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## The Intertextual Hub: a platform for intertextual studies of 18th-century France

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This article presents a comprehensive overview of the Intertextual Hub, an innovative digital platform designed to facilitate intertextual studies of 18th-century French literature. The platform leverages sophisticated computational methods such as text mining, natural language processing or machine learning to enable a comprehensive analysis of extensive textual data, a series of approaches known as 'distant reading'. The Hub incorporates various digital resources, including a vast collection of 18th-century French literary works, laws, decrees and revolutionary pamphlets, all of which are intended to provide a nuanced understanding of the intellectual and cultural landscape of the era. One of the notable challenges the Hub addresses is the disparity in digitisation quality and the inherent differences among various text collections. These challenges include variations in text formats, inconsistencies in metadata, and the diverse nature of the source materials, which range from literary works to official documents. The Hub's modular architecture, built on the PhiloLogic text analysis engine, accommodates these variances by providing a unified experience for each collection. Researchers are presented with different entry points to explore the multifaceted nature of intertextuality in the period. The platform's close reading interface is a pivotal aspect, facilitating an immersive and interconnected research experience through guided text exploration. By combining close and distant reading perspectives, users can seamlessly navigate between individual and larger groups of texts through shared themes, concepts or references, thus bridging the gap between these two different modes of reading. In short, the Intertextual Hub aims to foster a deeply interconnected research experience that enhances the understanding of the 18th-century corpus and the intellectual exchanges that shaped the period.

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‘Nul n’a droit sur l’air que je respire, ni sur la plus noble fonction de mon esprit, sur celle de juger par moi-même. Seroit-ce aux autres que j’abandonnerois le soin de penser pour moi?’<sup>1</sup> writes the anonymous author of *Le Pot au noir*, an obscure anticlerical pamphlet written on the eve of the French Revolution. It is somewhat ironic that this passage defends the right to self-expression and independence of thought while also being a word-for-word reuse of Helvetius’ *De l’homme*, published over fifteen years before. Yet, can one truly expect – to take a page from Foucault – to claim such independence of thought in a short anonymous polemical pamphlet? After all, to paraphrase Montaigne, are we not all continuously regurgitating those who precede us?<sup>2</sup> One could easily argue that in an age of religious intolerance, invoking a figure such as Helvetius to advocate for the imperative of independent thought was certainly not far-fetched.<sup>3</sup> But it turns out that this reuse of Helvetius is not an isolated event within *Le Pot au noir*. Thanks to a computational intertextual analysis of this text, we know that *Le Pot au noir*, far from being original, is to a large extent a carefully crafted combination of various borrowings, mostly from Voltaire’s *Questions sur l’Encyclopédie* and Helvétius’ *De l’homme*.<sup>4</sup> While this case is perhaps an extreme representation of the practice of reuse in this period, it is nonetheless an illustration of the fact that texts do not exist in isolation, and that having access to the wider textual environment in which they operate can radically shift our understanding of any given text. And of course, none of this would be easily feasible without the emergence of modern digital tools, which are revolutionising the study of the period.

Indeed, over the last quarter-century, the combination of large-scale text digitisation and innovative computational techniques has had a profound impact on literary, historical and cultural studies. With wider access to texts either forgotten or difficult to access, researchers are now able to leverage innovative computational techniques, such as text mining, natural language processing, and machine learning algorithms to uncover new patterns, trends and connections within vast amounts of textual data. These techniques, typically referred to as ‘distant reading’ (see Underwood 2017), have allowed scholars to analyse complex relationships and themes over the *longue-durée*, and to trace the evolution of ideas and cultural practices over time. However, this new capacity to examine the ways in which cultures interact and exchange ideas, both old and new, has come at a cost: vast amounts of data generate vast amounts of results, which can make it difficult to identify relevant information, draw meaningful conclusions, and maintain a clear

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<sup>1</sup> ‘None have the right to the air I breathe, nor to the noblest function of my mind, that of judging for myself. Would I leave to others the task of thinking for me?! Translation is my own.

<sup>2</sup> Montaigne famously wrote in his *Essais*: ‘nous ne faisons que nous entregloser’ (book 3, ch.13; Montaigne 2007, p.1115).

<sup>3</sup> Although such autonomy of the mind as claimed in the original passage may be somewhat contradictory within Helvétius’ own thought on the development of one’s *self*.

<sup>4</sup> While a majority of the text was identified as being sourced from these and other texts, the sections not recognised as reuses may indeed be borrowings as well, conceivably from texts not included in our computational analysis at the time. One could perhaps argue that the originality of the pamphlet stems from its careful combination of various passages.



focus on the research question at hand. And the larger the amount of textual data, the more computational methods tend to become disconnected from the more traditional modes of research and analysis focused on the particular, thus leaving it to the researchers to bridge what can be an intractable gap between these polar opposites. Indeed, the quality and reliability of results obtained through computational methods depend on various factors, such as the quality of the digitised texts, the algorithms used, and the assumptions made during analysis. Addressing these challenges by combining digital approaches with close reading and interpretive scholarship has been central to the ARTFL Project's efforts over the last fifteen years.<sup>5</sup>

Embracing the notion that 'information overload' is not an issue requiring a solution, and that an abundance of textual data offers increased opportunities for enriching the close reading experience, the ARTFL Project has built a number of tools that attempt to combine algorithmic prowess and contextualisation. However, in so doing, we realised that to understand the constant flow and evolution of ideas and concepts within a cultural system, we needed to integrate the various discrete solutions we had developed into a unified user experience, thus providing multiple perspectives – or views – on the textual data that would boost the interpretative potential of our digital approaches. Thanks to funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we built the Intertextual Hub, a digital platform designed to provide the best of distant and close reading experiences within a single cohesive user interface.

### **Guiding principles**

The Intertextual Hub (<https://intertextual-hub.uchicago.edu/>) is an experimental digital humanities textual environment that seeks to situate specific documents – such as literary works, newspapers, parliamentary debates; in short, any textual production of a specific era – within a broader context of intertextual relations. It is our contention that texts should not be divorced from their historical and cultural environment if we wish to gain a deeper understanding of how they came to be, what drove their authors to create them, and what impact they had on their era and on future generations. More than anything, the Intertextual Hub is built around the concept of guided reading, which can be understood as a form of recommendation system, where users are suggested new works based on the content of the texts they are reading, or on the topics they are exploring. This guidance can be both active, where the user initiates a search hoping to see a wide array of texts to explore, or passive, in which case any text a user reads is linked to its wider textual environment through direct or indirect borrowings, shared topics or themes, or other kinds of lexical similarity. Thus, the Intertextual Hub offers a range of scalable reading tools which allow users to navigate between individual and larger groups of texts from both a distant and close reading perspective, one always feeding into the other in a virtuous circle.

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<sup>5</sup> Some notable articles describing these efforts include Horton et al. 2009, Allen et al. 2010, and Cooney, Roe and Olsen 2020.



The primary purpose of the Hub is to facilitate the contextual understanding of individual texts by integrating an extensive range of textual resources. With its roots in the rich literary heritage of 18th-century France, the Hub was initially conceptualised as a wide-ranging repository containing several large text collections from this period. These collections encompassed a diverse array of materials, including every law and decree issued during the French Revolution, alongside an impressive assortment of Revolutionary pamphlets. In addition to these primary sources, the Hub aims to feature prominent works by key figures of the Enlightenment, not only from France but also numerous translated works of renowned English authors. By compiling these varied resources, the Hub seeks to provide – as much as possible given ARTFL's current holdings – a holistic understanding of the era, enabling users to explore the complex interplay of ideas and events that shaped the 18th-century intellectual landscape.

Of course, when designing this platform, it was crucial to address the challenges prevalent in 18th-century digital studies, such as quality discrepancies between text digitised through OCR and expertly curated materials, as well as accessibility issues related to paywalled and public resources. To overcome these obstacles, the Hub uses an innovative strategy that federates these different collections, and connects them through a web of intertextual links generated through computational methods that are less affected by problems of quality, and which are themselves completely open to all.

### **Collections in the Hub**

As part of the Intertextual Hub, we assembled an unparalleled collection of digital resources related to the French 18th-century and Revolution, with the aim of providing a multifaceted repository of materials related to the period. Among the seven collections included in the Hub, four are open-access and anchored in the Revolutionary era. The largest of these collections is the French Revolution Collection of the Newberry Library (FRC),<sup>6</sup> which contains over 30 000 revolutionary pamphlets that shed light on the social, political and intellectual discourses of the time. Given the size of this corpus, we had to conduct significant preliminary work to remove duplicate editions, and identify as many OCR errors as possible, bringing the final number of pamphlets down to almost 26 000. Another large corpus included is the Archives Parlementaires,<sup>7</sup> a comprehensive compilation of parliamentary debates and proceedings between 1789 and early 1794, providing an in-depth look at the legislative processes during the first half of the French Revolution. This collection is complemented by the Baudouin Collection of Revolutionary Laws,<sup>8</sup> which contains all the laws and decrees enacted throughout the revolutionary period. And finally, as a window into

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<sup>6</sup> For more information on the FRC, see <https://www.newberry.org/collection/research-guide/french-pamphlets>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information on the Archives Parlementaires, see <https://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/archives-parlementaires>.

<sup>8</sup> For more information on the Baudouin collection, see <https://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/collection-baudouin>.





