

# Voyant Tools: Workshop and Discussion

Janelle Bitter - [janelle.bitter@raritanval.edu](mailto:janelle.bitter@raritanval.edu)  
Systems & Tech Services Librarian, RVCC  
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# Agenda

1. What is Digital Scholarship?
2. What is Voyant Tools?
3. How is this relevant to academic librarians?
4. Interactive workshop on Voyant Tools & discussion

# What is Digital Scholarship?

- “Use of digital evidence and method, digital authoring, digital publishing, digital curation and preservation, and digital use and reuse of scholarship.”  
(Rumsey, p. 12 - [SPEC Kit 350, May 2016](#))
- The *digital* is an essential element!
- Definitions are contextual and depend on people and equipment available
- Definitions can gatekeep or be generative (Locke, [GitHub](#))
- Text mining or text analysis is one example of this

# What is Voyant Tools?

- Open source, web-based platform; McGill U. & U. of Alberta
- Perform lightweight text analysis - less algorithm-driven modeling, more straightforward computations
  - Most frequent words, contexts, vocab density, trends, correlation, words per sentence, distinctive words
- Upload text, link to URL, or work with Shakespeare's plays or Austen's novels (and a couple others if you know how to find them!)
- No account creation
  - Data and visualizations can be exported/downloaded, corpus is cached on their server - bookmark your unique URL

# What is Voyant Tools?

- Not a replacement for close reading!
- Way to reexamine your understanding of a reading and find word usage or patterns that you did not catch
- Starting point for deeper research and analysis, could inspire a hypothesis
- Should be combined with other processes

# How is this relevant to academic librarians?

- Method of scholarly communication/research
- Finding, accessing, licensing large document sets
  - Open resources - public domain, OER, Creative Commons
  - Digital archives
- Large digital corpuses, may be “messy” data
  - OCR
- Opportunity to collaborate more closely with colleagues and students
  - 1-credit lab attached to course
  - Honors college

# How is this relevant to academic librarians?

- High Impact Practices:
  - Collaborative assignments & projects
  - Undergrad research
  - Global learning
  - ePortfolios & Capstone projects
- Experimentation and even failure are expected and okay!
  - Process over product
  - Universal Design for Learning - students design own process
- Future employer expectations of digital literacy and skills
- Introduction to these techniques

# Voyant Tools workshop

- <https://voyant-tools.org/>
- [The Great Gatsby](#)
- [Dialogica: Thinking-Through Voyant](#) (DTTV), a “textbook” for learning computer-assisted text analysis with Voyant
- Webinar on text analysis with Voyant Tools by co-developer Professor Geoffrey Rockwell: <https://youtu.be/ToEu8e7pKi4>
- Textual Analysis of Three Orchestration Treatises (me in 2015): <https://youtu.be/AtOfQi-dWNE>

# Questions & Discussion

Thank you!

Janelle Bitter  
janelle.bitter@raritanval.edu