

Nodegoat. A new web based research and visualisation platform, or how to receive academic credit for hybrid micropublications

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LAB1100 has developed a web-based database management, analysis and visualisation platform. With this platform, nodegoat (<http://nodegoat.net>), scholars define, create, query, update, and manage any number of datasets by use of a graphic user interface. nodegoat dynamically combines functionalities of a database management system (e.g. Access or FileMaker) with visualisation possibilities (i.e. Palladio, Gephi, Pajek) and extends these functionalities (e.g. with geographical attributes, temporal attributes, and in-text referencing) in one web based GUI. nodegoat is built to be fully platform independent. It is possible to import complex and relational datasets from file and to export clean relational datasets in standard JSON or XML formatting.

Leveraging this integrated approach, nodegoat offers scholars ways to engage with their research data, both in terms of conventional project oriented configurations, as well as in facilitating individual scholarly craftsmanship. We will demonstrate the data management, analysis and visualisation functionalities of nodegoat. The reuse of the presented methodological tools and datasets offers the opportunity for a discussion on how the development of shared authorships may impact the research community.

As the research data is stored online, multiple modes of usage are available. By use of nodegoat, historical relational data can be stored, analysed and visualised, as was done in the project SpInTime of the SPIN Institute of Joep Leerssen (<http://spinnet.eu/spintimemappings>). In this project, the interconnectedness of nineteenth century intellectuals is analysed and visualised over time and space. nodegoat is also applied to connect heterogenous datasets in order to reveal relational, geographical and diachronic patterns within cultural networks (<http://cdh.uva.nl/projects-2013-2014/knaw---mapping-notes-and-nodes-in-networks.html>).

Besides these project oriented approaches, LAB1100 aims to give scholars the opportunity to store and publish datasets. After a dataset has been created or enriched, scholars will be able to share their work by using a DOI via CrossRef or ORCID and are able to receive academic credit for their work. This form of micropublishing allows for the integration of multimodal and hybrid research approaches within the humanities (Moulin, 2013: <http://annotatio.hypotheses.org/303>). Moreover, as sets of primary research data become available, a collaborative process may emerge in which scholars benefit not only from previous research outcomes but also from previously gathered data.

In addition to retaining full authority over a dataset (a low threshold authority file), it would be possible to share authority over a dataset with other scholars, share its authority under review, or allow to 'fork' a dataset and build on earlier published work. In this way, new forms of shared authorship emerge. This process keeps datasets accessible and navigational (and not just stored in a digital repository) for continuous research purposes.