### Explore specific collections under PhiloLogic:

<b>French Revolutionary Pamphlets</b> : 25,935 pamphlets from the French Revolutionary period
<b>Archives Parlementaires</b> : Parliamentary debates during the first years of the French Revolution (1789-1792)
<b>Revolutionary Laws</b> : Laws enacted during the French Revolution
<b>18th Century French Literature</b> : Literary and Philosophical works from the French 18th century
<b>Goldsmith-Kress 18th Century</b> : Political Economy works from the French 18th century
<b>Journaux de Marat</b> : Marat's newspapers which include <i>L'Ami du peuple</i> and <i>Le Journal de la République française</i>
<b>French ECCO</b> : Literary and Philosophical works from the French 18th century published in the UK

**Figure 1** Available collections.

the active Revolutionary press, we included the *Journaux de Marat*,<sup>9</sup> which contains 932 numbers of Marat's Revolutionary-era journals (Figure 1).

As one of the stated goals of this project was to build a platform that would bring together both open- and closed-access collections, we also included three access-controlled corpora, which cover much of the literary and philosophical landscape of the larger 18th century. Almost 800 works were compiled from ARTFL-Frantext,<sup>10</sup> representing most of the works by major Enlightenment figures. This was complemented by 5000 works of political economy from the French-language subset of the Goldsmith-Kress Collection,<sup>11</sup> which collectively capture the economic landscape and policy debates of the time. We also extracted close to 3000 French language titles from the Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO),<sup>12</sup> including many English authors in translation, thus expanding the corpus beyond the French-speaking sphere.

Apart from the access model, these collections also vary significantly in the quality of their textual data. Some texts have been keyed manually, ensuring a high level of accuracy, while others have been produced

<sup>9</sup> For more information on the *Journaux de Marat*, see <https://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/content/lami-du-peuple>.

<sup>10</sup> For more information on ARTFL-Frantext, see <https://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/content/artfl-frantext>.

<sup>11</sup> For more information on the Goldsmith-Kress collection, see <https://www.gale.com/intl/c/making-of-the-modern-world-part-i>.

<sup>12</sup> For more information on the ECCO collection, see <https://www.gale.com/intl/primary-sources/eighteenth-century-collections-online>.



automatically from digital page images using OCR, which can occasionally result in discrepancies or errors. The lower quality inherent to texts that have been OCR-ed is certainly not the best option for traditional close reading, but we nevertheless decided to work with these texts since our distant-reading algorithms are not heavily impacted by texts with relatively low error rates. In the case of the French Revolutionary Pamphlets, we were also able to provide links to the original page images so as to enable a close-reading experience devoid of OCR errors.

## Overall architecture

The Intertextual Hub's architecture is designed with modularity and extensibility in mind, achieved through the use of a common document representation across all services powering the platform. The underlying infrastructure of the Hub is built upon the robust foundation of PhiloLogic,<sup>13</sup> a powerful and versatile text analysis engine that has been serving ARTFL's text collections for over two decades. The choice of this software as the backbone of our platform – beyond our familiarity with the system – comes down to the richness of its text analysis tools and its ability to handle and display various types of texts (from novels to newspapers, plays, dictionaries, and more...). Given the wide variety of collections held in the Hub, it was critical to use an indexing tool that could be customised according to the characteristics and requirements of each corpus. For example, only one of the collections, the debates of the Archives Parlementaires, has speech acts with identified speakers within the text, and we therefore made this structural element available in the PhiloLogic instance. In the context of the Intertextual Hub, the Archives Parlementaires collection becomes part of a larger set of collections combining a variety of different types of documents, with different structural elements. As a result, a user who wishes to compare the uses of a particular concept between different *députés* during parliamentary debates can leverage the Archives Parlementaires instance of PhiloLogic, and hence navigate the textual data within an interface customised for exploring such debates. But because we also intended these collections to be explored as a whole, we complemented these individual PhiloLogic instances with a federated search system, which effectively merges all collections into a single database, thus allowing users to query all texts contained within the Hub simultaneously. Exploring one of the results of this type of federated query – clicking on a text – takes users back to the PhiloLogic instance where this text can be read, therefore maintaining the intellectual coherence of each collection without sacrificing the interconnectedness of the Intertextual Hub.

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<sup>13</sup> PhiloLogic is a powerful full-text search, retrieval and analysis tool designed for large-scale collections of texts, particularly suited for the needs of scholars in the humanities and social sciences. For more information, see <https://github.com/ARTFL-Project/PhiloLogic4>.



As each text collection is integrated into a PhiloLogic instance, the data extracted from these instances are used to feed the algorithms and models that drive the Hub's functionality. This allows for uniform preprocessing<sup>14</sup> and data mining techniques to be employed for all textual data while retaining a connection to PhiloLogic's data representation for traditional close reading analysis. Recognising the multifaceted nature of relationships between texts, we implemented various approaches to establish intertextual connections among the tens of thousands of texts available within the Hub. These approaches include detecting text reuses with TextPAIR,<sup>15</sup> identifying shared themes across texts using topic modelling with TopoLogic,<sup>16</sup> conducting nearest-neighbour searches (similar passage detection) with Annoy,<sup>17</sup> and tracking the evolution of concepts over time employing word2vec.<sup>18</sup> Each distant reading method stores its results within a separate database and connects to other methods through a unique identifier used by PhiloLogic for each text in the Hub. The interconnectedness of all components of the Hub is intended to facilitate the exploration of all the texts contained within as part of a larger coherent intellectual and cultural sphere.

Of course, the seamless interplay between close and distant reading within the Intertextual Hub relies heavily on having full access to the texts, which enables users to explore both the minute details of individual works and the broader patterns that emerge across collections. However, some of the collections within the Hub – Frantext, Goldsmith-Kress, and the French ECCO – have restricted access due to copyright constraints, which can partially hinder this back-and-forth dynamic. In cases where access to certain texts is limited, the Intertextual Hub still strives to provide value to researchers by offering all distant reading results associated with these collections. Although users may not have direct access to the content of these specific texts within the Hub, the distant reading results allow them to obtain bibliographic references for the restricted materials. This information can serve as a starting point for further research, guiding users to explore these texts outside of the Hub through alternative channels, such as accessing the materials through their research institutions. By providing these distant reading results even for access-controlled collections,

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<sup>14</sup> This preprocessing involves various word normalisation techniques such as lemmatisation, or the removal of all accents to account for orthographic variants. For instance, words such as 'intérêts' are normalised to 'interet'.

<sup>15</sup> TextPAIR is a high-performance sequence aligner designed to identify similar passages in large text collections. See <https://github.com/ARTFL-Project/text-pair> for more information.

<sup>16</sup> TopoLogic is a topic modelling browser designed to explore the automatic classification of textual corpora. See <https://github.com/ARTFL-Project/TopoLogic> for more information.

<sup>17</sup> Annoy is a software package that provides a high-performance method of finding similar vectors within a large collection of vectors. We use it as an optimisation of the vector space model in order to find similar texts based on semantic similarity. For more information on Annoy, see <https://github.com/spotify/annoy>.

<sup>18</sup> Word2vec is an algorithm that builds vector representations of words based on the context in which they are used. In this model, words used in similar contexts are deemed closely related. For more information on word2vec, see Mikolov et al., 2013.



the Intertextual Hub ensures that researchers can still glean valuable insights and maintain a certain level of engagement with all texts, perhaps paving the way for other digital projects to adopt a similar approach when working with restricted text corpora.

## Distant reading perspectives

Just as the design of the infrastructure underlying the Hub was focused on facilitating the interaction between collections while maintaining the specificity of each, much effort has been put into building a user experience which brings to the fore our multifaceted approach to intertextuality, and therefore offers users multiple starting points to conduct their research, such as a single text, a concept, or a specific topic. Users can navigate the platform adopting a more traditional top-down approach via one of several entry points, such as text-reuse searching or topic modeling, or through an innovative bottom-up perspective that provides links to other related texts contained within the Hub, creating a comprehensive and interconnected research experience.

The standard starting-point is the landing page (<https://intertextual-hub.uchicago.edu>), which features five distinct navigational tools, each represented by a tab in the interface (Figure 2). The first entry point within the Intertextual Hub allows users to delve into individual collections by accessing their specific PhiloLogic instances. This feature enables users to search a corpus for every occurrence of a particular word, obtain word frequencies for individual texts, authors, or other metadata associated with the collection, and discover the words most frequently co-occurring with a given word. By providing these

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INTERTEXTUAL HUB USER FEEDBACK

Collections Search and Retrieval Explore text reuse Explore Topics Explore word usage

Explore specific collections under PhiloLogic:

- French Revolutionary Pamphlets : 25,935 pamphlets from the French Revolutionary period
- Archives Parlementaires : Parliamentary debates during the first years of the French Revolution (1789-1792)
- Revolutionary Laws : Laws enacted during the French Revolution
- 18th Century French Literature : Literary and Philosophical works from the French 18th century
- Goldsmith-Kress 18th Century : Political Economy works from the French 18th century
- Journaux de Marat : Marat's newspapers which include *L'Ami du peuple* and *Le Journal de la République française*
- French ECCO : Literary and Philosophical works from the French 18th century published in the UK

What is the Intertextual Hub?

