The Remaking of Reading: Data Mining and the Digital Humanities

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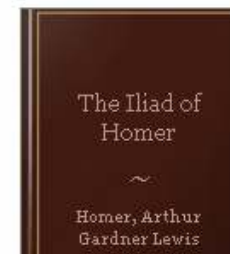Political science
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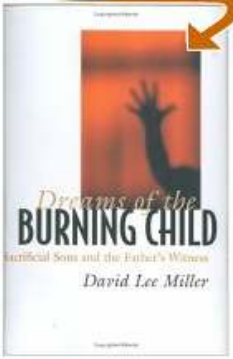
Classics

The Internet Archive

Amazon.com

Amazon.com Text Stats

Text Stats

These statistics are computed from the text of this book. (learn more)

Readability (learn more) — **Compared with books in** All Categories ▾

Fog Index:	17.8	89% are easier	▼	11% are harder
Flesch Index:	37.7	70% are easier	▼	30% are harder
Flesch-Kincaid Index:	15.0	90% are easier	▼	10% are harder

Complexity (learn more)

Complex Words:	17%	60% have fewer	▼	40% have more
Syllables per Word:	1.7	59% have fewer	▼	41% have more
Words per Sentence:	28.0	94% have fewer	▼	6% have more

Number of

Characters:	565,709	69% have fewer	▼	31% have more
Words:	92,507	70% have fewer	▼	30% have more
Sentences:	3,302	48% have fewer	▼	52% have more

Fun stats

Words per Dollar:	3,072
Words per Ounce:	5,256

Amazon.com Concordance

act aeneas aeneid again already **between** **body** book boy burning calls

cannot **child** children come culture dead **death** desire dickens does

dombey **dream** economy even fantasy **father** fatherhood figure filial

first form freud **god** hamlet hand himself history human image ing itself

jonson king leontes line little loss lost love makes man may might moment

mother must name narrative new now once **own** passage place play poem

point power priam question re relation ritual **sacrifice** sacrificial **scene**

see seems sense shakespeare social something **son** story subject takes

tale things thought time tion turns virgil whose witness words work world yet

"Humankind writes more than it can read."
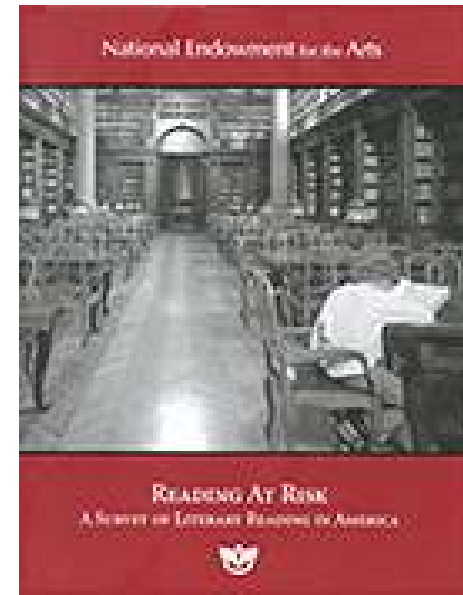## –Gabriel Zaid

But is Reading "at Risk"?

- NEA, 2004

Table 17
Literary Reading, U.S. Adults, 1982, 1992, and 2002

	1982	1992	2002	Change 1982 to 2002
Number reading literature (in millions)	95.6	100.3	96.2	0.6
American population 18 or older (in millions)	168.0	185.8	205.9	37.9
% reading literature	56.9%	54.0%	46.7%	−10.2

"For the first time in modern history, less than half of the adult population now reads literature, and these trends reflect a larger decline in other sorts of reading."

But What is Reading?

- "Cover to cover"
- Excerpts, selections
- Grazing, browsing
- Skimming, scanning
- Speed reading
- Reference/look-up

Thomas Jefferson's Revolving Bookstand

"Not Reading"

- "As long as there have been books there have been more books than you could read. In the life of a professional or scholar, reading in the strong sense of "close reading" almost certainly takes a back-seat to finding out what is in a book without actually reading all or even any of it. There are age-old techniques for doing this, some more respectable than others, and they include skimming or eyeballing the text, reading a bibliography or following what somebody else says or writes about it. Knowing how to "not-read" is just as important as knowing how to read." –Martin Mueller

