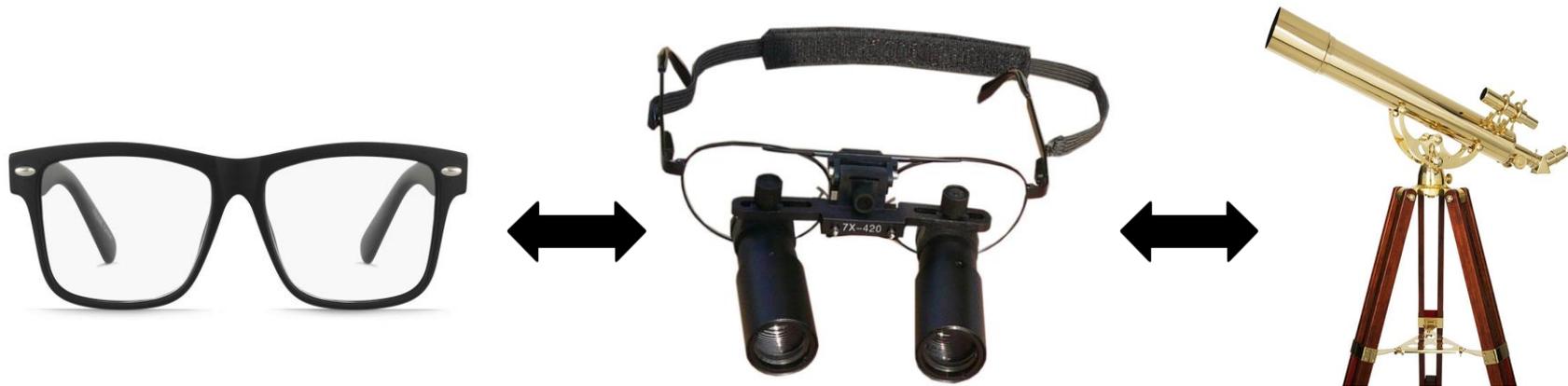


# Textual Optics:

## Databases and Data-mining at the ARTFL Project



Clovis Gladstone, University of Chicago  
Robert Morrissey, University of Chicago

# The ARTFL Organization

ARTFL is a collaboration between:

- Laboratoire ATILF (Analyse et Traitement Informatique de la Langue Française) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) of France
- The Division of the Humanities and The Computation Institute and the Electronic Text Services (ETS) of the University of Chicago Library



# ARTFL Activities

- Collection development - quantity, quality. (Frantext, French Classical Theater, Encyclopédie, Bayle Dictionary, ECCO-TCP, Shakespeare...)
- Software development (PhiloLogic): developing and improving the means of exploring and navigating textual collections.
- Inquiry: participating in digital humanities scholarship and research.

# Textual Optics: Scales of Reading

- Up-close: focus on one or more words with PhiloLogic
  - Concordances, KWIC
  - Collocations
  - Faceted Browsing
- From afar: focus on groups of words (data-mining)
  - Words out of order (bag of words): text as a collection of word frequencies
  - Words in sequence: retain word order

# PhiloLogic

- Open source full-text search and analysis system based on traditional models of humanistic textual scholarship.
- The development of PhiloLogic was guided by three guiding principles :
  - Support traditional text analysis (philology) at scale: provide concordances over thousands of texts.
  - Ease of use - more efficient to browse large samples of occurrences than to spend time formulating highly complex queries.
  - Navigate from words to works, to authors, to years, genres...

<https://github.com/ARTFL-Project/PhiloLogic4>

# PhiloLogic

Searching database for

[Export results](#)

Bibliography criteria: **None**

Hits 1 - 25 of 4956

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1 AULNOY, MADAME D' (MARIE-CATHERINE), 1650 OR 51-1705. *MEMOIRS OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COURT AND COUNCILS OF SPAIN: IN TWO PARTS. WITH THE TRUE REASONS WHY* [More](#)

*THIS VAST MONARCHY, WHICH IN THE LAST CENTURY MADE SO CONSIDERABLE A FIGURE IN THE WORLD, IS IN THIS SO FEEBLE AND PARALYTICK. DONE INTO ENGLISH BY T. BROWN. [pt.1]*  
[1701] | [Section](#) | [page 27](#)

expect to suffer from an incensed Prince, that his life was at stake, and that there was no other way to preserve it, but by submitting to the present necessity. The Queen answered him with abundance of Tears, that he should not disquiet himself at all, for she would take care to set things to **rights** again. He was well enough satisfied of her own good will for him, but he questioned whether her power answered her inclinations; nevertheless he resolved at last that he would be torn in pieces by the people, before he would leave Mad

2 AULNOY, MADAME D' (MARIE-CATHERINE), 1650 OR 51-1705. *MEMOIRS OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COURT AND COUNCILS OF SPAIN: IN TWO PARTS. WITH THE TRUE REASONS WHY* [More](#)

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[1701] | [Section](#) | [page 77](#)

he were assured beforehand of receiving the honour of the Hand, the Step and the Chair; that Don Juan would never consent to this Proposal, because it was not to be imagined that he would easily give up the **rights** he had obtained over the other Ambassadors, and that it would be an inconvenient thing for him of France not to treat directly with the chief Minister. What People surmised upon this occasion really happene

3 AULNOY, MADAME D' (MARIE-CATHERINE), 1650 OR 51-1705. *MEMOIRS OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COURT AND COUNCILS OF SPAIN: IN TWO PARTS. WITH THE TRUE REASONS WHY* [More](#)

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[1701] | [Section](#) | [page 168](#)

willing to suffer this diminution. It is natural to believe, that he knew his own Accounts well enough, not to lose any thing by his Project, and to say the truth, he had been no loser: For the Disorders and Rapines were at that time so great, that not a ninth part of the King's **Rights** came into his Coffers. The Duke foreseeing the Event of this Affair, advised Marcos Dias not to stir out of the Palace; but he had a mind to go to Alcalá, and he returned with vomiting of Blood and