The Intertextual Hub is an experimental digital humanities reading environment that aims to situate specific documents in their broader context of intertextual relations, whether in the form of direct or indirect borrowings, shared topics with other texts or parts of texts, or other kinds of lexical similarity. Intuitively, we believe that the conceptual relationships discovered by text mining algorithms among texts in large, heterogeneous collections can fruitfully inform and guide traditional close-reading approaches. More fundamentally, our contention is that scholarly reading in the digital age—and the true usefulness of computational analysis of texts—should be foregrounded on the discovery and navigation of intertextual relationships. The model we have developed here allows users to navigate between individual and larger groups of texts that are related through shared themes, ideas, and passages. What the Intertextual Hub offers, then, along with the scalable reading tools, is an approach to federating collections that can bypass the various competing problems of quality (OCR vs. curated) and access (pay vs. public) inherent in digital collections today, and still yield meaningful results.

[See screencast describing feature set](#)

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Figure 2 Landing page.

Searching database for **peuple**Bibliography criteria: **Speaker: "M. Robespierre"**

Hits 1 - 25 of 119

[View occurrences with context](#)[View occurrences line by line \(KWIC\)](#)

1	<b>ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1787 A 1799) TOME VIII DU 5 MAI 1789 AU 15 SEPTEMBRE 1789</b> , ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE. PRÉSIDENTE DE M. LE DUC DE LIANCOURT. 1789-07-27 M. ROBESPIERRE > [ page 279 ]	More
	L'Assemblée peut-elle et doit-elle refuser des pièces dénoncées par l'opinion publique, envoyées par le maire de la capitale comme des pièces essentiellement intéressantes, et nécessaires aux éclaircissements delà plus fatale conspiration qui fut jamais tramée ? Je ne le crois pas. Les ménagements pour les conspirateurs sont une trahison envers le <b>peuple</b> . M. **\ Le premier principe et le principe fondamental de tout intérêt social est l'intérêt des peuples. Quelle est la conséquence que l'on en doit tirer? La voici : Le premier et le plus grand des devoirs d'une assemblée de législateurs; est de l'assurer, ce salut. Toute autre considération ! doit être subordonnée à celle-ci. Quoique le vœu un	
2	<b>ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1787 A 1799) TOME VIII DU 5 MAI 1789 AU 15 SEPTEMBRE 1789</b> , ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE. PRESIDENTE DE M. LE DUC DE LIANCOURT. 1789-07-31 M. ROBESPIERRE > [ page 312 ]	More
	jamais recommandable. Son départ a été le signal du meurtre ; son retour sera celui de la clémence et de la bonté. <b>M. Robespierre.</b> Je réclame dans toute leur rigueur les principes qui doivent soumettre les hommes suspects à la nation à des jugements exemplaires. Voulez-vous calmer le <b>peuple</b> ? par- lez-lui le langage de la justice et de la raison. Qu'il soit sûr que ses ennemis n'échapperont pas à la vengeance des lois, et les sentiments de justice succéderont à ceux de la haine. <b>MM. Bouche et Pétion de Vi</b>	
3	<b>ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1787 A 1799) TOME VIII DU 5 MAI 1789 AU 15 SEPTEMBRE 1789</b> , ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE. PRÉSIDENTE DE M. LE COMTE STANISLAS DE CLERMONT-TONNERRE. 1789-09-12 M. ROBESPIERRE > [ page 617 ]	More
	exclura les députés, serait une préférence qui inspirerait la jalousie et la rivalité. Je pense qu'il faut se décider pour la totalité. <b>M. Robespierre</b> parle avec beaucoup de force et d'éloquence en faveur de la motion de M. Le Pelletier de S'ünt-Fargeau. Dans une grande monarchie, le <b>peuple</b> ne peut exercer sa toute-puissance qu'en nommant des représentants ; il est juste que le <b>peuple</b> les change souvent ; rien n'est plus naturel que le désir d'exercer ses droits, de faire connaître ses sentiments, de recommander souvent son vœu. Ce sont là les bases de la liberté. <b>M. Buzot</b> ob	
4	<b>ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1787 A 1799) TOME VIII DU 5 MAI 1789 AU 15 SEPTEMBRE 1789</b> , ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE. PRÉSIDENTE DE M. LE COMTE STANISLAS DE CLERMONT-TONNERRE. 1789-09-12 M. ROBESPIERRE > [ page 617 ]	More
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5	<b>ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1789 A 1799) TOME IX DU 16 SEPTEMBRE AU 11 NOVEMBRE 1789.</b> , ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE. 1789-09-21 ANNEXE > 1789-09-21 > M. ROBESPIERRE > [ page 79 ]	More
	déclaration de la supériorité des rois sur les nations et la prescription des droits sacrés et imprescriptibles des peuples? Non... c'est en vain qu'on regarde comme décidée d'avance, cette bizarre et funeste loi ; je n'y croirai point, puisqu'il m'est permis d'en démontrer l'absurdité en présence des défenseurs du <b>peuple</b> et aux yeux de la nation entière. Les nombreux partisans du veto, forcés à reconnaître qu'il est en effet contraire aux principes, prétendent qu'il est avantageux de les sacrifier à de prétendues convenances politiques. Admirable méthode de raisonner ! qui substitue aux lois éternelles de la justice et de la r	

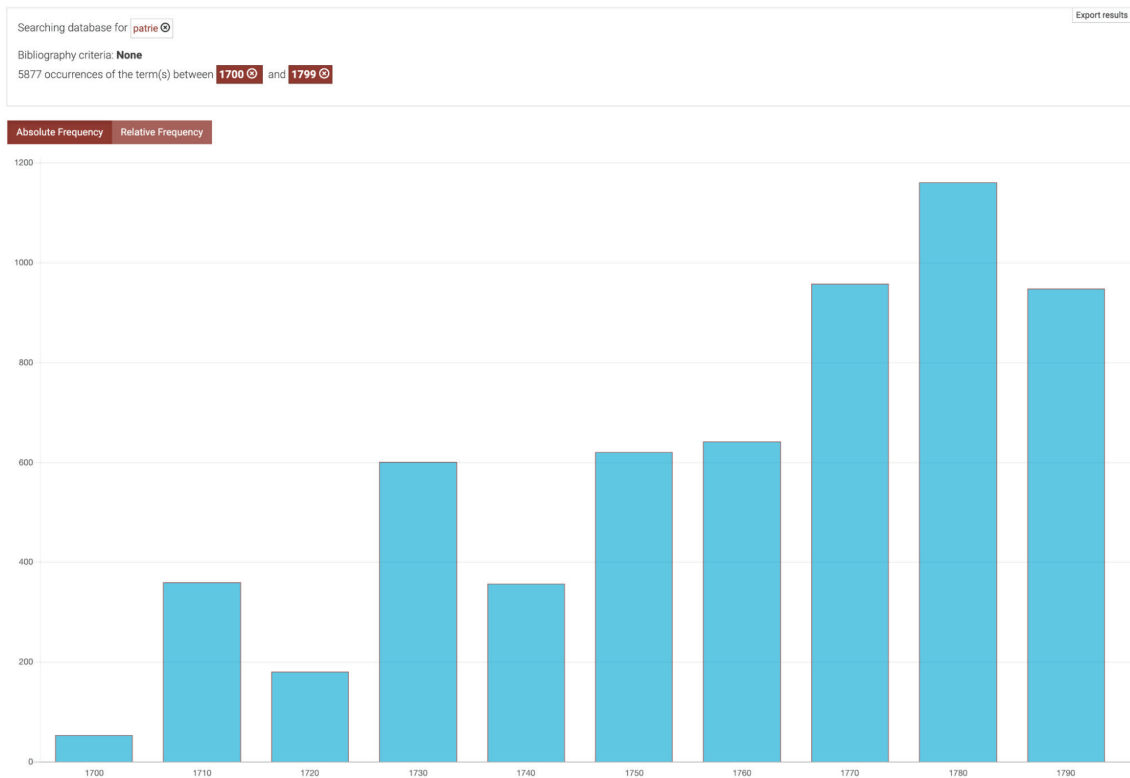
**Figure 3** Uses of 'peuple' in Robespierre's speeches to the Assemblée Nationale Constituante and the Convention in the Archives Parlementaires collection.

capabilities, the Intertextual Hub facilitates a targeted exploration of the texts, allowing researchers to gain deeper insights into the language patterns and relationships within specific collections. One might, for instance, seek to examine the uses of the word 'peuple' in Robespierre's parliamentary speeches (Figure 3), identify legislative texts where the question of war is most prominent (Figure 4), investigate the



BROWSE BY FACET	
Absolute Frequency	Relative Frequency
Top 500 results for Section Title	
CHARROIS MILITAIRES. Voyez ARMÉE. 2 actual occurrences in 9 words	2222.22
Décret de mention honorable de l'hommage d'un travail général ... 8 actual occurrences in 64 words	1250
Décret sur une nouvelle organisation des commissaires des gue... 4 actual occurrences in 34 words	1176.47
ART. XXV. 3 actual occurrences in 27 words	1111.11
Arrêté du directoire exécutif, qui enjoint aux militaires absens de... 2 actual occurrences in 18 words	1111.11
TABLEAU des soldes de retraite pour les militaires. 1 actual occurrence in 9 words	1111.11
TABLEAU des soldes de retraite pour les employés administratif... 2 actual occurrences in 18 words	1111.11
TABLE AU des traitemens de réforme pour tous les grades milit... 6 actual occurrences in 61 words	983.61
errata 3 actual occurrences in 32 words	937.5
Arrêté du directoire exécutif qui crée un inspecteur des transpor... 3 actual occurrences in 32 words	937.5
Décret sur la constitution de l'Armée. 1 actual occurrence in 11 words	909.09
Arrêté du directoire, qui ordonne le rassemblement d'une armée ... 2 actual occurrences in 22 words	909.09
Décret relatif au service de santé des armées et des hôpitaux m... 5 actual occurrences in 57 words	877.19
Décret qui ordonne le renvoi au Comité militaire d'un Plan d'orga... 6 actual occurrences in 71 words	845.07
Décret qui fixe les sommes qui seront versées au Département ... 4 actual occurrences in 49 words	816.33

**Figure 4** Relative frequency (average occurrence per 10 000 words) of the terms 'guerre(s)', 'armée(s)', 'militaire(s)', 'militairement' in individual laws and decrees from the Revolutionary Laws corpus.