Turning the Pages
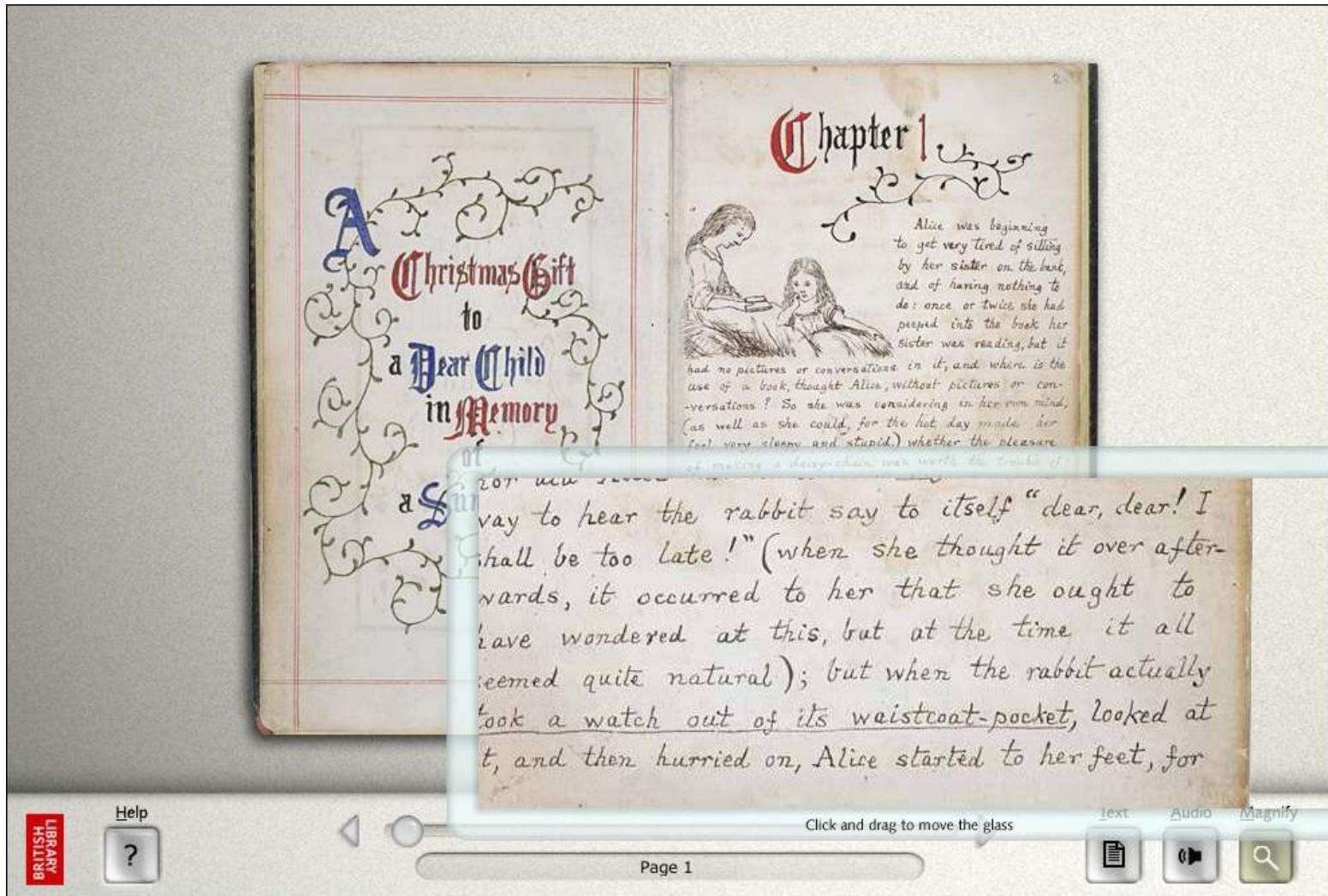
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The adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)

The adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)

Author: Twain, Mark, 1835-1910
Digitizing Sponsor: Yahoo!
Book Contributor: University of California Libraries
Language: English
Keywords: Adventure and adventurers; Mississippi River -- Juvenile literature; Missouri -- Juvenile literature

Special Collections copy 1 = Blue cloth over boards blocked in gold and black; upper board partially detached. Gift of Wilbur Jordan Smith. Printed and illustrated label, Paul Jordan Smith, on upper paste-down. 2 other printed labels on upper paste-down, indicating copy 1 is "second issue...with the frontispiece on verso of the half-title, and the first page of Contents printed on the verso of the leaf of Preface."

