

Understanding the email visualisation needs of researchers using email archives

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Born-digital



- Correspondence has transitioned to the born-digital
- Email is the primary born-digital form of correspondence
- Cultural institutions are working to collect the born-digital
- Many challenges to be resolved
- In the future collections will be full of email archives

- Opportunity to apply new tools such as visualisation

Visualisation



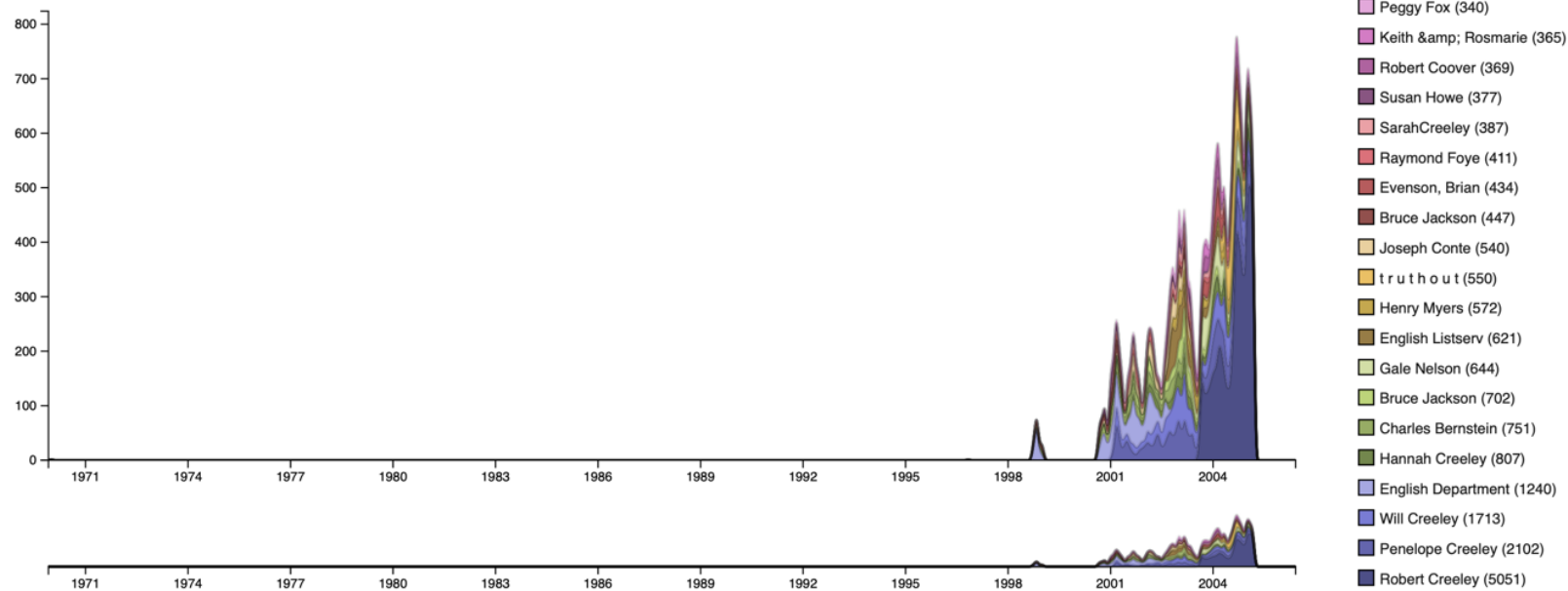