**Figure 5** Uses of the word ‘patrie’ across the entire 18th century within the 18th Century French Literature collection.

prevalence of the term ‘patrie’ over time within the great works of the Enlightenment (Figure 5), or compare the uses of the term ‘sensation’ by Voltaire and Rousseau by examining the words that most frequently co-occur with ‘sensation’ in each of these authors’ writings (Figures 6 and 7). These are of course just a few examples of the kinds of research questions that can be explored through PhiloLogic.<sup>19</sup> While these types of explorations can be quite enlightening, since each collection remains in its own silo – however sophisticated – they are not truly conducive to finding connections across texts and genres.

The remaining four entry points showcase distinct distant reading techniques that emphasise the interconnectivity among the collections. Through the ‘Search and Retrieval’ tab, users can leverage the federated search system, which can simultaneously query all collections to find texts most related to a particular word, concept, or topic. For instance, one may be interested in finding in which texts the word

<sup>19</sup> For more examples of uses of PhiloLogic, see Cooney, Roe and Olsen 2013, or Morrissey, Roe and Gladstone 2016.





accompagnent air **âme** animal **animaux** aperçoit bêtes **cause** cèdent  
 certainement **cerveau** connait **corps** coup **crois** croit dieu **dire** distance divin  
 doigt **donne** donné donnée **donner** douleur **drap** effet enfants essences etc  
**étendue** étrange êtres excitées faculté facultés feu formons garde grande  
**homme** hommes **idée** idées immédiatement inférieure intelligence  
 intermédiaire longtemps **lumière** machines maîtres matérielle **matière** moindre  
 mollesse mots moyen **nature** naturellement **objet** oeil optique partie parties passe **pensée**  
 personne personnes petit pièce **plaisir** prenne **prochaine** propre prouver pu pures  
 rapporte **rayons** rétime **rouge** rouges sait savoir sentiment servira situation solidité sonore  
 supérieure traits univers véritable **vert** vibrations **vie** vient yeux

**Figure 6** Collocations (words most frequently used in the same sentence) of the word ‘sensation’ in the works of Voltaire contained in the 18th Century French Literature collection.

accident actrice agit **agréable** air aise amans applaudit **aspect** attendrissement bateleur **bâton**  
 brisé capable caresses **cause** chaleur chose coeur comparaison conforme convenables  
**corps** cris **délicieuse** délicieux déplaisante différence **dire** diverses donne douleur  
 durent eau éloignement **entrant** éprouvai éviter exciter finir foire **force** fraîcheur frappé gaignoit  
 hommes **idée** imagination **impressions** insensiblement joignant joye  
**jugement** juger lieu madame marque mutuelles **nature** nul **objet**  
**objets** obscurs offert ombrages opéra paraissent **peine** pénible persuadé **plaisir** porte  
 précautions prétendu **purement** raison reste sais **sens** sensations sent sentiment  
 sentir simultanée sonore sorte souffre spectacle **su** terre tours **uniquement** verger vevai **vive**  
 volontiers voluptueuse voluptueux **vüe** yeux

**Figure 7** Collocations (words most frequently used in the same sentence) of the word ‘sensation’ in the works of Rousseau contained in the 18th Century French Literature collection.

‘gloire’ appears frequently (Figure 8). One might also wish to leverage the ‘add most associated words’ feature, which is computed from an analysis of the contextual use of each word,<sup>20</sup> and expand the search to include such closely related terms as ‘héros’ or ‘illustre’ (Figure 9). By manually compiling and taking note of the texts most relevant to the query term(s), researchers can then constitute a sub-corpus brought

<sup>20</sup> This feature is driven by the word2vec computational model.





<p>Input terms: <b>gloire</b> Input terms stemmed Bibliographic search criteria: None Number of documents with this search term: <b>32972</b> Displaying first 100 results: use search filters to narrow search results or increase max results displayed</p>
1 HUBER, MARIE • <b>LETTRE XXXIII</b> • <i>Lettres sur la religion essentielle à l'homme, distinguée de ce qui n'en est que l'accessoire</i> . • 1739 (score: -4.728911478298199)
2 VOLTAIRE, 1694-1778. • <b>GLOIRE</b> • <i>Questions sur l'Encyclopédie (F - L)</i> • 1752 (score: -4.656223745430321)
3 RAYNAL, ABBÉ (GUILLAUME-THOMAS-FRANÇOIS) • <b>DE LA GLOIRE</b> • <i>Esprit de Guillaume-Thomas Raynal, recueil également nécessaire à ceux qui commandent à ceux qui obéissent – Volume 1</i> • 1782 (score: -4.6140158768215045)
4 MAINTENON, MADAME DE • <b>VI. CONVERSATION. SUR LA BONNE GLOIRE</b> • <i>Les loisirs de Madame de Maintenon</i> . • 1757 (score: -4.58729758664923)
5 SERRES, JEAN DE • <b>CHAPITRE II. DE LA GLOIRE</b> • <i>Gouvernement politique et économique – Volume 1</i> • 1766 (score: -4.583427288713218)
6 VOLTAIRE, 1694-1778. • <b>GLOIRE</b> • <i>Dictionnaire philosophique : Comprenant les 118 articles parus sous ce titre du vivant de Voltaire, avec leurs suppléments parus dans les Questions sur l'Encyclopédie</i> . • 1764 (score: -4.581158576798347)
7 HELVETIUS, CLAUDE ADRIEN, 1715-1771. • <b>SECTION 4 CHAPITRE 5</b> • <i>De l'homme . de ses facultés intellectuelles et de son éducation</i> • 1771 (score: -4.559270690903158)
8 THOMAS, M. (ANTOINE LÉONARD), 1732-1785. • <b>CHAPITRE 1</b> • <i>Essai sur les éloges</i> • 1773 (score: -4.550090489063436)
9 CHAILLARD, GASPARD • <b>SERMON IV. SUR L'HABITATION DU FILS DE DIEU PARMI LES HOMMES. LA PAROLE A ÉTÉ FAITE CHAIR, A HABITÉ PARMI NOUS, NOUS AVONS CONTEMPLÉ SA GLOIRE; UNE GLOIRE COMME CELLE DE L'UNIQUE ISSU DU PÈRE ...</b> • <i>Sermons sur divers textes de l'écriture Sainte. Par Gaspar Caillard</i> ... • 1728 (score: -4.495614135925747)
10 MONTAIGNE, MICHEL DE • <b>CHAPITRE XXXI. DE LA GLOIRE</b> • <i>L'Esprit de Montaigne, ou les maximes, pensées, jugemens réflexions de cet auteur, rédigés par ordre de matières</i> . ... • 1783 (score: -4.482138268881768)

**Figure 8** Documents in which the term 'gloire' features most prominently.



Input terms: **gloire** OR **immortel** OR **bonheur** OR **heros** OR **amour** OR **illustre** OR **honneur** OR **triomphe** OR **posterite** OR **heureux** OR **courage**

Input terms stemmed

Bibliographic search criteria: None

Number of documents with these search terms: **105492**

Displaying first 100 results: use search filters to narrow search results or increase max results displayed

1	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-BAPTISTE, 1670-1741. • <b>IV 2 À PRINCE EUGENE DE SAVOIE</b> • <b>1723</b> (score: -38.837271466381054)
2	AVIGNON (FRANCE). • <b>Discours</b> • <b>1794</b> (score: -38.139993739809555)
3	CAMBON. • <b>Poème sur la Révolution française</b> • <b>1790</b> (score: -37.35591029835626)
4	LANGLOIS, GUSTAVE. • <b>Discours prononcé par le citoyen Langlois, président de l'administration centrale de l'Eure, à la pompe funèbre du général Hoche : célébrée le 30 vendémiaire, an VI de la République.</b> • <b>1797</b> (score: -36.39232484240525)
5	ROUSSEAU, THOMAS, D. • <b>CHANT XII ET DERNIER.</b> • <b>Les fastes du commerce : poème en douze chants</b> • <b>1788</b> (score: -36.27525412450461)
6	BRIOT, PIERRE-JOSEPH, 1771-1827. • <b>Discours de Briot (du Doubs), sur l'hommage fait au Conseil des cinq-cents de la gravure de Mirabeau : séance du 13 thermidor an 6.</b> • <b>1798</b> (score: -35.67123223801023)
7	VEZIAN, ANTOINE. • <b>TITRE PAGE</b> • <b>Ode au roi sur son avènement a la couronne. Par Antoine Vezian.</b> • <b>1727</b> (score: -35.6704758601371)
8	BEAUVAIS, JEAN BAPTISTE CHARLES MARIE DE • <b>PREMIERE PARTIE.</b> • <b>Oraison funèbre de très-grand, très-haut, très-puissant, et tres-excellent Prince, Louis XV, le bien-aimé, Roi de France et de Navarre; prononcée dans l'église de l'Abbaye Royale de Saint-Denis, le 27 juillet 1774</b> • <b>1774</b> (score: -35.21547756611889)
9	ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <b>Recueil de pièces patriotiques, a l'occasion de la reconnaissance de l'Être suprême de l'immortalité de l'ame, de la fête qui a eu lieu à Paris à Auxerre à ce sujet, le 20 prairial, seconde année républicaine.</b> • <b>1794</b> (score: -34.67107947210447)
10	<b>Adresse aux soldats français [sic]</b> • <b>1798</b> (score: -34.547473985322064)

**Figure 9** Thematic search using the ten words most frequently associated with 'gloire' (obtained through computational analysis of the contexts in which these words are used).



together through shared concepts or topics, which they can either explore further using the platform's built-in features, or examine through more conventional methods thanks to the bibliographic information provided by the Hub.