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Dreams of the Burning Child: Sacrificial Sons and the Father's Witness
David Lee Miller
Price: $30.11

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Highlights/Bookmarks

40   Dreams of the Burning Child

The idealization that assimilates Hamlet's violence to the morality of a later age shows itself capable of even greater miracles when it assimilates Betterton at age seventy to an image of youthful expectation. It is almost as if the actor were making good on Hamlet's taunt to Polonius: the truth about old men's bodies should not be bluntly set down, "for yourself, sir, shall grow old as I am, if like a crab you could go backward." Later in the same scene Hamlet marvels at the transformative powers of make-believe:

> Is it not monstrous that this player here,
> But in a fiction, in a dream of passion,
> Could force his soul so to his own conceit
> That from her working all his visage wann'd,
> Tears in his eyes, distraction in his aspect,
> A broken voice, an' his whole function suiting
> With forms to his conceit? And all for nothing.
>   (2.2.551–57)

Together these passages form a kind of Shakespearean matrix for Mr. Greenhat's account of the admired Betterton: is it not monstrous that this player here can, like a crab, go backward, forcing his soul so to his own conceit that forty years drop away from his visage? He works this miracle

A Poem on a Page Exists as a Unified Visual Event

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.

But the Codex Atomizes a Text's Visual Field

Word Cloud

alone around away bed behind believe better bit course creep dear door enough ever eyes fancy feel getting head house jennie john lie myself nervous night nothing paper pattern quiet quite really room says seems shall sleep something sometimes things think tired used wall-paper windows wish woman wonder yellow