4 AULNOY, MADAME D' (MARIE-CATHERINE), 1650 OR 51-1705. *MEMOIRS OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COURT AND COUNCILS OF SPAIN: IN TWO PARTS. WITH THE TRUE REASONS WHY* [More](#)

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[1701] | [Account](#) | [The Council d'Aposento.](#) | [page 190](#)

President, who is called the Aposentador Major, of six Aposentadores of Exercise, (because some others may be admitted into it, if they are Veteranes) of a Fiscal, a Secretary, a Receiver, an Alguazil, and a Porter. This Junto preserves his Majesty's **Rights**, they take care likewise to lodge the Officers of the King's Houshold. The Council of the Chamber of Castile. Queen Joan

BROWSE BY FACET	
Frequency by	
Author	
Title	
Year	
Collocates of query term(s)	
in the same sentence	

# PhiloLogic

Export results

Searching database for

Bibliography criteria: **None**

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## Top 500 results for Author

Paine, Thomas, 1737-1809.	635
Burke, Edmund, 1729-1797.	459
Defoe, Daniel, 1661?-1731.	257
Spence, Thomas, 1750-1814.	216
Sharp, Granville, 1735-1813.	175
Pratt, Mr. (Samuel Jackson), 1749-1814.	123
Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774.	119
Kames, Henry Home, Lord, 1696-1782.	118
Hume, David, 1711-1776.	109
Macpherson, James, 1736-1796.	103
Brand, John, d. 1808.	96
Dodsley, Robert, 1703-1764.	95
Sidney, Algernon, 1622-1683.	87
Gibbon, Edward, 1737-1794.	82

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Bibliography criteria: **Author : "Paine, Thomas, 1737-1809."**

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[View occurrences with context](#)

[View occurrences line by line \(KWIC\)](#)

1 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *COMMON SENSE: ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF AMERICA, ON THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING SUBJECTS. I. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF*

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*GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL, WITH CONCISE REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. II. OF MONARCHY AND HEREDITARY SUCCESSION. III. THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS. IV. OF THE PRESENT ABILITY OF AMERICA, WITH SOME MISCELLANEOUS REFLECTIONS. WRITTEN BY AN ENGLISHMAN. [TWO LINES FROM THOMSON] [1776] | Front*  
[INTRODUCTION.](#) | [page na](#)

arise, which are not local, but universal, and through which the principles of all lovers of mankind are affected, and in the event of which, their affections are interested. The laying a country desolate with fire and sword, declaring war against the natural **rights** of all mankind, and extirpating the defenders thereof from the face of the earth, is the concern of every man to whom nature hath given the power of feeling; of which class, regardless of party censure, is the

2 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *COMMON SENSE: ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF AMERICA, ON THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING SUBJECTS. I. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF*

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upon earth; but an indefinite dependance upon a combination of men, who have, in the face of the sun, broken thro'the most solemn covenants, debauched the hereditary, and corrupted the elective guardians of the people's **rights**, who have, in fact, established an absolute tyranny in Great-Britain and Ireland, and openly declared themselves competent to bind the Colonists in all cases whatsoever: I say indefinite dependance on such a combination of usurping innovator

3 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *COMMON SENSE: ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF AMERICA, ON THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING SUBJECTS. I. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF*

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hands for the purpose, If thine and thy ministers are not evil against us, why didst thou not hearken to the repeated prayers of thy distressed subjects in America? Why dost thou not recal thy troops, repeal the acts, indemnify us for what we have suffered, and offer any further security to our **rights**, which we may think necessary? Thou beganest the attack, and this is thy duty; besides, thou hast an obedient parliament, which disputes not thy will, and all this is in thy power, and in no one's else." Had the King made a speech to the house recommending these thin

4 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *COMMON SENSE: ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF AMERICA, ON THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING SUBJECTS. I. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF*

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BROWSE BY FACET		X
Frequency by		
Author		
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Year		
Collocates of query term(s)		
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1 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *COMMON SENSE: ADDRESSED TO THE INHABITANTS OF AMERICA, ON THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING SUBJECTS. I. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL, WITH CONCISE REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. II. OF MONARCHY AND HEREDITARY SUCCESSION. III. THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS. IV. OF THE PRESENT ABILITY OF AMERICA, WITH SOME MISCELLANEOUS REFLECTIONS. WRITTEN BY AN ENGLISHMAN. [TWO LINES FROM THOMSON] [1776]* | Front | INTRODUCTION. | page na

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[More](#)

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Top 500 results for in the same sentence

government	119
part	105
right	70
second	67
people	61
bill	54
nation	53
constitution	49
against	47
men	43
paine	43
king	42
thomas	40
work	40

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Bibliography criteria: **Author : "Paine, Thomas, 1737-1809."**

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1 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *PROSPECTS ON THE RUBICON: OR, AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE POLITICS TO BE AGITATED AT THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.* [1787] | WEALTH. | page 49 [More](#)

to the subject, and this is taken for granted they never will. But, if a supposed unnecessary expenditure of between five and six millions sterling in the finances of France, (for the writer undertakes not to judge of the fact) has awakened that whole nation, a people supposed to be perfectly docile in all national matters, surely the people of England will not be less attentive to their rights and properties. If this should not be the case, the inference will be fairly drawn, that England is losing the spirit that France is taking up, and that it is an ingenious device in the Ministry to compose the nation to unpopular an

2 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *ADDRESS AND DECLARATION, OF THE FRIENDS OF UNIVERSAL PEACE AND LIBERTY: HELD AT THE THATCHED HOUSE TAVERN, ST. JAMES'S STREET. AUGUST 20TH. 1791.* By THOMAS PAINE, ... TOGETHER WITH SOME VERSES, BY THE SAME AUTHOR, ... [1791] | Illegible | page na [More](#)

five millions of our fellow m illegible n. We rejoice in the prospect, which such a magnificent example opens to the world. We congratulate the French nation for having laid the axe to the root of tyranny, and for erecting Government on the sacred HEREDITARY Rights of MAN.—Rights, which appertain to ALL, and not to a yo illegible e more than to another. We know of ill