The 'Explore text reuse' tab lets users search for text reuses among all the different collections, such as finding which authors borrowed passages from Rousseau's *Du contrat social* (Figure 10), or which

Showing matches 1-50 of 632

1	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 8 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 <i>Frappez; mais écoutez.</i> • 1796
2	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 6 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 CURÉ DE CAMPAGNE, 18 <sup>TH</sup> CENT. • <i>Esprit d'une constitution nationale</i> / • 1790
3	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 3 CHAPITRE 4 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 <i>Frappez; mais écoutez.</i> • 1796
4	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 5 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 H*** D* C***. • <i>La mort de tous les criminels</i> / • 1790
5	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 3 CHAPITRE 18 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 <i>Catéchisme politique dédié aux amis de la liberté.</i> • 1792
6	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 4 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1787 à 1799 • TRENTE-DEUXIÈME ANNEXE • 1792
7	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 6 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 <i>Le roi et ses ministres : dialogues.</i> • 1788
8	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • LIVRE 2 CHAPITRE 7 • <i>Du contrat social</i> • 1762 <i>Le roi et ses ministres : dialogues.</i> • 1788

**Figure 10** Reuses of Rousseau's *Du contrat social* among all texts found in the Intertextual Hub: clicking on the 'Show passage' button will display the shared passage between both texts.



Showing matches 1-50 of 146

1	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ROUSSEAU, JEAN-JACQUES, 1712-1778. • <b>CONSID. SUR GOUV. DE POLOGNE</b> • <i>Considérations sur le gouvernement de Pologne</i> • 1771 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Discours sur l'organisation des Gardes nationales</i> / • 1790
2	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	SALES, J. DE (JEAN) • <b>CHAPITRE III. DE L'INSTITUTION D'UNE RELIGION UNIVERSELLE (A)</b> . • <i>De la philosophie de la nature, ou traité de morale pour l'espèce humaine ...</i> • 1777 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Recueil de pièces patriotiques, a l'occasion de la reconnaissance de l'Être suprême de l'immortalité de l'ame, de la fête qui a eu lieu à Paris à Auxerre à ce sujet, le 20 prairial, seconde année républicaine.</i> • 1794
3	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	THEMISTOCLE, GÉNÉRAL ATHÉNIEN, FILS DE NÉOCLE, CITO EN DISTINGUÉ PAR SA NAISSANCE SA VIRTU, MORT À MAGNÉSIE, L'AN 464 AVANT JÉSUS - CHRIST. • <i>Fables, lettres et variétés historiques.</i> • 1784 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Discours de Maximilien Robespierre a l'Assemblée nationale, sur la réélection des membres de l'Assemblée nationale.</i> • 1790
4	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	PLUQUET, FRANÇOIS-ANDRÉ-ADRIEN • <b>CHAPITRE V. DE L'ORIGINE DU LUXE.</b> • <i>Traité philosophique et politique sur le luxe – Volume 1</i> • 1786 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Rapport de Robespierre, au nom du Comité de salut public, du 18 floréal.</i> • 1794
5	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	Vol. 1 (Juillet 1788-Août 1790) • <b>EXTRAIT DES PROCÈS-VERBAUX DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE.</b> • 1788 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen</i> / • 1793
6	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	Vol. 1 (Juillet 1788-Août 1790) • <b>EXTRAIT DES PROCÈS-VERBAUX DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE.</b> • 1788 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <b>PART. 2 SUR MARC D'ARGENT 1791</b> • <i>Discours</i> • 1793
7	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1789 à 1800) TOME XI DU 24 DÉCEMBRE 1789 AU 1er MARS 1790 • <b>ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE.</b> • 1789 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Lettre de M. de Robespierre a M. de Beaumets.</i> • 1790
8	1 common passage <a href="#">Show passage</a>	ARCHIVES PARLEMENTAIRES DE 1787 A 1860 PREMIÈRE SÉRIE (1789 à 1800) TOME XI DU 24 DÉCEMBRE 1789 AU 1er MARS 1790 • <b>ANNEXE</b> • 1789 ROBESPIERRE, MAXIMILIEN, 1758-1794. • <i>Lettre de M. de Robespierre a M. de Beaumets.</i> • 1790

**Figure 11** Borrowings made by Robespierre among all texts found in the Intertextual Hub.

texts found their way into Robespierre's works and speeches (Figure 11). By tracing the reuse of certain phrases or passages, we can potentially form a clearer picture of the cultural and intellectual discourse of the time, understanding not only which works had an influence on others, but also gaining a glimpse into the wider network of texts that may have informed an author's body of work. It is certainly true that reuse only draws a partial picture of influence, but this method of analysis, more perhaps than any other yet developed, highlights the interconnectedness within the tens of thousands of works found in the Intertextual Hub.

Moving on to the 'Explore Topics' tab, users can visualise the variety of topics covered in our collections (Figure 12). Each topic is generated automatically from the texts housed within the Hub using a computational method called topic modelling.<sup>21</sup> Users can then delve into an individual topic to learn more

<sup>21</sup> For more information on topic modelling and its uses in Digital Humanities, see Blei 2012. For a more concrete application on the French Enlightenment, see Roe, Gladstone and Morrissey 2016.