TextArc

TextArc 2

Alice's Adventures In Wonderland
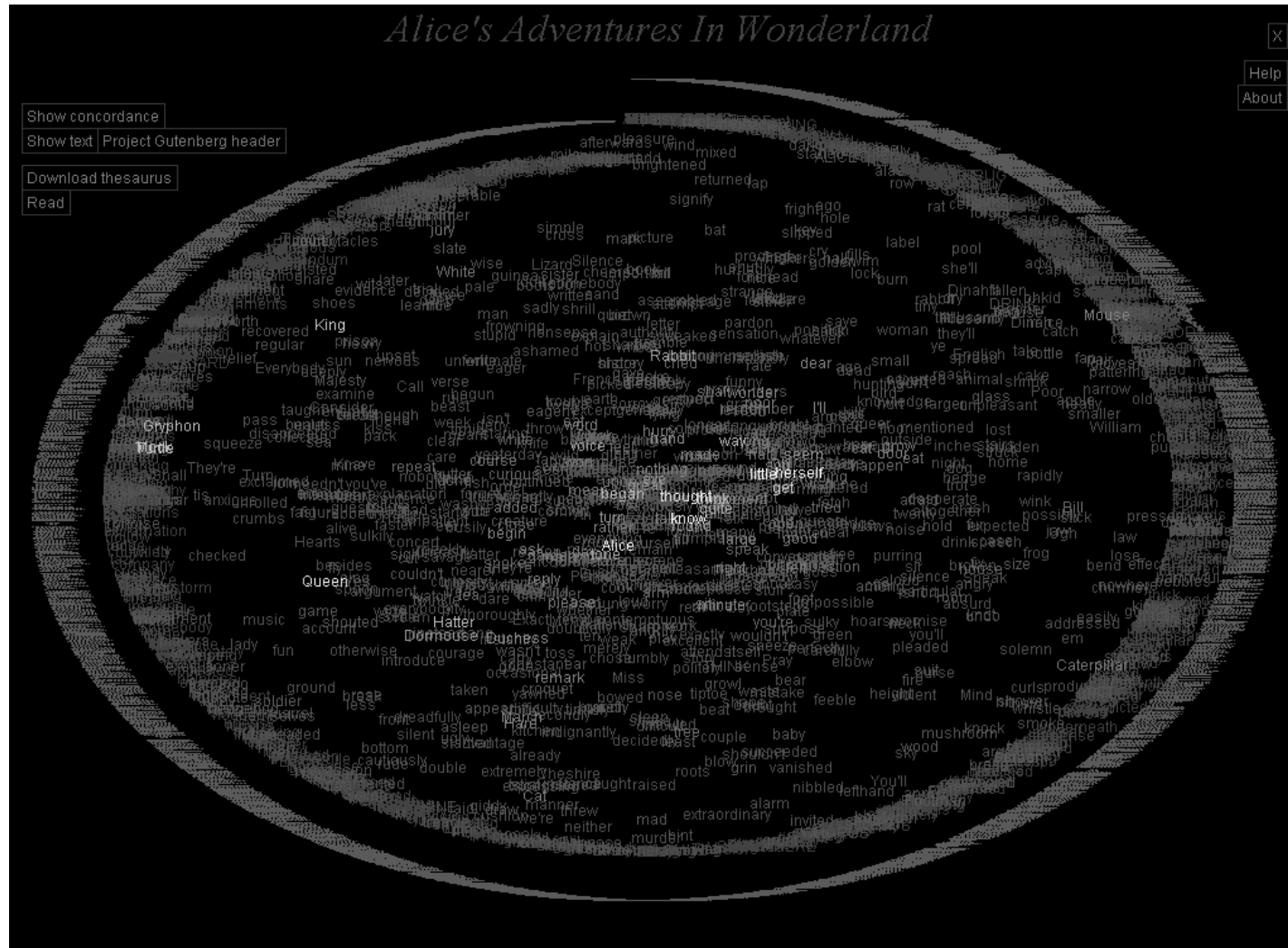