3 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *DEFINITION OF A CONSTITUTION: BY THOMAS PAINE.* ... [1791] | Section | page 10 [More](#)

and the Palladium of their liberties? I shall suppose now that the Representatives are wiser than their Constituents; that the body of elements they have devised, is as much better as you please than those that were committed to their protection; nay, I will suppose even that the Nation "enlightened" since by the force of eloquence and of the lanthorn, are at this moment of the same opinion with the Assembly; still, as the Constitution that has been decreed under a commission, not only containing no authority from the people for the destruction of all existing establishments, and the constituting new ones, but containing the most positive commands to protect the existing establishments which were held sacred by them, it is submitted to you, in all humility, whether such innovations come at all within the limits of your Definition; whether those who accept a trust to one purpose, and use it to the direct contrary, can avail themselves of the authority they have betrayed; whether, if added to the breach of trust, there happens to be at the same time a breach of the Oath, their employers exacted from them to abide by their instructions, instead of acting in direct opposition to them; whether any oath imposed upon others afterwards by such an Assembly can be conceived, even by themselves, to have any validity: whether, in short, upon your principle, the powers assumed by such a Body can be regarded as any thing more than a direct usurpation upon the rights of the people, and the force they exercise over all ranks of Citizens, from the Monarch down to the Peasant, with so free a hand, can be considered as any thing but the aristocratical tyranny of an unauthorized though inviolable oppression and perjured Senate. The

4 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *RIGHTS OF MAN: BEING AN ANSWER TO MR. BURKE'S ATTACK ON THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. SECOND EDITION.* By THOMAS PAINE, ... [1791] [More](#)

| Section | page 9

BROWSE BY FACET <input type="button" value="X"/>	
Frequency by	
Author	
Title	
Year	
Collocates of query term(s)	
in the same sentence	

# PhiloLogic

2 PAINE, THOMAS, 1737-1809. *ADDRESS AND DECLARATION, OF THE FRIENDS OF UNIVERSAL PEACE AND LIBERTY: HELD AT THE THATCHED HOUSE TAVERN, ST. JAMES'S STREET. AUGUST*

More

*20TH. 1791. BY THOMAS PAINE, ... TOGETHER WITH SOME VERSES, BY THE SAME AUTHOR, ...* [1791] || Illegible || page na

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# PhiloLogic

we answer (as has been already answered in another place ~ of the volunteers of Be ~a ~t.) *IT IS MUCH.*—MUCH to us as them. Much to us as Englishmen.

As men, we rejoice in the freedom of twenty five millions of our fellow m \*n. We rejoice in the prospect, which such a magnificent example opens to the world. We congratulate the French **nation** for having laid the axe to the root of tyranny, and for erecting Government on the sacred HEREDITARY **Rights** of MAN.—Rights, which appertain to ALL, and not to a yo \*e more than to another. We know of \*o human authority, superior to that of a whole nation: a \*d we profess and proclaim it as our principle that every nation has at all times, an inherent, indefeasible right to constitute and establish such Government for itself as best accords with its disposition, interest and happiness.

-3-

As Englishmen, we also rejoice, because we are *IMMEDIATELY* interested in the French Revolution.

Without enquiring into the justice, on either side of the reproachful charges of intrigue and ambition, which the English and French Court have constantly made on each other, we confine ourselves to this observation:—That if the Court of France only was in fault, and the numerous wars which have distressed both countries are chargeable to her alone, that Court now exists no longer; and the cause and the consequence must cease together. The French, therefore, by the Revolution they have made, have conquered for us as well as for themselves; if it be true, that their Court only was in fault and ours never.

On this state of the case, the French Revolution concerns us *IMMEDIATELY*: We are oppressed with a heavy National debt, a burthen of taxes, and an expensive administration of Government; beyond those of any people in the world. We have also a very numerous poor: and we hold, that the moral obligation of providing for old age, helpless infancy and poverty, is far superior to that of supplying the invented wants of courtly extravagance, ambition and intrigue.

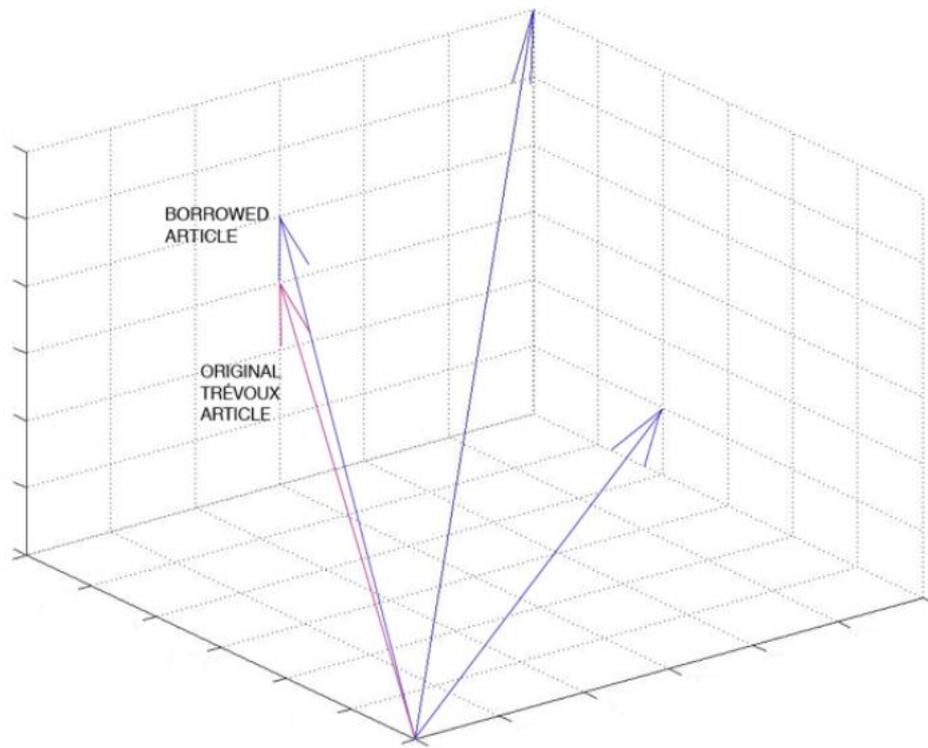
# Textual Optics, Navigating from Afar: Data-Mining

- Data-Mining often is about detecting patterns in large amounts of data
- Our work has focused on leveraging recurring patterns in text to measure similarity between passages of varying length:
  - Thematic similarity (vector space): authors writing about the same topic
  - Text reuse (sequence alignment): find reuses of any given passage across large amounts of texts.
  - ....

