
- Creation of statements about authors and works (genres, themes, etc.)

Modeling: Data Modeling

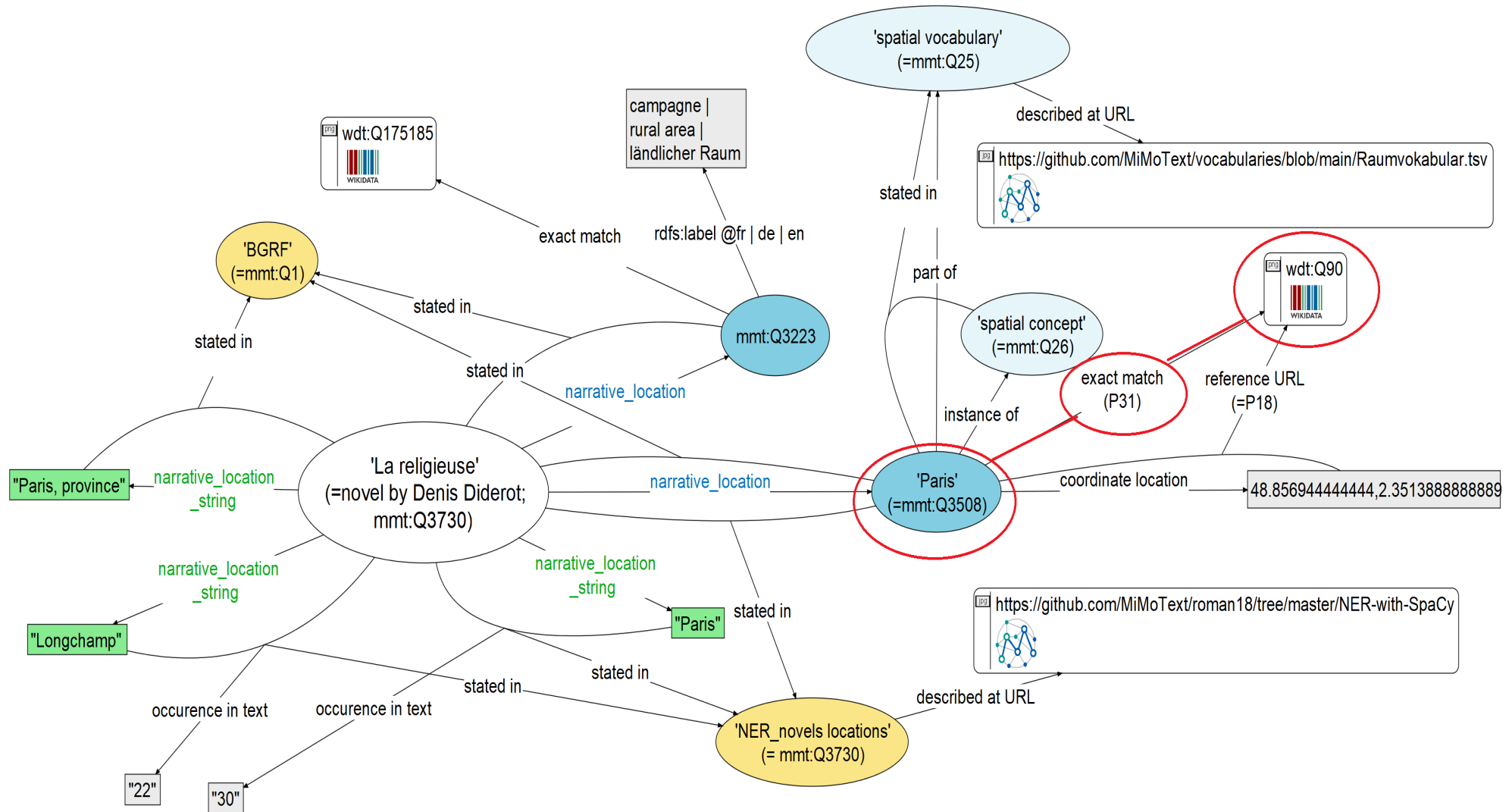
Modular Data Model

- Module 1: Theme
- Module 2: Space
- Module 3: Narrative form
- Module 4: Literary work
- Module 5: Author
- Module 6: Mapping
- Module 7: Referencing
- Module 8: Versioning & publication
- Module 9: Terminology
- Module 10: Bibliography
- Module 11: Scholarly literature