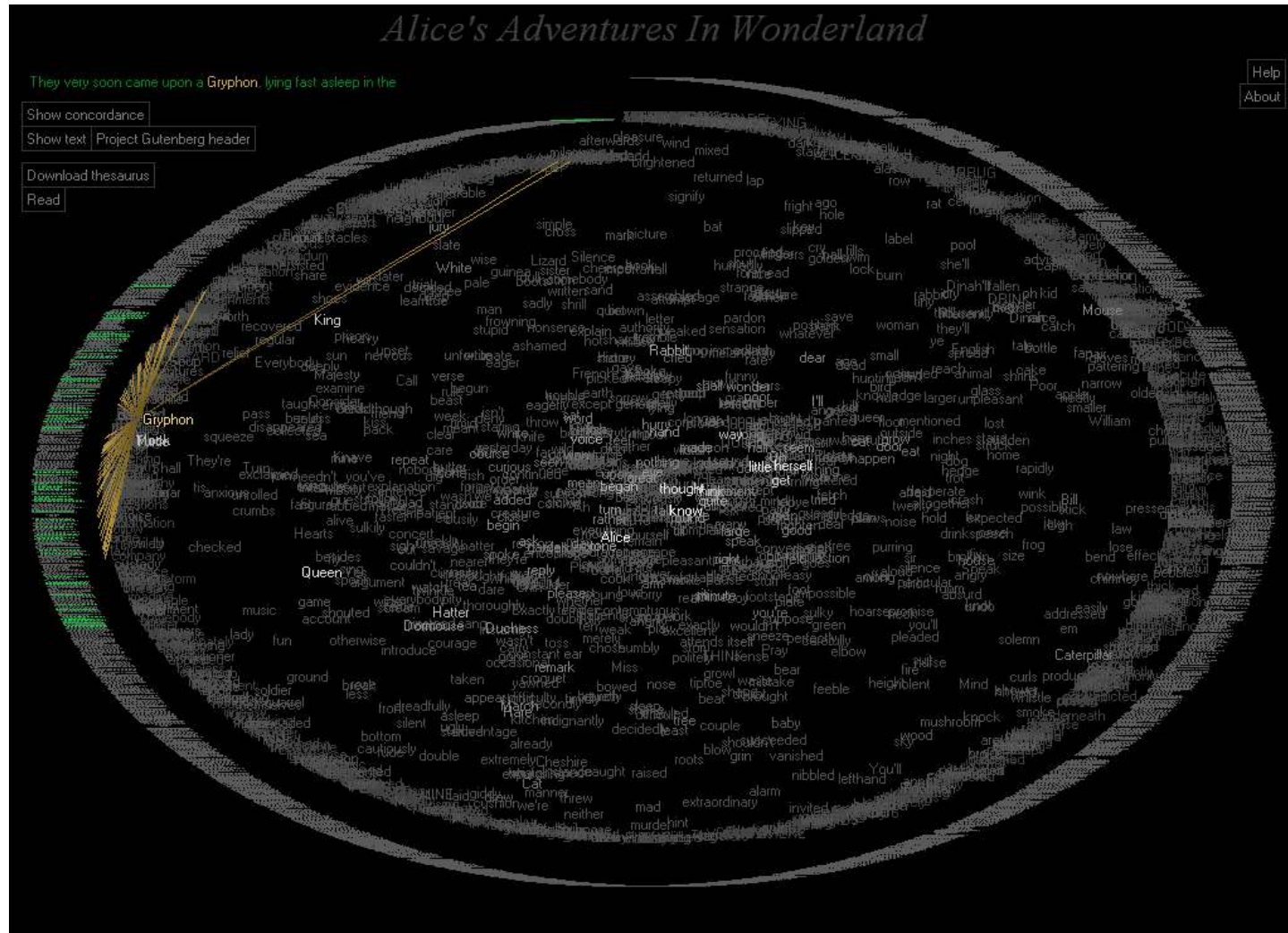
Nora: "Her breast is fit for pearls . . ."