# Navigating from Afar: Vector Space Similarity

- Widely used search model (Lucene, Solr): search term(s) as vectors compared to documents as vectors.
- Can be used to measure the similarity between documents: creates links across potentially very different texts

# Navigating from Afar: Vector Space Similarity



# Navigating from Afar: Vector Space Similarity

GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER, Voltaire: Gramm., Grammaire, Grammar

GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER [Score:1.000 Count: 861]

Gloire [Score:0.262 Count: 5576] Get similar articles or matching stems.

PRÉSOMPTION [Score:0.256 Count: 344] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

VANITE [Score:0.236 Count: 1159] Get similar articles or matching stems.

Amour de la gloire [Score:0.235 Count: 220] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

VAIN [Score:0.224 Count: 159] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

Temple de la Gloire [Score:0.216 Count: 1604] Get similar articles or matching stems.

RENOMMÉE [Score:0.200 Count: 317] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

VOLUPTÉ [Score:0.195 Count: 3432] Get similar articles or matching stems.

HÉROS [Score:0.190 Count: 454] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

IMPERTINENCE [Score:0.184 Count: 108] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

ATHÉES [Score:0.183 Count: 22355] Get similar articles or matching stems.

OSTENTATION [Score:0.180 Count: 181] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

FIERTÉ [Score:0.179 Count: 382] Get similar articles or matching stems. \* smaller than GLOIRE, GLORIEUX, GLORIEUSEMENT, GLORIFIER.

Orateurs romains [Score:0.178 Count: 8951] Get similar articles or matching stems.

# Textual Optics using Sequence Alignment: Digging Into Data

Large-scale project in the context of Digging into Data Round 3 project funded by the NEH.

Goals of the project:

- Develop a methodology to detect commonplaces in a large dataset of over 200,000 texts
- Create a database of commonplaces for use by the scholarly community

# Phases of the project

- Assess and prepare the data: 200,000 texts from the *Eighteenth Century Collection Online* (ECCO)
- Apply matching algorithms to detect text reuses in ECCO
- Group text reuses by similarity in order to identify commonplaces
- Create navigational tools appropriate for our database of commonplaces



Consisting of every significant English-language and foreign-language title printed in the United Kingdom during the 18th century, along with thousands of important works from the Americas, Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) was the most ambitious single scholarly digitization project ever undertaken.

=> 205,639 volumes of uncorrected OCR

# The ECCO challenge

- The size of the dataset: 205,000 texts
- The amount of duplication: many, many, many re-editions of works by the same author:
  - => *Hamlet* (Shakespeare): 24 re-editions
  - Essay On Man* (Pope): 58 re-editions
- Dealing with dirty OCR...

# Eliminating duplicates

Why eliminate re-editions?

- We want to find commonplaces representative of 18th century culture, and NOT commonplaces within single authors
- Reduce the computational expense of finding commonplaces  
=> 200,000 x 200,000 potential comparisons
- Our approach to detect re-editions: compare metadata information

# Comparing metadata to find reeditions

```
<sourceDesc>
  <bibl>
    <title type="artfl">A translation of the Latin epistle in The
dreamer.</title>
    <author type="artfl">King, William</author>
    <authorGroup>
      <author>
        <marcName>King, William</marcName>
        <birthDate>1685</birthDate>
        <deathDate>1763</deathDate>
        <marcDate>1685-1763</marcDate>
      </author>
    </authorGroup>
    <imprint type="artfl">London : printed for Jacob Robinson, at
the Golden Lion, in Ludgate-Street, [1754].</imprint>
    <imprint><date>[1754]</date></imprint>
    <idno type="shrtcite">T136705</idno>
```

# Results of deduplication process

88 850 texts out of 205,000+ documents identified as re-  
editions

=> 43% of the ECCO collection!

=> 116 700 documents used to find commonplaces

# Results of deduplication process

Result per module:

- Lit & Lang: 53 351 => 25 655
- Rel & Phil: 51 485 => 29 962
- SS & FineArts: 48 335 => 30 498
- Hist & Geo: 17 950 => 10 528
- MedSciTech: 15 636 => 9 202
- Law: 13 595 => 7 726
- GenRef: 5 198 => 3 129

# Finding commonplaces in ECCO

Two steps in this process:

- Detect text reuses in ECCO: identify shared passages throughout the remaining 116,000 documents
- Identify commonplaces among the many text reuses

# Our sequence alignment software

PhiloLine: software implementing a simple sequence alignment algorithm designed to identify "similar passages" in large collections of texts.

<https://code.google.com/p/text-pair/>

# How PhiloLine works

- Identify regions of similarity shared by two strings or sequences
- The model is based on shingles of n-grams which are generated with overlap from one shingle to the next.

*The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself—  
Yea, all which it inherit—shall dissolve  
(Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act 4, Scene 1) ca. 1611*

```
cloud_capped_towers, capped_towers_gorgeous,  
towers_gorgeous_palaces, gorgeous_palaces_solemn,  
palaces_solemn_temples, solemn_temples_globe,  
temples_globe_itself,globe_itself_yea, itself_yea_inherit,  
yea_inherit_shall, inherit_shall_dissolve
```

# How PhiloLine works

Matching passages are identified by pairwise comparison:

- Generate n-grams and shingles for each document.
- Identify common shingles (relatively rare).
- Anchor match at common shingle in document order.
- Continue comparison until matches fail.

The result is a matching passage.

# How PhiloLine works

***The parents best token to their children.... (1701)***

*... the Lord's Prayer. (Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily Bread, And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil,*

***Benjamin Harris, The new English tutor, enlarged... (1705)***

*...Our Lord's Prayer. Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this Day our daily Bread, And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us, And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil.*

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# Results of Sequence Alignment

Literature and Language : 3.5 million shared passages out of 25 665 documents.