Example: The module on themes



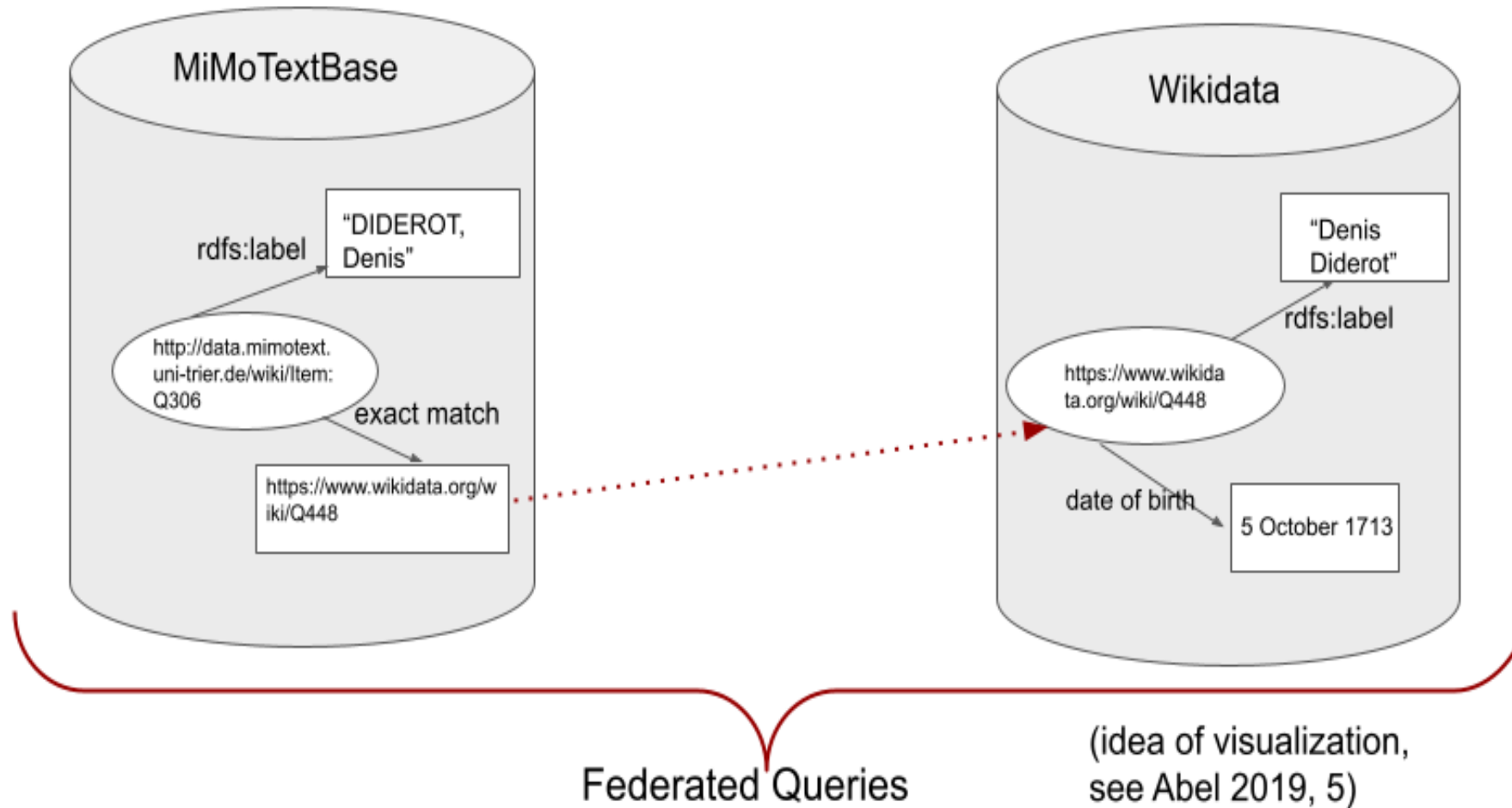
Example: The module on narrative location



Meta-Statements

about	  libertinism
	▼ 2 references
	stated in Bibliographie du genre romanesque français
	stated in BGRF_matching-table (03-2022)
	  correspondence
	▼ 2 references
stated in Topic Model MMT 11-2020	
stated in topic labels and concepts (11-2020)	

Linking with Wikidata for 'federated queries'



Result: Queryable Database

The MiMoTextBase



[Main page](#)
[Recent changes](#)
[Random page](#)
[Help about MediaWiki](#)

Tools

[What links here](#)
[Related changes](#)
[Special pages](#)
[Printable version](#)
[Permanent link](#)
[Page information](#)

In other languages

[Add links](#)

[Log in](#)

Main Page **Discussion**

Read [View source](#) [View history](#)

Search MiMoText



Main Page

Mining and Modeling Text: Interdisciplinary applications, informational development, legal perspectives (MiMo Text)

The acquisition of knowledge from large amounts of text and data which can no longer be handled by individuals is becoming increasingly important due to the possibilities of digitisation. For the humanities, this means in particular that digital full texts and rich metadata must not only be available, but must also be available in a form that promotes knowledge in the humanities.