Nora: "A full fed Rose . . ."

Repetitive Strain: Reading *The Making of Americans*

- "Everyone then sometime is a whole one to me, everyone then sometime is a whole one in me, some of these do not for longs times make a whole one to me inside me. Some of them are a whole one in me and then they go to pieces again inside me, repeating comes out of them as pieces to me, pieces of a whole one that only sometimes is a whole one in me."

The Remaking of the Reading of *The Making of Americans*

Image courtesy of Tanya Clement.

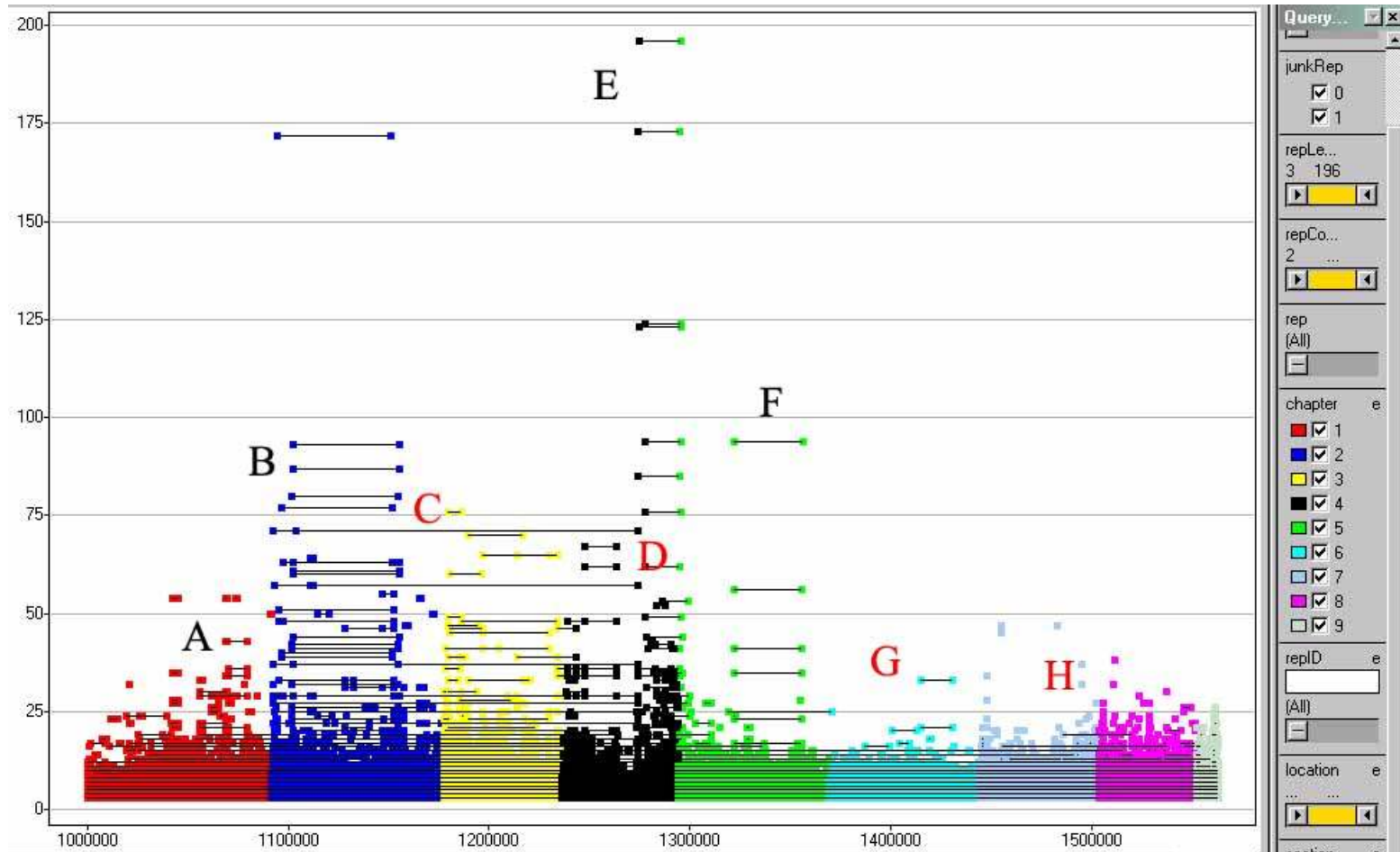# Mind the Gaps (Chapters 1 and 4 Especially)