Religion and Philosophy: 17 million shared passages out of 29 962 documents

# What to do with millions of passages?

- How can one find commonplaces representative of 18th century culture out of this seemingly infinite list of shared passage?
- Define a commonplace computationally in order to automatically detect recurrent reuses:
  - Group shared passages by finding the repeated use of the same passage and its variants
  - Order variants of same passage by author

# Digging for Commonplaces

Quote from Scottish poet **James Thomson**:

*Then infant reason grows apace, and calls For the kind hand of an assiduous care. **Delightful talk! to rear the tender thought, To teach the young idea how to shoot, To pour the freft infiruAion o'er the mind,** 1150 To breathe enlivening spirit, and to fix The generous purpose in the glowing breast.*

Two variants in other authors:

**Gentleman of the Middle Temple (1775):**

*How glorious would her matron employments be, **to hear the tender thought, to teach the young idea how to Jhoot;** to be at once the precept and example to her family of every thing that was good, every thing that was virtuous.*

**Mrs Lovechild (1790):**

*Happy the Mother "Distilling knowledge through the lips of " love !"- ' **Delightful talk! to rear the tender thought, " To teach the young idea how to shoot, " To pour the fresh inltrution o'er the mind** !'Lines which will never cease to be quoted...*

# Two repeated passages that share much...

*Delightful talk! to rear the tender thought, To teach the young idea how to shoot,  
To pour the freft infiruAion o'er the mind*

delightful\_rear, talk\_tender, rear\_thought, tender\_teach,  
thought\_young, teach\_idea, young\_shoot, idea\_pour, freft\_mind

*to hear the tender thought, to teach the young idea how to Jhoot*

hear\_thought, tender\_teach, thought\_young, teach\_idea, young\_ Jhoot

*Delightful talk! to rear the tender thought, " To teach the young idea how to shoot,  
" To pour the fresh intrusion o'er the mind*

delightful\_rear, talk\_tender, rear\_thought, tender\_teach,  
thought\_young, teach\_idea, young\_shoot, idea\_pour, fresh\_mind

# From merging shared passages to commonplaces

In Literature and Language module:

1.6 million shared passages (5-75 words) => 337 675 groups of passages

Are all groups of passages commonplaces?

=> A minimum number of different authors must be represented in each group of passages

# A glimpse at a commonplace

And like the baseless fabric of this vision, *The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces, The solemn temples, the great globe itself — Yea, all which it inherit—shall dissolve*, And like this insubstantial pageant faded, (...)

(**Shakespeare**, *The Tempest*, Act 4, Scene 1) ca. 1611

Of this observation! Shakespeare gives a beautiful example, in the passage last quoted: *The cloud-capt tow'rs, the gorgeous palaces, The solemn temples, the great globe itself, Yea all which it inherit, (shall dissolve, And like the baseless fabric of a vision, Leave not a wreck behind.*

**James Elphinston (1771)**

as in this well-known passage, where you may also mark the fine climax. *The cloud-capt Towers, The gorgeous Palaces, the great Globe itself, Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve, And, like the baseless Fabric of a Vision, Leave not a Wreck behind.*

**Pratt, Mr. (1776)**

Non diffimile Lda quest'idea è quella di Shakespeare, in quei bei versi, *The cloud-capp'd Towers, the gorgeous Palaces, The solemn Temples, the great Globe itself, YEa, all which it inherit shall dissolve, And like the baseless Fabric of a vision, Leave not a wreck behind!*

**Giovanni Rucellai (1779)**

# Common Commonplaces...

The most common passage in Literature and Language module:

Father which art in Heaven, 'Hallowed be thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done in Earth...

Used by 607 authors

Examples of high frequency commonplaces:

These are thy glorious works, Parent of good, / Almighty! Thine this universal frame,/ Thus wonderous fair; Thyself how wonderous then! (Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book V, 1667)

Used by 118 authors

The cloud capt towers, the gorgeous palaces, The solemn temples, the great globe itself, Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve (Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act 4, Scene 1)

Used by 87 authors

Tho' deep, yet clear, tho'gentle, yet not dull, Strong without rage, without o'er flowing full (Denham, *Cooper's Hill*, 1642)

Used by 70 authors

# Common Commonplaces...

To rear the tender thought, And teach the young idea how to shoot... (James Thomson, *Spring*, 1728)

Used by 75 authors

And as imagination bodies forth. The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name... (Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 5, Scene 1).

Used by 49 authors

But he that filches from me my good name Robs me of that which not enriches him And makes me poor indeed. (Shakespeare, *Othello*, Act 3, Scene 3)

Used by 39 authors

When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw, / The line too labours, and the words move slow; / Not so, when swift Camilla scours the plain, / Flies o'er th' unbending corn, and skims along the main.

(Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711)

Used by 39 authors

"All the world's a stage..." (Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act 2, Scene 7)

Used by 35 authors

# Most frequently aligned authors in Literature and Language

1. Shakespeare, William
2. Horace
3. Pope, Alexander
4. Milton, John
5. Virgil
6. Ayscough, Samuel
7. Bysshe, Edward
8. Ovid
9. Terence
10. Dryden, John
11. Becket, Andrew
12. Thomson, James
13. Cicero, Marcus Tullius
14. Jonson, Ben
15. Chambers, Ephraim
16. Gildon, Charles
17. Young, Edward
18. Congreve, William
19. Rider, William
20. Cibber, Colley
21. Griffith, Mrs. (Elizabeth)
22. Fénelon, François de Salignac de...
23. Goldsmith, Oliver
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26. Walker, John
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# Classical Latin Sources

75 different authors reuse this quote from **Virgil**:

*Spiritus intus alit: totamque infusa per artus Mens agit molem, & magno se corpore miscet.  
Inde hominum, pecudumque genus, vitæque volantum, Dd Et Et qua marmoreo fert monstra sub xquore pontusi  
Igneus est ollis vigor, & cœlestis origo*