The aim of the MiMoText project is therefore to establish an information network for the humanities fed from various sources, which, by making it available as Linked Open Data, is not only freely available and can be linked to other knowledge resources of the Semantic Web, but also offers innovative and efficient access possibilities to scientific information.

MiMoTextBase was built as part of the project "Mining and Modeling Text" (2019-2023). It is implemented using a Wikibase infrastructure and integrates various data from heterogeneous sources. Note that the project is ongoing and the contents and structure of the MiMoTextBase will continually be further developed.

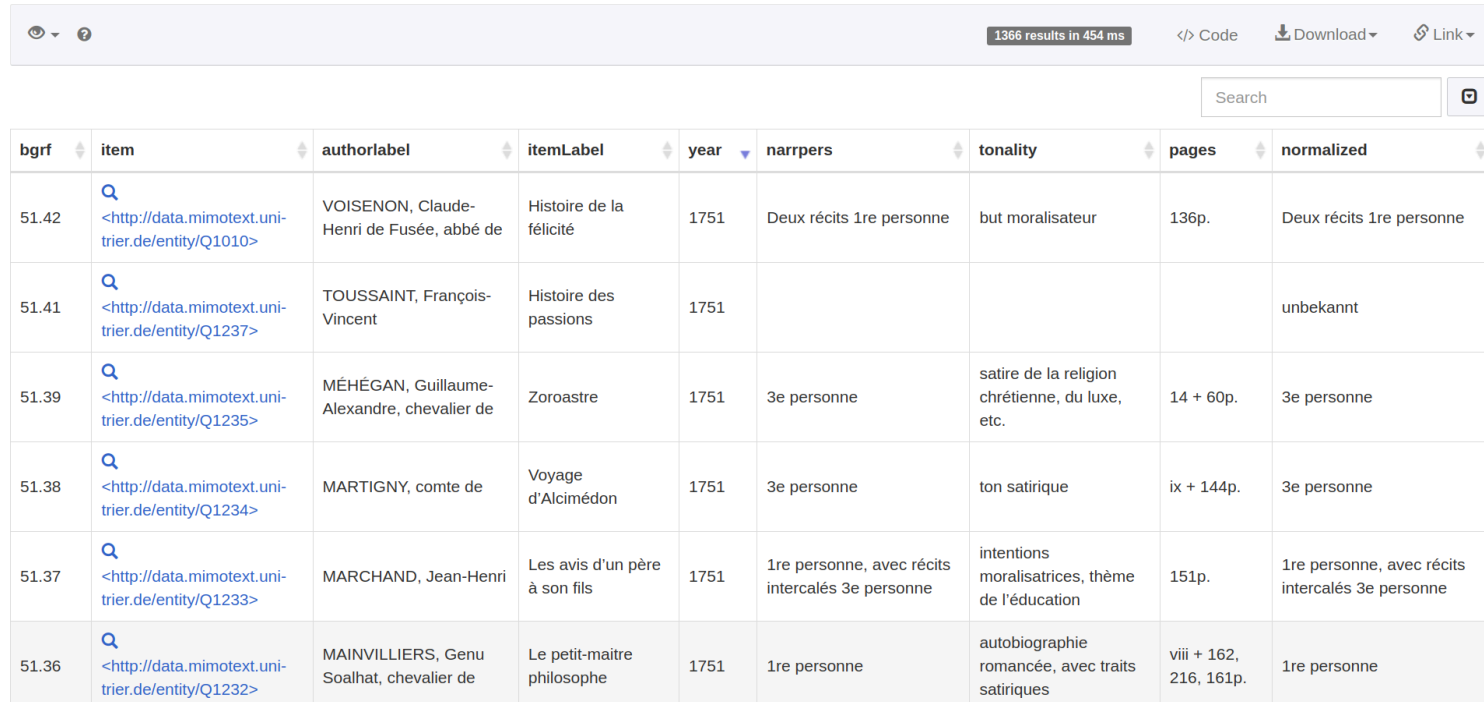
Key starting points

- Tutorial and further information about the MiMoTextBase: <https://docs.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- SPARQL endpoint: <https://query.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- MiMoTextBase (current page): <https://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- Project homepage: <https://mimotext.uni-trier.de/en>
- Ontology repository: <https://github.com/MiMoText/ontology>