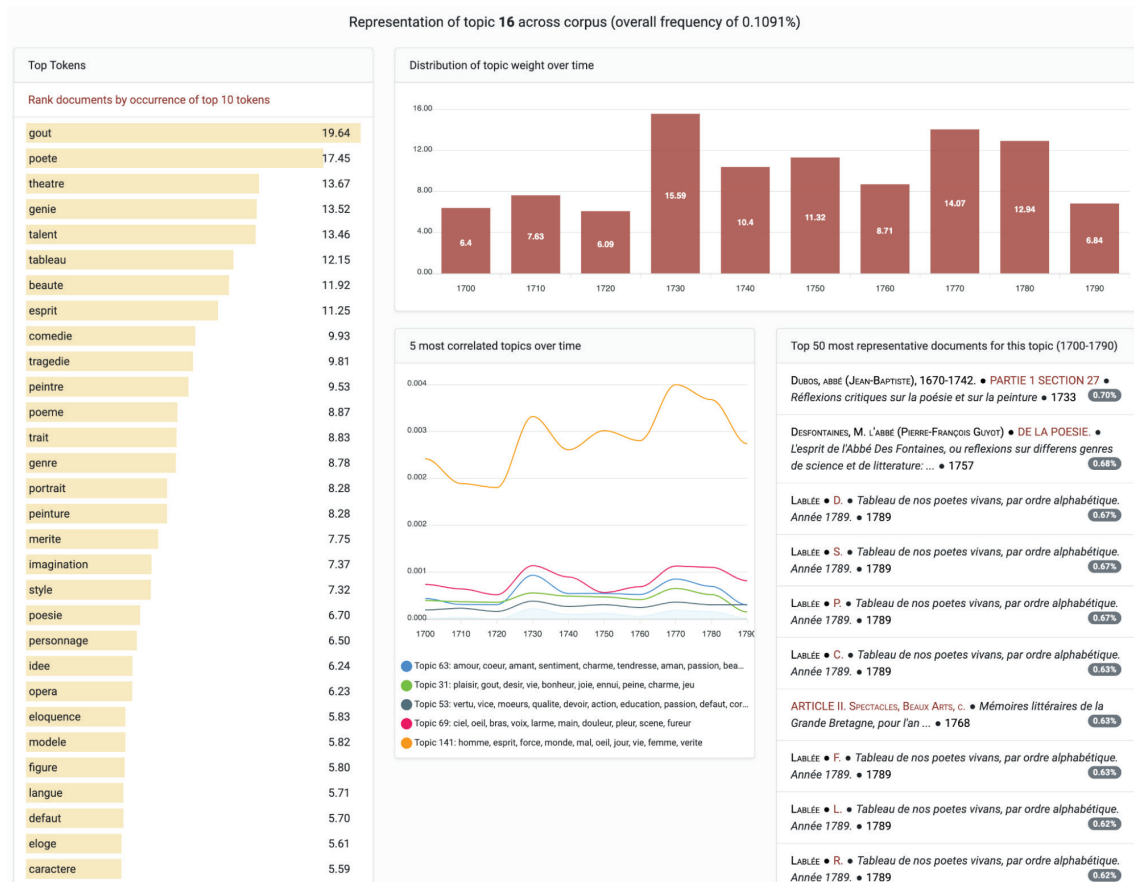


Topic	Top 10 tokens	Importance across collections
Topic 0	citoyen, patrie, petition, commune, concitoyen, secours, moyen, defenseur, arrete, magistrat	0.1487%
Topic 1	decret, comite, rapport, assemblée, execution, projet, departement, disposition, organisation, instruction	0.3491%
Topic 2	droit, tarif, entree, sortie, perception, titre, exemption, raison, peage, declaration	0.1798%
Topic 3	heure, matin, jour, nuit, soir, lendemain, midi, quart, demie, dimanche	0.0985%
Topic 4	eau, huile, couleur, poudre, verre, acide, liqueur, feu, sel, chaux	0.0687%
Topic 5	urgence, resolution, ancien, conseil, declaration, teneur, lecture, acte, messenger, motif	0.2205%
Topic 6	assemblée, operation, canton, tenue, validite, signature, invalidite, approbation, messenger, proces	0.2783%
Topic 7	commerce, negociant, navigation, avantage, manufacture, royaume, nation, agriculture, etranger, commercant	0.2419%
Topic 8	change, florin, ecu, banque, ducat, piastre, rixdale, londres, place, banquier	0.1472%
Topic 9	pays, habitant, climat, contree, partie, espece, flandre, territoire, lieu, montagne	0.0082%
Topic 10	chose, gens, personne, temps, maniere, raison, fois, monde, moyen, main	0.3993%
Topic 11	abbe, prieur, chanoine, abbaye, archeveque, projet, academie, eveque, cardinal, moine	0.0365%
Topic 12	rente, capital, interet, emprunt, arrerage, fonds, remboursement, contrat, argent, rentier	0.1332%
Topic 13	peuple, nation, representant, temps, interet, ennemi, moyen, francais, bonheur, besoin	0.1228%
Topic 14	culture, labour, recolte, fumier, engrais, terrain, herbe, plante, agriculture, bestial	0.0805%
Topic 15	officier, soldat, service, grade, garde, commandant, troupe, chef, solde, militaire	0.1535%
Topic 16	gout, poete, theatre, genie, talent, tableau, beaute, esprit, comedie, tragedie	0.1091%
Topic 17	soin, sorte, suite, besoin, caractere, dessein, secret, sens, reste, silence	0.0702%
Topic 18	vin, muid, tonneau, vigne, liqueur, pinte, raisin, pot, biere, cidre	0.1218%
Topic 19	art, agriculture, metier, coutume, industrie, artiste, invention, science, ecriture, nature	0.0305%
Topic 20	pension, secours, veuve, service, traitement, somme, titre, pensionnaire, tresorerie, gratification	0.0616%
Topic 21	apotre, ecriture, evangile, parole, chretien, charite, disciple, juif, foi, verite	0.0404%
Topic 22	tribunal, jugement, jure, cassation, accusation, delit, accusateur, procedure, jury, prevenu	0.0922%
Topic 23	eglise, eveque, cure, clerge, diocese, pretre, vicair, pasteur, eveche, fidele	0.1445%
Topic 24	empire, puissance, conquete, univers, capitale, diete, nation, domination, force, translation	0.0857%

**Figure 12** Sample of twenty-five topics (represented by the ten most important words in each topic) across all collections.

about its evolution throughout the 18th century, and identify which texts most accurately represent that particular topic (Figure 13). This mode of navigation therefore connects texts through their shared themes, again allowing users to constitute their own research corpus made up of texts that might otherwise remain disconnected or overlooked.

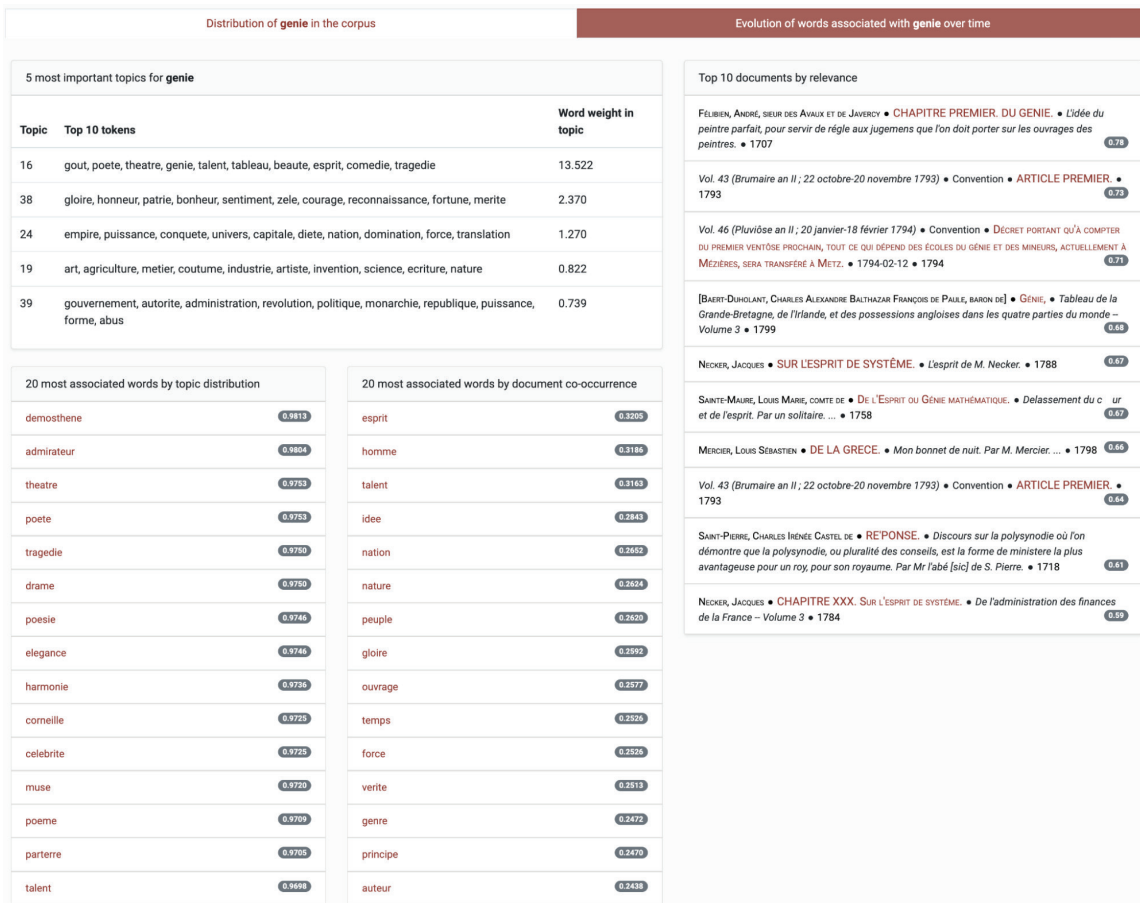
The last tab focuses on word usage throughout the 18th-century period from two unique and insightful perspectives. The first perspective looks into the general trends around individual word usage across the entire Intertextual Hub. This includes a listing of the topics in which words appear most frequently, as



**Figure 13** Representation of topic 16 across all collections: on the left-hand side are the most important words in that topic; the chart at top right shows the evolution of that topic's importance in the corpus across the 18th century; the bottom middle display shows which other topics evolve in a similar fashion across the century; the list at bottom right shows the texts in which this topic features most prominently.

well as words that exhibit similar usage patterns (Figure 14). By contrast, the second perspective examines the evolution of individual words over time by analysing the shifting associations these words have with other words throughout the period, thereby revealing the dynamic nature of language and the evolution of concepts (Figure 15). By providing these complementary views on word usage, the Intertextual Hub offers users a more comprehensive understanding of the linguistic landscape and the unfolding of ideas across our diverse collections.

While these entry points are designed to help researchers narrow their focus around a set of interconnected texts, one crucial aspect that they also share is the way in which they redirect back to the



**Figure 14** Representation of the word 'genie' across all collections: the top left shows the topics in which the word occurs most prominently, the right-hand side shows the documents in which the word is most important, and the bottom left section presents two different measures of strongly correlated words.

original texts themselves. Clicking on a text link presents users with two choices. The first option takes them to the text itself, where they can engage with our innovative close reading experience, which will be explained in the next section. The second option offers a topical interpretation of the text, breaking down the topics found within it and identifying other texts considered similar based on their topical composition and shared vocabulary (Figure 16). By providing these different options, the Intertextual Hub again enables users to explore texts and their relationships from multiple angles, enriching their overall research experience.





Figure 15 Evolution of the word 'genie' across the 18th century.

## Close reading in an interconnected web of relationships

As mentioned above, when users opt to navigate to the text itself – referred to as ‘Reading the text’ in the user interface – they are led to what is perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Intertextual Hub: our guided reading interface. Ultimately, all of the distant reading techniques offered in the Hub eventually lead to the reading experience, where researchers are able to corroborate the suggestive patterns unearthed by the computational methods through active, engaged reading. However, what sets our platform apart from other digital humanities tools, and what truly fulfils our goal of creating an interconnected experience between close and distant reading perspectives, is the additional context we provide within the reading experience itself.

By leveraging the intertextual algorithms that fuel our distant reading approach, users who navigate to the reading interface are immediately presented with a list of other texts that bear semantic similarities to the text displayed on the page (Figure 17), as well as any potential shared passages found in other texts.





**Figure 16** Distant reading perspective on chapter 8 of Louis-Sébastien Mercier's *Du théâtre, ou, Nouvel essai sur l'art dramatique*: the top sections show the most prominent topics found in this text, and the most important words present in the text. The bottom section offers two different measures of document similarity.