*That is, who filleth the Earth, who pene- trateth the Dust, and art the Principle of all Generations, according to the  
Philosophy of Poets. Spiritus intus alit, totamque infusa per arti nead. 6 Mens agit molem, G mignoJe corpore  
miscet Inde hominImm pecuidnmue genus, v vi e volantum, Et qule mar'ml eo fert monflra filb auore Pontus.*

**Pierre, Jurieu (1705)**

*Mens and Animus for the fame. In E- óeid 6, 7 6. Spiritit 537 \_.\_----- -- | ----- ----|----- .----- Spiritus intus alit,  
totamq; infusa per artus. Mens agit molem ---- And he proves, that Virgil asserted the Immortality of Souls, and  
answers the arguments against it;*

**Edward Stillingfleet (1710)**

*This is what Virgil (I) has exprefs'd in these celebrated Lines. Spiritus intus alit, totamque infusa per artus Mens  
agit moler, & magno fe corpore miscet.*

**L'abbé Banier (1739)**

# Building an adequate navigational tool

A number of requirements when thinking about our navigational tool:

- Scale: create an interface that allows an easy interaction given the number of text alignments.
- Discoverability: offer a number of search options to help define and narrow queries or search results.
- Allow the exploration of the reuse of any given passage across time

# Our navigational tool

Current features:

- Full exploration of all text alignments with metadata search (author, title, date...)

## Search all Shared Passages



**!** Important note about searching

### Earlier Use of Passages

Inside passages:

Author:

Title:

Module Name:

Date:

Match Size:

\*by frequency of first use

### Later Use of Passages

Inside passages:

Author:

Title:

Module Name:

Date:

Sort results by:

Bible Filter:

1

EARLIER USE

**Locke, John**, *Two treatises of government in the former, the false principles and foundation of Sir Robert Filmer and his followers are detected and overthrown, the latter is an essay concerning the true original, extent, and end of civil government.; Two treatises of government* [1690]

true, that whatever Engagements or Promises any one made for himself, he is under the obligation of them, but cannot by any Compact whatsoever, bind his Children or Posterity. For his Son, when a Man, being altogether as free as the Father, any act of the Father can no more give away the liberty of the Son, than it can of any body else. He may indeed annex such Conditions to the Land he enjoyed, as a Subject of any Commonwealth, as may oblige his Son to be of that Community, if he will enjoy those Possessions which were his Fathers; because that Estate being his Fathers Property,

[View similar passages in timeline](#)

LATER USE

**Paine, Thomas**, *The trial at large, of Thomas Paine, for a Libel on the King and Constitution, before Lord Kenyon, and a special jury, on Tuesday, December 18, 1792, in which the whole of Mr. Erskine's References and able Defence is inserted. By an eminent Barrister of the Inner-Temple.* [1792]

to the government, which they themselves submitted to. It is true, that whatever engagements or promises any one has made for, himself, he is under the obligation of them, but cannot, by any compact whatsoever, bind his children or posterity; for his son, when a man, being altogether as free as the father, any act of the father can no more give away the liberty of the son, than it can of any body else. And therefore they have a very wrong notion of government who say, that the people have encroached upon the prerogative, when they have got any part of it to be defined by positive laws; for in so doing, they have not pulled from the prince any thing that of right belonged to

2

EARLIER USE

**Locke, John**, *Two treatises of government in the former, the false principles and foundation of Sir Robert Filmer and his followers are detected and overthrown, the latter is an essay concerning the true original, extent, and end of civil government.; Two treatises of government* [1690]

it: And declared limitations of Prerogative in those Cases which they and their Ancestors had left in the utmost latitude, to the Wisdom of those Princes who made no other but a right use of it, that is, for the good of their People. 163. And therefore they have a very wrong notion of Government, who say, that the People have encroached upon the Prerogative when they have got any part of it to be defined by positive Laws. For in so doing they have not pulled from the Prince any thing that of right belonged to him, but only declared, that that Power which they indefinitely left in him, or his Ancestors hands, to be exercised for their good, was not a thing they intended him, when he used it otherwise. For the End of Government being the good of the Community, whatsoever alterations are made in it, tending to that end, cannot be an

[View similar passages in timeline](#)

LATER USE

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3

EARLIER USE

**Locke, John**, *Two treatises of government in the former, the false principles and foundation of Sir Robert Filmer and his followers are detected and overthrown, the latter is an essay concerning the true original, extent, and end of civil government.; Two treatises of government* [1690]

whatsoever alterations are made in it, tending to that end, cannot be an encroachment upon any body; since no body, in Government, can have a right tending to any other end. And those only are encroachments which prejudice or hinder the publick good. Those who say otherwise, speak as if the Prince had a distinct and separate Interest from the good of the Community, and was not made for it. The Root and Source from which spring almost all those Evils and Disorders, which happen in Kingly Governments. And indeed, if that be so, the People, under his Government, are not a Society of Rational Creatures, entered in to a Community, for their mutual good, such as have set Rulers over themselves, to guard and promote that good; but are to be looked on as an Herd of inferior Creatures, under the Dominion of a Ma

[View similar passages in timeline](#)

LATER USE

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whatsoever alterations are made in it, tending to that end, cannot be an encroachment upon any body. since nobody in the Government can have a right tending to any other end; and those only are encroachments which prejudice or hinder the public good. Those who say otherwise, speak as if the prince had a distinct and separate interest from the good of the Community, and was not made for it: the root and source from which spring almost all those evils and disorders which happen in Kingly Governments. And indeed, if that be so, the people under his government are not a society of rational creatures, entered into a community for their mutual good; they are not such as have set rulers over themselves, to guard and promote their good; but are to be looked on as an herd of inferior creatures, under the dominion of a master, who keeps them

4

EARLIER USE

LATER USE

# Our navigational tool

Current features:

- Full exploration of all text alignments with metadata search (author, title, date...)
- Faceted browsing for all available metadata

1

EARLIER USE

**Cicero (M. Tullius Cicero), *Academica* [-1]**

'Relictam a te veterem Academiam'inquit, 'tractari autem novam."Quid ergo'inquam 'Antiocho id magis licuerit nostro familiari, remigrare in domum veterem e nova, quam nobis in novam e vetere? certe enim recentissima quaeque sunt correctae et emendata maxime . quamquam Antiochi magister Philo, magnus vir ut tu existimas ipse, &plusmn;negaret in libris, quod coram etiam ex ipso audiebamus, duas Academias esse, erroremque eorum qui ita putarent coarguit.'