Example pages

- An author entry (Révéroni Saint-Cyr): <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/wiki/Item:Q851>
- A title entry (Liaisons dangereuses): <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/wiki/Item:Q1053>
- A thematic concept (travel): <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/wiki/Item:Q3126>
- A spatial concept (Geneva): <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/wiki/Item:Q3478>

SPARQL endpoint



bgrf	item	authorlabel	itemLabel	year	narrpers	tonality	pages	normalized
51.42	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1010>	VOISENON, Claude-Henri de Fusée, abbé de	Histoire de la félicité	1751	Deux récits 1re personne	but moralisateur	136p.	Deux récits 1re personne
51.41	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1237>	TOUSSAINT, François-Vincent	Histoire des passions	1751				unbekannt
51.39	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1235>	MÉHÉGAN, Guillaume-Alexandre, chevalier de	Zoroastre	1751	3e personne	satire de la religion chrétienne, du luxe, etc.	14 + 60p.	3e personne
51.38	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1234>	MARTIGNY, comte de	Voyage d'Alcimédon	1751	3e personne	ton satirique	ix + 144p.	3e personne
51.37	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1233>	MARCHAND, Jean-Henri	Les avis d'un père à son fils	1751	1re personne, avec récits intercalés 3e personne	intentions moralisatrices, thème de l'éducation	151p.	1re personne, avec récits intercalés 3e personne
51.36	Q <http://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de/entity/Q1232>	MAINVILLIERS, Genu Soalhat, chevalier de	Le petit-maitre philosophe	1751	1re personne	autobiographie romancée, avec traits satiriques	viii + 162, 216, 161p.	1re personne

- SPARQL = SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language
- Used to formulate queries

MiMoText Base: Query for themes in novels



Some sample queries: simple queries

- List of novels with information from BGRF
- Number of works per author (first 25))
- Themes of novels, in French and in English

Example queries: visualizations

- Number of novels per year
- Narrative forms over time (decades)
- Book history: print formats over time (5 years)

Sample queries: networked and federated

- Link with catalogue data from French National Library (using BNF id)
- Narrative locations of novels (map)
- Authors by birth year, with portrait)
- Alternative author names from Wikidata infobox
- Network of influences between authors (using ‘influenced by’)
- Querying MiMoText from Wikidata (it works both ways)
- Novels and basic information, from Wikidata

Sample queries: comparative queries

- Themes from topic modeling compared to themes in BGRF
- Themes from BGRF vs. Topic Modeling (in one query)

Conclusion

Opportunities & challenges

- Opportunities
 - Linking heterogeneous data from different types of sources
 - Modeling, collecting and comparing contradictory statements
 - Transparency in knowledge production (sources)
- Challenges
 - Lack of consensus on relevant statement types in the discipline
 - Complexity reduction (triple structure)
 - Interoperability (tension 'Wikiverse' vs. OWL standard)

Lessons Learned

- Federated queries
 - Central element of the LOD vision
 - => Making it happen is not trivial (data model, infrastructure)
- Modeling meta statements
- Very important: perspectives / statements, not facts
- => Very different approaches in different technical contexts
- Exchange across communities
 - Literary Studies vs. Digital Humanities vs. Wikiverse
 - => is essential but needs more development
- There is still so much to do!
 - => We are continuing this effort in a new project called 'Linked Open Data in the Humanities' (LODinG)

Many thanks for your kind attention

Further resources

- Tutorial: <https://docs.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- SPARQL endpoint: <https://query.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- MiMoTextBase: <https://data.mimotext.uni-trier.de>
- MiMoText Ontology: <https://github.com/MiMoText/ontology>
- Reference publication: 'Smart Modeling for Digital Literary History'
- Overview of visuals: mimotext.github.io/MiMoTextBase_Tutorial/visualizations.html

References

Martin, Mylne, and Frautschi. 1977. *Bibliographie Du Genre Romanesque Français, 1751-1800*. Mandell.

Röttgermann, Julia. 2024. "The Collection of Eighteenth-Century French Novels 1751-1800." *Journal of Open Humanities Data* 10 (1): 31. <https://doi.org/10.5334/johd.201>.

Schöch, Christof. 2013. "Big? Smart? Clean? Messy? Data in the Digital Humanities." *Journal of Digital Humanities* 2 (3): 1–19. <https://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/2-3/big-smart-clean-messy-data-in-the-humanities/>.

Schöch, Christof, Maria Hinzmann, Julia Röttgermann, Katharina Dietz, and Anne Klee. 2022. "Smart Modelling for Literary History." *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 16 (1): 78–93. <https://doi.org/10.3366/ijhac.2022.0278>.