These could be instances where a passage from the text at hand has been reused by later authors (Figure 18), or where it borrows passages from earlier works (Figures 19 and 20). Returning to our earlier example of *Le Pot au noir*, Figures 19 and 20 show how the Intertextual Hub gives a quick overview of its deeply intertextual nature. Having the reused passages highlighted within the running text allows readers to visualise how this particular text was assembled. Researchers can even investigate if the reused sections have been altered from the original text by clicking on any individual reuse (Figure 21). Of course, texts are not thematic monoliths, and researchers may be interested in identifying related texts based on a small fragment of text only, such as a few sentences, or a paragraph. Recognising this need to explore thematic connections at a more granular level, the Intertextual Hub also lets users select a specific passage within the reading interface to identify texts that closely align with the chosen excerpt (Figure 22).



**Text reuses**

**Similar documents**

**Text reuses**

20 most similar documents (top 5 displayed):

- GUDIN DE LA BRIENNERIE, PAUL-PHILIPPE • SIXIEME EFFET DE CETTE CONSTITUTION. IMPARTIALITE DANS LES JUGEMENTS. DOUCEUR DES LOIX CRIMINELLES. CAUSE DE L'ESPRIT PUBLIC DE LA FELICITE NATIONALE. • *Essai sur l'histoire des comices de Rome, des Etats-Généraux de la France, et du Parlement d'Angleterre. ...* Par M. \*\*\*. • 1789
- BODIN, JEAN • CHAPITRE IV. DE LA JUSTICE CRIMINELLE. • *Abrégé de la République de Bodin. ...* • 1755
- GUÉNEAU DE MONTBÉLIARD, PHILIBERT, 1720-1785. • *Discours sur la peine de mort /* • 1790
- FRANCE. ETATS GÉNÉRAUX. • *Dénonciation de la peine de mort : aux États généraux ; [motto: 7 lines]* • 1789
- GOLDSMITH, OLIVER • CHAPITRE XXVII. CONTINUATION DU MÊME SUJET. • *Le curé de Wakefield. Traduit de l'Anglais, par M. J. B. Biset, ...* • 1796

[View all](#)

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To look up a word in a dictionary, select the word and press 'd' on your keyboard.  
To find documents similar to a particular passage, select the passage and press 's' on your keyboard.

< Table of contents >

LETTRE 80

--22--

Usûtek à Rhédi, à Venise. Depuis que je suis en Europe, mon cher Rhédi, j'ai vu bien des gouvernements : ce n'est pas comme en Asie, où les règles de la politique se trouvent par-tout les mêmes. J'ai souvent recherché quel étoit le gouvernement le plus conforme à la raison. Il m'a semblé que le plus parfait est celui qui va à son but à moins de frais ; de sorte que celui qui conduit les hommes de la manière qui convient le plus à leur penchant et à leur inclination est le plus parfait. Si, dans un gouvernement doux, le peuple est aussi soumis que dans un gouvernement sévère, le premier est préférable, puisqu'il est plus conforme à la raison, et que la sévérité est un motif étranger. Compte, mon cher Rhédi, que dans un état, les peines plus ou moins cruelles ne font pas que l'on obéisse plus aux loix. Dans les pays où les châtimens sont modérés, on les craint comme dans ceux où ils sont tyranniques et affreux. Soit que le gouvernement soit doux, soit qu'il soit cruel, on punit toujours par degrés ; on inflige un châtimement plus ou moins grand à un crime plus ou moins grand. L'imagination se pîe d'elle-même aux moeurs du pays où l'on est : huit jours de prison ou une légère amende frappent autant l'esprit d'un européen, nourri dans un pays de douceur,

**Figure 17** Lettre 80 from Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes*: the close reading interface suggests five similar texts based on semantic similarity.



Similar documents | **Text reuses**

View reuses in later texts

Reuses from these documents:

- Brissot de Warville, J.-P. (Jacques-Pierre) • *Théorie des loix criminelles* • 1781
- Le Scène-Desmaisons, Jacques • *Histoire politique de la Révolution en France, ou correspondance entre Lord D\*\*\* et Lord T\*\*\*...* • 1789
- Tallien, Jean-Lambert, 1767-2288. • *Theorie des peines capitales, ou, Abus et dangers de la peine de mort, et des tourmens : ouvrage présenté a l'Assemblée nationale /* • 1790
- *Réponse au citoyen qui a publié ses réflexions.* • 1790

To look up a word in a dictionary, select the word and press 'f' on your keyboard.  
To find documents similar to a particular passage, select the passage and press 's' on your keyboard.

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LETTRE 80

**Passage found in:**

BRISOT DE WARVILLE, J.-P. (JACQUES-PIERRE) • SECTION II. PRINCIPES PRÉLIMINAIRES SUR LES PEINES. • *Théorie des loix criminelles* • 1781

LE SCÈNE-DESMAISONS, JACQUES • LETTRE XLVI. • *Histoire politique de la Révolution en France, ou correspondance entre Lord D\*\*\* et Lord T\*\*\*...* • 1789

Click on passage to see reuse.

de la politique se trouvent par-tout les mêmes.

de frais ; de sorte que celui qui conduit les hommes de la maniere qui un gouvernement sévère, le premier est préférable, puisqu'il est plus font pas que l'on obéisse plus aux loix. Dans les pays où les châtimens à un crime plus ou moins grand. L'imagination se plie d'elle-même aux moeurs du pays où l'on est : huit jours de prison ou une légère amende frappent autant l'esprit d'un européen, nourri dans un pays de douceur, que la perte d'un

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bras intimide un asiatique. Ils attachent un certain degré de crainte à un certain degré de peine, et chacun la partage à sa façon : le désespoir de l'infamie vient désoler un français condamné à une peine qui n'ôteroit pas un quart-d'heure de sommeil à un turc.

D'ailleurs je ne vois pas que la police, la justice et l'équité soient mieux observées en Turquie, en Perse, chez le mogol, que dans les républiques de Hollande, de Venise, et dans l'Angleterre même; je ne vois pas qu'on y commette moins de crimes, et que les hommes, intimidés par la grandeur des châtimens, y soient plus soumis aux loix. Je remarque, au contraire, une source d'injustice et de vexations au milieu de ces mêmes états. Je trouve même le prince, qui est la loi même, moins maître que par-tout ailleurs.

Je vois que, dans ces momens rigoureux, il y a toujours des mouvemens tumultueux, où personne n'est le chef, et que, quand une fois l'autorité violente est méprisée, il n'en reste plus assez à personne pour la faire revenir; que le désespoir même de l'impunité confirme le désordre et le rend plus grand; que, dans ces états, il ne se forme point de petite révolte, et qu'il n'y a jamais d'intervalle entre le murmure et la sédition; qu'il ne faut point que les grands événemens y soient préparés par de grandes causes ; au contraire, le moindre accident produit une grande révolution, souvent aussi peu prévue de ceux qui la font, que de ceux qui la souffrent.

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Lorsqu'Osman, empereur des turcs, fut déposé, aucun de ceux qui commirent cet attentat ne songeoit à le commettre : ils demandoient seulement en supplians qu'on leur fit justice sur quelque grief; une voix, qu'on n'a jamais connue, sortit de la foule par hazard, le nom de Mustapha fut prononcé, et soudain Mustapha fut empereur. *De Paris, le 2 de la lune de Rebiab I, 1715.*

**Figure 18** Lettre 80 from Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes*: selecting the 'Text reuses' tab highlights reuses of this letter in later texts, and hovering over a highlighted passage (as seen in the figure) shows where the passage is reused.

In short, thanks to all the intertextual links gathered from distant reading methods, the close reading user interface completely transforms the process of traditional text analysis by instantly situating any reading within the historical and intellectual context of the period. In this paradigm, close reading is no longer conducted with each text in isolation, detached from its wider context. Instead, it is carried out in a dynamic space where relationships between texts, authors and ideas are constantly made evident, and where readers are guided towards new, intriguing avenues to explore based on their thematic interests. Our reading interface is a space where the broader context of a text comes alive, bringing to the fore interconnected literary or philosophical networks and sparking deeper insights into the cultural and intellectual currents of the period.

## Impact, limitations and future perspectives

The Intertextual Hub represents a significant milestone in 18th-century studies and the broader field of digital humanities. Its core ambition is to foster a deeply interconnected research experience by bridging the gap between close and distant reading techniques. In doing so, the platform aims to enhance our



## Reuses from these documents:

- Prévost, abbé • *Histoire générale des voyages, ou Nouvelle collection de toutes les relations de voyages par mer et par terre, qui ont été publiées jusqu'à présent dans les différentes langues de toutes les nations connues ... pour former un système complet d'histoire et de géographie moderne, qui représentera l'état actuel de toutes les nations: enrichi de cartes géographiques* – Volume 9 • 1746

Passages listed in order of occurrence in document:

- § V. Retour de l'Auteur aux Indes, après son Esclavage.: passage 1
  - § V. Retour de l'Auteur aux Indes, après son Esclavage.: passage 2
- Voltaire, 1694-1778. • *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie (A - B)* • 1752
- Passages listed in order of occurrence in document:
- Antiquité: passage 1
  - Agriculture: passage 2
  - Antiquité: passage 3
  - Antiquité: passage 4
- Voltaire, 1694-1778. • *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie (M - Z)* • 1752
- Passages listed in order of occurrence in document:
- Massacres: passage 1
- Voltaire, 1694-1778. • *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie (C - E)* • 1752
- Passages listed in order of occurrence in document:
- Convulsions: passage 1
  - Dieu: passage 2
- Helvétius, Claude Adrien, 1715-1771. • *De l'homme : de ses facultés intellectuelles et de son éducation* • 1771
- Passages listed in order of occurrence in document:
- SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 1
  - SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 14: passage 2
  - SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 14: passage 3
  - SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 14: passage 4
  - SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 5
  - SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 14: passage 6
  - SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 7
  - SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 8
  - SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 9
  - SECTION 1 NOTES: passage 10
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 20: passage 11
  - SECTION 2 NOTES: passage 12
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 16: passage 13
  - SECTION 4 CHAPITRE 18: passage 14
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 15
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 16
  - SECTION 4 CHAPITRE 18: passage 17
  - SECTION 4 CHAPITRE 19: passage 18
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 19
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 20
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 21
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 22
  - SECTION 4 NOTES: passage 23
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 18: passage 24
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 22: passage 25
  - SECTION 2 NOTES: passage 26
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 22: passage 27
  - SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 22: passage 28
  - SECTION 2 NOTES: passage 29

**Figure 19** Sources for all reuses found in the pamphlet *Le Pot au noir* (screenshot does not show the complete list of passages from *De l'homme*).

understanding of the vast corpus of texts from the 18th-century period, bringing to light the complex web of intellectual exchanges that shaped this critical era. Through its integration of computational methods with traditional humanities research practices, the Hub embodies the potential of digital tools to enrich scholarly inquiry, perhaps offering a model for how digital humanities can bring fresh insights and methods to the study of historical texts and periods.