LATER USE

**Cooper, Thomas, 1517?-1594.**, *Thesaurus linguae Romanae & Britannicae tam accurate congestus, vt nihil penè in eo desyderari possit, quod vel Latinè complectatur amplissimus Stephani Thesaurus, vel Anglicè, toties aucta Eliotæ Bibliotheca: opera & industria Thomæ Cooperi Magdalenensis...*. Accessit dictionarium historicum et poeticum propria vocabula virorum, mulierum, sectarum, populorum, vrbium, montium, & cæterorum locorum complectens, & in his iucundissimas & omnium cognitione dignissimas historias. [1578]

Corrigor, Pa?ium. Terent. Correctus, Participium. Cic. Corrected: amended. Recentima quaeque unt correctae & emendata maximè . Laudatio correctae. Cic. Corréctio, onis, f. g. Verbale. Cic. A correction or amendment. Haec e?t correctio

X

BROWSE BY FACET



X

Top 100 results

NA	1141
Bayle, Pierre	547
Cooper, Thomas, 1517?-1594.	526
Bellenden, William	504
Tunstall, James	402
Young, William	323
Rollin, Charles	318
Pliny, the Younger	302
Morabin, Jacques	253
Heuzet, Jean	245
Warburton, William	203
Jacotius, Desiderius	178
Taylor, John	163
Middleton, Conyers	162
Lucretius Carus, Titus	156
Caesar, Julius	133
Campbell, Archibald	132
Baxter, Richard, 1615-1691.	128

2

EARLIER USE

**Cicero (M. Tullius Cicero), *Academica* [-1]**

bonum esse censent; apud nostros autem non ignoras quae sit et quanta subtilitas. sive enim Zenonem sequere, magnum est efficere ut quis intellegat quid sit illud verum et simplex bonum quod non possit ab honestate seiungi ( quod bonum quale sit negat omnino Epicurus se sine voluptatibus sensum moventibus ne suspicari quidem ); si vero Academiam veterem persequemur, quam nos ut scis probamus, quam erit illa acute explicanda nobis, quam argute quam obscure etiam contra Stoicos disserendum. Totum igitur

[View similar passages in timeline](#)

LATER USE

**Cooper, Thomas, 1517?-1594.**, *Thesaurus linguae Romanae & Britannicae tam accurate congestus, vt nihil penè in eo desyderari possit, quod vel Latinè complectatur amplissimus Stephani Thesaurus, vel Anglicè, toties aucta Eliotæ Bibliotheca: opera & industria Thomæ Cooperi Magdalenensis...*. Accessit dictionarium historicum et poeticum propria vocabula virorum, mulierum, sectarum, populorum, vrbium, montium, & cæterorum locorum complectens, & in his iucundissimas & omnium cognitione dignissimas historias. [1578]

Quaero potueritne Ro?cius ex ?ocietate ?ua ? partem petere necne. Cic. Nec ?u?picari, pro Ne ?u?picari quidem. Cic. Quod bonum quale ? it, negat omnino Epicurus ?ine voluptatibus ?en?u ? mouentibus nec ? u?pi cari. Necdum pro non adhuc Cicer. Ca??ius ineptas literas mi?it: necdum Bibuli erant allatae. And Bibulus his letters were not yet brought.

3

EARLIER USE

**Cicero (M. Tullius Cicero), *Academica* [-1]**

disciplinam, tu sedum regionum locorum tu omnium divinarum humanarumque rerum nomina genera officia causas aperuisti; plurimum quidem poetis nostris omninoque Latinis et litteris luminis et verbis attulisti atque ipse varium et elegans omni fere numero poema fecisti , philosophiamque multis locis inchoasti, ad impellendum satis, ad eodendum parum. Causam autem probabilem tu eadem affert; ut enim Cicero loquitur, quod est, quod est, ut

LATER USE

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To make a thying in meeter. Tenui deducta poemata filo. Horat. Facere

1

EARLIER USE

LATER USE

**Cicero (M. Tullius Cicero), In Verrem [-1]**

ab se retractum esse et adservatum, ut ipse in eum statueret quod videretur. Agit hominibus gratias et eorum benivolentiam erga se diligentiamque conlaudat. Ipse inflammatus scelere et furore in forum venit; ardebant oculi, toto ex ore crudelitas eminebat. Expectabant omnes quo tandem progressurus aut quidnam acturus esset, cum repente hominem proripi atque in foro medio nudari ac deligari et virgas expediri iubet. Clamabat ille miser se civem esse Romanum, municipem Consanum; meruisse cum L. Raecio, splendidissimo equite Romano, qui Panhormi negotiaretur, ex quo haec Verres scire posset. Tum iste, se comperisse

[View similar passages in timeline](#)

**Chambers, Ephraim, Cyclopædia: or, an universal dictionary of arts and sciences; Containing The Definitions of the Terms, And Accounts of The Things signify'd thereby, in the several Arts, Both Liberal and Mechanical, And the several Sciences, Human and Divine: The Figures, Kinds, Properties, Productions, Preparations, and Uses, of Things Natural and Artificial; The Rise, Progress, and State of Things Ecclesiastical, Civil, Military, and Commercial: With the several Systems, Sects, Opinions, &c. among Philosophers, Divines, Mathematicians, Physicians, Antiquaries, Critics, &c. The Whole intended as a Course of Antient and Modern Learning. Compiled from the best Authors, Dictionaries, Journals, Memoirs, Transactions, Ephemerides, &c. in several Languages. In two volumes. By E. Chambers Gent. Volume the First. [Volume 1 of 2] [1728]**

a Figure whereby a Thing is so lively defcrib'd or painted, that it does not seem to b" read or heard, but actually seen, or presented before the Eyes. SecDEscRIPTION. Such is that elegant one of Cicero, wherein he paints the Barbarity of Verres: JIpe Inpfammatus fcelere filrore ils forum venit. Ardebant Oculi ; toto ex ore crudeliras emana. bat. Expeftabant omnes quo tandem pregrefirus, ait quid nam attarss effct; cum repente Hominem corriPi, atque iM foro medio nudari ac deligari, 1? Virgas expedire jubet. Clarabat ille miferfe Civem eDoe Romanum, &mp;c. The Ilyptopyofis is frequently used by the Poets, and particularly Firgil, who abounds in Paintings. The Word is Greek, JTonr7tis, form'd of the Verb v\*7cs:ũ per fgurram demomfiro, I lhw, reprefent, or make any

