**Lab: Distant-Reading *The Little Review* with Voyant Tools**

The Voyeur toolset (<http://voyeurtools.org>) allows readers to perform multiple analytic operations on a single text or a corpus, using a web browser. You can either upload files, point it toward a URL or multiple URLs, or use a pre-existing corpus.

Voyeur (aka Voyant) charts word frequencies within and across documents, providing a word cloud visualization, an ngram, and many other interactive graphs.

Today’s workshop will introduce students to Voyeur Tools as a way of distant-reading *The Little Review* as a corpus. The principles might be applied to your own ideas for a final project or independent study.

*Little Review* Corpus

<http://voyeurtools.org/?corpus=1329252640907.4758&stopList=stop.en.taporware.txt>

*Little Review* Text File Archive

<http://personal.utulsa.edu/~jsd652/little-review/little-review-voyeur.zip>

Instructions and tutorial videos can be found here: <http://hermeneuti.ca/voyeur>

**Background: Data Preparation**

I took the TEI XML files of *The Little Review* from the [MJP Lab](http://sourceforge.net/projects/mjplab/files/). Then I ran each one through a command line program called sed (string editor), using Terminal on the Mac. The sed argument I used strips all the tags from the XML document and provides the plain text in the Terminal window.

sed -e 's/<[^>]\*>//g' LittleReview073\_9.2.tei.xml

I then copy-pasted the text into a plain text document in TextWrangler, and saved it with a descriptive file name that would keep the files in order, as well as indicate the volume and issue numbers and dates. I.e.:

LittleReview073\_9.2\_winter1922.txt

I then uploaded these to my personal web space at TU, created a list of URLs, uploaded them into Voyeur, and obtained the corpus URL listed above.

**Procedure**

*Guiding Questions*

* How do the various graphing widgets in Voyant Tools map the *Little Review* data set?
* How does this kind of information visualization help you to “read” *The Little Review*?
* What is the relationship between information visualization and distant reading?

*The Steps*

1. Go to the Downloads page of the course site and click on the Voyeur link for *The Little Review* corpus.
2. Spend a couple of minutes familiarizing yourself with the application’s layout. Click on the arrows to open widgets on the bottom left, bottom center, the right sidebar, etc. Find the Export and Expand buttons near the top of each widget (i.e. Word Trends) to see how it’s possible to “break out” the widget into a larger, and more easily interactive, view.
3. Play around with the Word Trends widget by entering search terms (i.e. death). {{It will probably help to use the button to expand it into a larger view.}}
4. Note something interesting about the pattern that emerges. Pick a point on the graph and find the corresponding *Little Review* issue in the MJP. Look through it semi-quickly to note some content that speaks to the graph that led you to it. *Write it down!

If time allows:*
5. Use another widget in the Voyant interface to explore how graphical primitives reveal interesting patterns in *The Little Review*. As in step 4, what do you find when you map from the graph to the issue that the graph element derives from? How does this widget affect your discovery and interpretation differently?

**Writeup:** Blog post (2 paragraphs) due Thursday 10/30 – How did the reduction process of visualizing the *Little Review* corpus help you to “read” it? What did you find when you went into the archive to look at items that corresponded to interesting patterns?