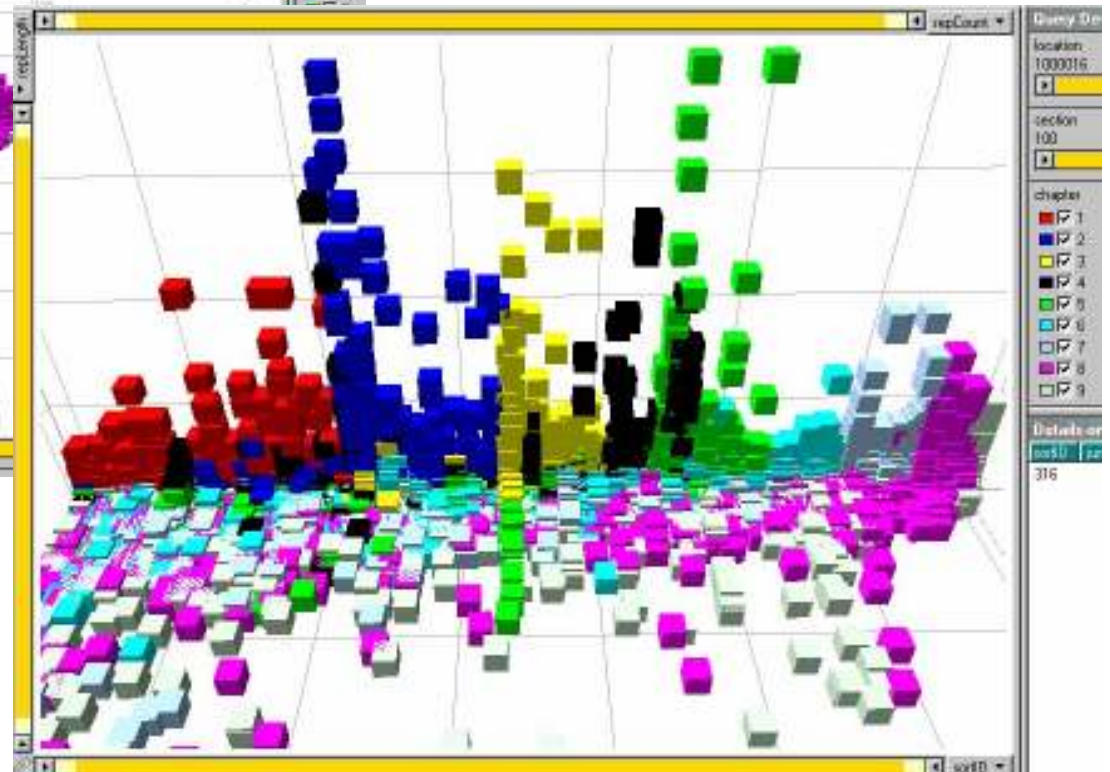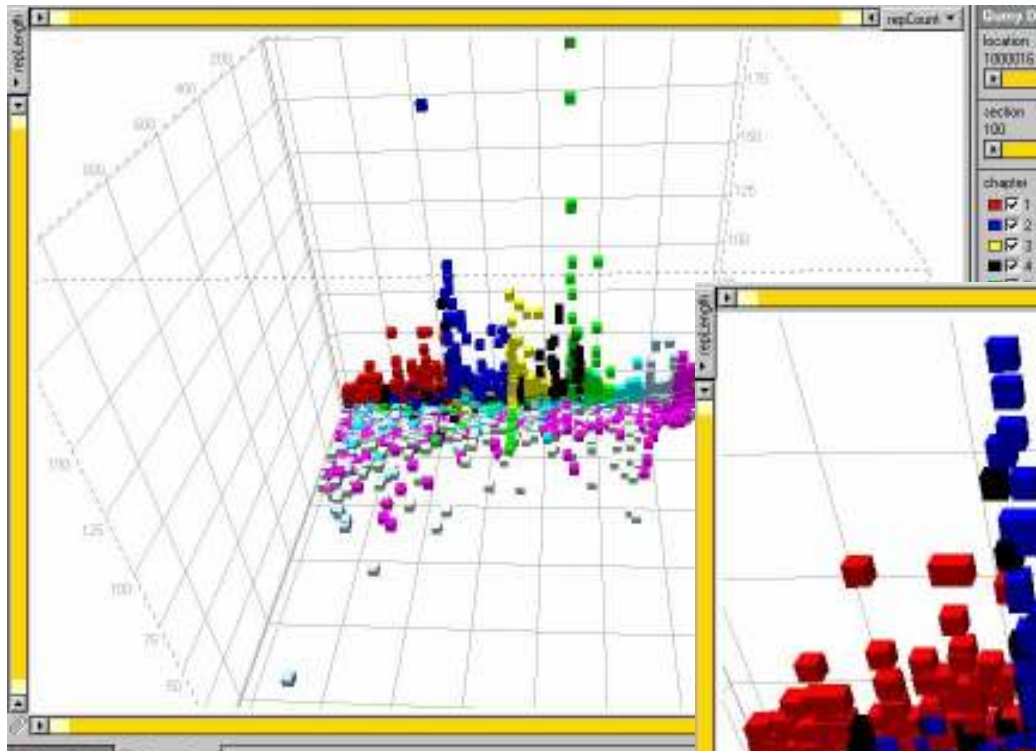**Detail of narrative gaps, chapters 1-6**