2

EARLIER USE

LATER USE

**Vergilius (P. Vergilius Maro), Georgica [-1]**

imponere simplex. nam qua se medio trudent de cortice gemmae et tenuis rumpunt tunicas, angustus in ipso fit nodo sinus; huc aliena ex arbore germen includunt udoque docent inolescere libro. aut rursum enodes trunci resecantur, et alte finditur in solidum cuneis uia, deinde feraces plantae immittuntur: nec longum tempus, et ingens exiit ad caelum ramis felicibus arbor, miratastque nouas frondes et non sua poma. Praeterea genus haud unum nec fortibus ulmis nec salici lotoque neque Idaeis cyparissis, nec pingues unam in faciem nascuntur oliuae, orchades et radii et

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**Chambers, Ephraim, Cyclopædia: or, an universal dictionary of arts and sciences; Containing The Definitions of the Terms, And Accounts of The Things signify'd thereby, in the several Arts, Both Liberal and Mechanical, And the several Sciences, Human and Divine: The Figures, Kinds, Properties, Productions, Preparations, and Uses, of Things Natural and Artificial; The Rise, Progress, and State of Things Ecclesiastical, Civil, Military, and Commercial: With the several Systems, Sects, Opinions, &c. among Philosophers, Divines, Mathematicians, Physicians, Antiquaries, Critics, &c. The Whole intended as a Course of Antient and Modern Learning. Compiled from the best Authors, Dictionaries, Journals, Memoirs, Transactions, Ephemerides, &c. in several Languages. In two volumes. By E. Chambers Gent. Volume the First. [Volume 1 of 2] [1728]**

left in it to bear the Stress. And, la1st the Cleft is cover'd over with Clay: Or rather, as 1 Gentil advises, with Moss, or the fresh Bark of a Ti bound on with Ofler. The Reader, who would have this in more elegant Tern may be furnilh'd from Virgil. Aut urflinn Einodes irunci refecantur, & alte Finditur in folidum Cuneis via: deinde seraces iPlante Irmittuntur : nec loigsnm lepius, g Inge2. Exiit ad Caluwi ramis felicibus Arbos , Aliraturque novas frondeis, q noz flta poma. GAAFTINC in the Rind, or Sottulder-GRAVING, ca led also Slicing and Packing ; is praefid in the latt End of jqpril, or Beginning of May. The Method is follows : The Top of the Stock is cut off in a smooth, firaigl Place: Then the Cyon, or

3

EARLIER USE

LATER USE

**Gellius (A. Gellius), Noctes Atticae 1-20 [2]**

uerberum et uocum et euilationum circumplectitur; uelut sunt ista, quae de C. Verre dicit, quae nos, ut in praesens potuimus, quantum memoria subpeditabat, adscripsimus: 'Ipse inflammatus scelere et furore in forum uenit. Ardebant oculi, toto ex ore crudelitas eminebat. Expectabant omnes, quo tandem progressurus aut quidnam acturus esset, cum repente

**Chambers, Ephraim, Cyclopædia: or, an universal dictionary of arts and sciences; Containing The Definitions of the Terms, And Accounts of The Things signify'd thereby, in the several Arts, Both Liberal and Mechanical, And the several Sciences, Human and Divine: The Figures, Kinds, Properties, Productions, Preparations, and Uses, of Things Natural and Artificial; The Rise, Progress, and State of Things Ecclesiastical, Civil, Military, and Commercial: With the several Systems, Sects, Opinions, &c. among Philosophers, Divines, Mathematicians, Physicians, Antiquaries, Critics, &c. The Whole intended as a Course of Antient and Modern Learning.**

X

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X

Top 100 results

Blount, Thomas	402
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Newton, Isaac, Sir	24
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Malcolm, Alexander	22
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# Our navigational tool

Current features:

- Full exploration of all text alignments with metadata search (author, title, date...)
- Faceted browsing for all available metadata
- Timeline view to explore any single text reuse across time

"Legislative cannot transfer the Power of making Laws to any other hands, for it being but a delegated Power from the People, they who have it cannot pass it over to others. The People alone can appoint the Form of the Commonwealth, which is by Constituting the Legislative, and appointing in whose hands that shall be. And when the People have said, We will submit, and be govern'd by Laws made by such Men, and in such Forms; no Body else"

Locke, John



# Future work...

Database viewable at <http://commonplacecultures.uchicago.edu/>

- Release a new version of the current web application with an increased focus on tracing the genealogy of text reuses:
  - => Improved performance
  - => Increase visibility of commonplaces
- Introduce non-English datasets for comparison in order to find instances of multi-lingual commonplace practices

# Textual Optics

The work we have done in textual optics allows to move from exploring texts at various levels to exploring cultural systems of textual production

# Return to our origins: France, OBVIL

- Currently involved in a major collaboration with OBVIL (*Observatoire de la vie littéraire*, a DH project involving the Université Paris-Sorbonne and the Université Pierre et Marie Curie)
- Together we have obtained a Mellon Foundation grant to pursue, expand, and develop the work in textual optics in which we have been engaged.
- In particular, we are working closely with the Bibliothèque Nationale which is working to build a very large corpus of over 100,000 texts to be used in the context of this project.
- Once this corpus is in place, for the first time, we will be able to begin comparing practices of textual reuse at work in two different cultural systems