Visualisation Example 1

Discovery | Top correspondents graph



Robert Creeley email archive

Institution:Stanford University
Collection ID:M0662



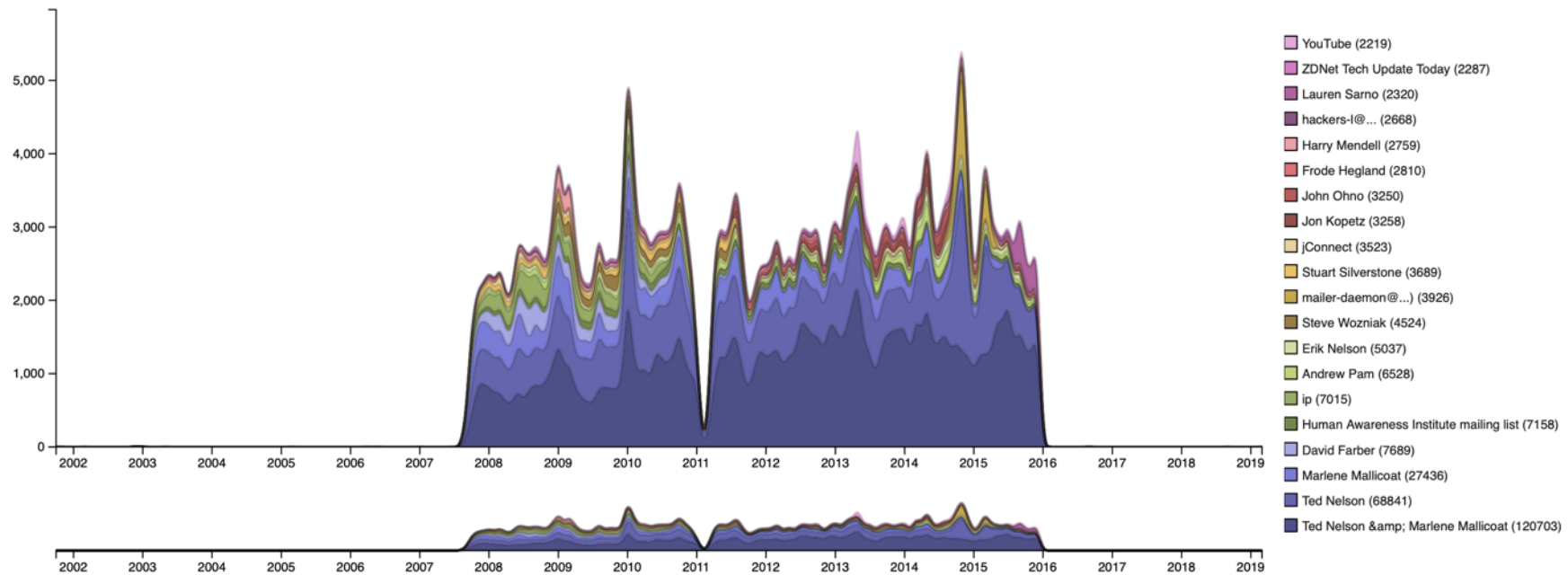
Visualisation Example 2

Discovery | Top correspondents graph



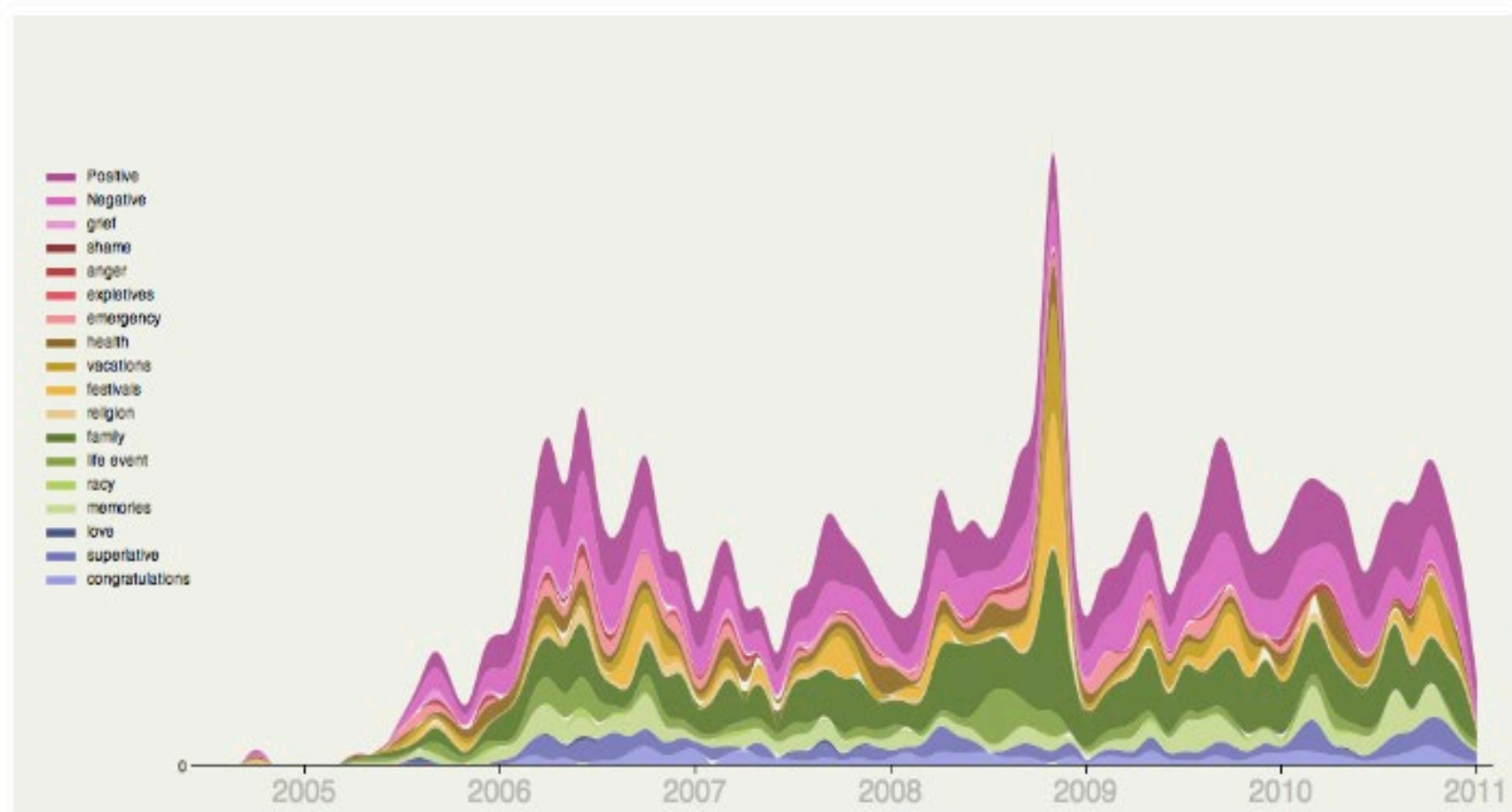
Ted Nelson email archive

Institution:Stanford University
Collection ID:M1851



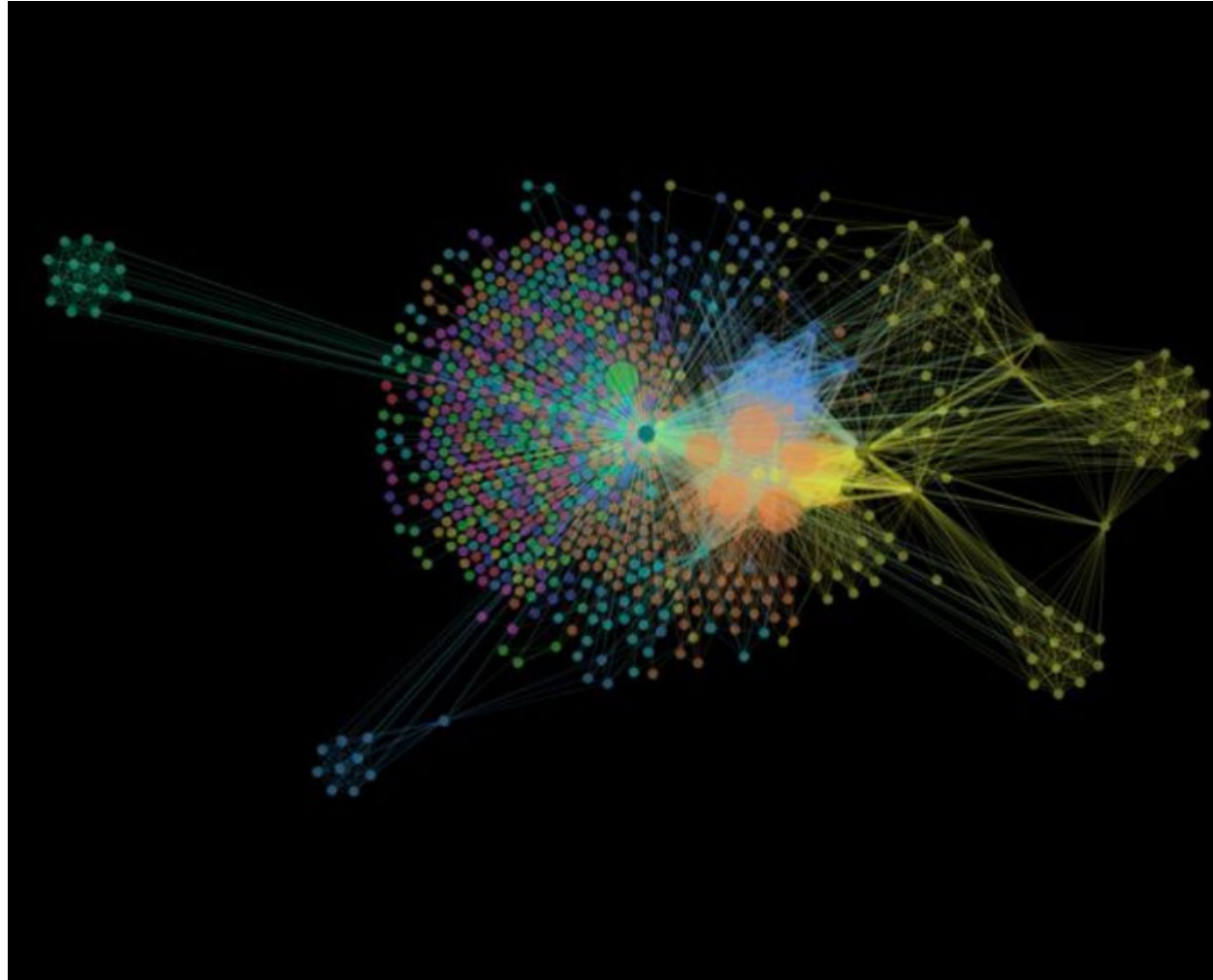
Visualisation Example 3

A MUSE visualisation of email sentiment



Visualisation Example 4

Network graph based on a PST file



Visualisation of email archives



- Visualisation of email archives is a work in progress
- Creating visualisations is challenging and time consuming
- How do you know what to visualise?

Needs of researchers



- Research is lacking on the needs of researchers
- Visualisations need to be developed with an understanding of what is needed by researchers

Research Objective



- Investigate the needs of researchers
- Make that knowledge available
- Inform the development and deployment of visualisations of email archives

Research Method



- Conduct one-on-one semi-structured interviews - online, recorded and transcribed
- With ~20 experienced researchers from a diversity of disciplines
- Identified through discussions with staff from cultural institutions

Timeline



- Interviewing over the next 6-12 months
- Research outcomes to follow
- Thesis is a journey

Feedback



- Do you have questions or suggestions or comments?
- Would you like to chat?
- Send me an email
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Thank you

Make tomorrow better.