Longest Repetition (Highest on Y-Axis) Exactly in Middle

Repetitions charted for length per location

Image courtesy of Tanya Clement.

Reading the Z-Axis

Above, repetitions charted by ID, length and count (A); Right, repetitions charted by ID, length and count (B)
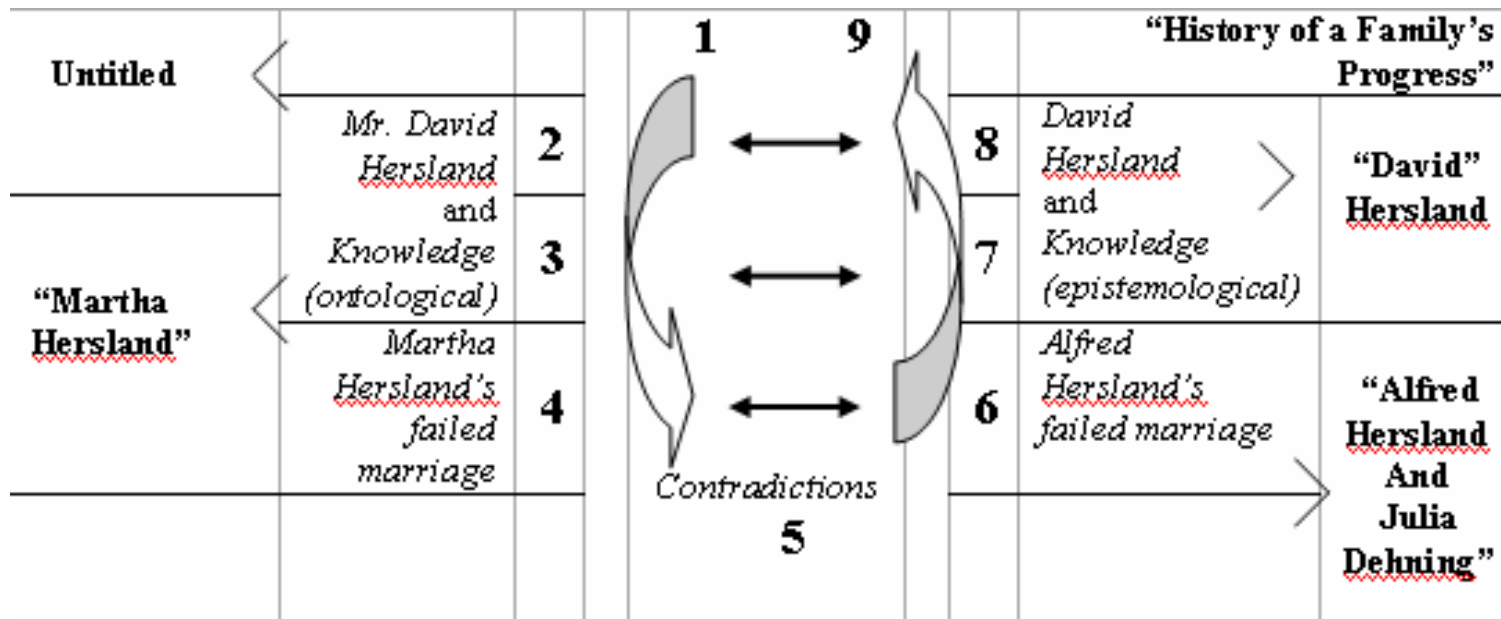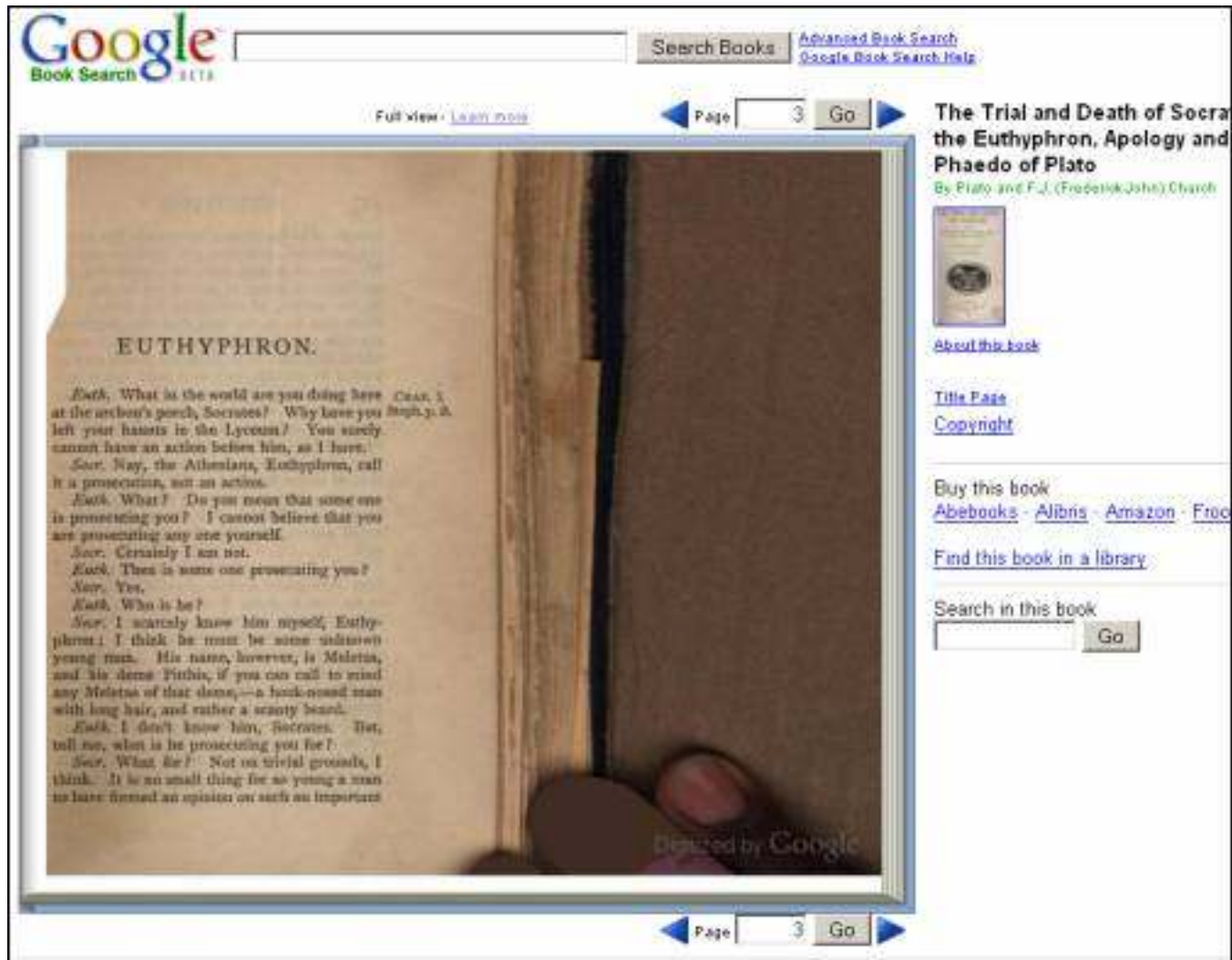
The Text's Ring Structure

Untitled				1	9			"History of a Family's Progress"
	Mr. David Hersland and Knowledge (ontological)	2		↔		8	David Hersland and Knowledge (epistemological)	"David" Hersland
		3		↔		7		
"Martha Hersland"	Martha Hersland's failed marriage	4		↔		6	Alfred Hersland's failed marriage	"Alfred Hersland And Julia Dehning"
				Contradictions				
				5				

Image courtesy of Tanya Clement.

Conclusion: "Digitization"

Questions, Comments?