Of course, like all tools, the Intertextual Hub has its limitations, which in turn provide several potential avenues for future development. For instance, while the platform excels at bringing together texts through shared passages, ideas or themes, it is unable to analyse such sub-corpora on their own, isolated from the rest of the Hub, a process which could perhaps reveal deeper connections between texts. Additionally, while the Hub currently focuses on 18th-century French texts, expanding the scope to include other periods,





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faire? Les Capucins aîtrémbiés à cet effet it-éciderent qu en bois foupité , ou non foupité , l'on placeroit des images dans les églises , qu'on s'agenouilleroit devant elles , comme devant celles du Très-Haut ; que les figures extérieures de l'adoration seroient les mêmes pour L'ÉTERNEL ses favoris ; qu'enfin lio- notés par nos chrétiens de grands - peres 9 comme les Pénales les Fétiches par les payons éc les sauages , St. Nicolas en Mos- copie ( par exemple ) ; St. Janvier à Naples, auroient plus de considération , attireroient plus de reprend que Dielt lui-même.

AinC qu'il fut dit , fut fait \ 6c c&C: sur ce chapitre que font fondées les accusations portées contre les églises Grecque «Si Latine, i C&f: à la déjnière sur-tout qu'on doit le ré-1 établissement du FétichGne. r AinG , la- France a, dans Saint-Denis une fétiche nationale^ dans Ste. Genevieve une fé- riche de la capitale; il n'est point de com- minuté ni de citoyens qui, fous le nom de Biaise ^ àQ Claude 9 ou de Martin y n'ait encore fon t&ic&he particulière.

Point de ruses, de mensonges, de préftiges, ^abus de confiance , de crimes, de scélérat- tiffes , enfin de moyens criminels , vils bas ,

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que les prêtres, Tans oublier les moines, âufH notre St\* pere nos i&igmeurs les évêques , nos abbés n'ayent employés pour fe satisf&aire s'enrichir:

Les capitulaires , recueillis par Baluze , t. li. , nous instruisent de la man&ère dont autrefois les capucins leurs confrères parvinrent en France à fe faire payer la dime donner l'aumone.

« Ils firent descendre du ciel une lettre de Jesus-Christi. Par cette lettre? \q Sauveur nace les payens ? les forc&ers 6c ceux qui ne payent pas la dime aux curés ^ ou ne donnent pas la carijlade aux Capucins ? de frapper leurs champs de férité, d^envoyer dans leurs maisons des serpens all&es ^ pour dévorer les tettons de leurs femmes ».

Cette première lettre n'ayant point réuni^ les capucins , les évêques les curés ont recours au diable : ils le produisent ( voyez les mêmes capitulaires. T. I. ) dans une assemblée de la nation , le diable , devenu tout-à coup apôtre millionnaire 9 y prend a coeur le salut des François. Il tâche de les rappeler k leur devoir par des châtimens salutaires.

« Ouvrez enfin les yeux, disoient le cierge les capucins , le diable lui-même est l'auteur de la dernière famine : lui-même a dévoré les grains dans les épis; redoutez fa faveur.

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« Au milieu des campagnes, il a déclaré par des hurlemens affreux qu'il exerceroit les plus cruels châtimens sur les chrétiens endurecis qui BOUS refuse&it la canlade la dime a.

Tant d'impostures de la part du clergé des capucins prouvent qu'au tems de chars^ mague les vieillards qui étoient sottement pieux , étoient les seuls qui payassent la dime la carijlade.

Dans la supposition que le Clergé les Capucins eussent le droit de lever la carijlade la dime, ces fripons n'eussent point eu recours suc- pensivement à Dieu au Diable.

Ce fait m'en rappelle un autre de la même espece i c est le sermon d'un Curé ou d'un Capucin (n importe) sur le même fuj&et

« O mes cheres ouailles , dllo&h-U ^ ne fuivess » point l'exemple de Cain ^ mais bien celui dut » bon Ah&eli Cain ne vouloir jamais payer la

dime^ ni aller à la messe : Ah&el^ au contraire y i& la payoit , étoit bien ^0/2/ ) toujours

s» du plus beau du meilleur , il ne faiUoU ^ pas un seul jour d'ouir la messe 3 ^ . Ah ! le bon 'Ah&eli ah! le bon pere, ah ! le vieux bon foti ses enfans re&tembieront-ils toujours a leur bon diki\ Set:Qn^U é&ermelem&em suffi bl&ei

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que lui ? C'est une question que je vous h&ilite à décider , ami leveur !

Grotius f1 Hollaudois , dit an fuite des dimes donations , que U scrupule de Tibere , pour f&icep&tr de tels dons , devoit Faire honte auQ moines^

M&is^ fauf&ref&e&: pour votre Majesté, Monsieur Tibere y permettez que je vous demande it les moines ont jamais eu de la honte, s'ils ont une fois rougi en leur vie , eux, pendant qu'ils font ! qui dépucellent nos filles conf&ent nos femmes.

Je ne crois pas que dans toute l' Europe , il y ait un seul homme d'Etat, un seul homme, un peu verse dans les affaires du monde, qui n'ait le plus profond mépris pour toutes les lé- genres des Papes pour toutes les barbes des Capucins ; qui ne leve les épaules, en num&- rant les Tommes, énormes que des cr&nes micrés ou tonduis l&vent sur les peuples dans les États Papifles. Il est des Royaumes Catholiques où l on compte a- peu-pre^ l^ooo couvens, 12,000 prieur&es, 15000 chapelles, 1300 Abbayes, yooQo prêtres employés à desservir 4/000 paroisses , \* ou l'on compte , en outre , une infinité d Abbés, de Seminariffes d'Eccl&ésiastiques de toute espece» Leur nombre total compose au

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Kioins celui de 300^000 hommes l Leur dépen&e suffiroit à l'entretien d une marine d'une armée de terre formidable.

**Figure 20** Part of the pamphlet *Le Pot au noir* with the passages that represent reuses in red: these passages are for the most part based on *De l'homme*, with a short extract from Voltaire's article 'Dieu' in the *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie*.



Earlier Use	Later use
<p>HELVETIUS, CLAUDE ADRIEN, 1715-1771. • SECTION 1 NOTES • De l'homme : de ses facultés intellectuelles et de son éducation • 1771</p> <p>See all reuses in current text in document</p>	<p>Le pot au noir : [motto: 2 lines] • 1788</p> <p>See all reuses in current text in document</p>
<p>on dira d'abord du bien parce qu'on n'en pensera point, parce qu'il n'excitera point l'envie, ne blessera l'orgueil de personne, et ne répétera que ce que tout le monde sait. L'éloge général et du moment est presque toujours exclusif de l'éloge à venir. 5 Le scholastique, dit le proverbe anglois, n'est qu'un pur âne, qui n'ayant ni la douceur du vrai chrétien, ni la raison du philosophe, ni l'affabilité du courtisan, n'est qu'un objet ridicule. 6 Quelle est la science des scholastiques? Celle d'abuser des mots et d'en rendre la signification incertaine. C'étoit par la vertu de certains mots barbares; qu'autrefois les magiciens édificioient, détruisoient les châteaux enchantés ou du moins leur apparence . Les scholastiques, héritiers de la puissance des anciens magiciens, ont, par la vertu de certains mots inintelligibles, pareillement donné l'apparence d'une science aux plus absurdes rêveries. S'il est un moyen de détruire leurs enchantements, c'est de leur demander la signification</p> <p>Hide differences</p>	<p>ne pourroient remplir qu'aidés du secours des théologiens } Si les odeurs conviennent de ces vérités, leur fort est décidé, leur feotence efi: portée , il fauç qu'ils marchent à la charrue, La théologie est contraire à l'esprit de DIEÜ, Un théologien , dit le proverbe Anglois , n'est qu'un pur âne , qui n'ayant ni la douceur du vrai chrétien , ni la raison du philosophe , ni l'affabilité du courtisan , n'est qu'un objet ridicule. Quelle est la science des Théologiens ? Celiç d'abuser des mots êc d'en rendre la lignification €ertaine. C'étoit par k vertu de certain? mots 77 ^ I barbares qu -autrefois les magiciens édflfoient , traitoient des châteaux enchante's , ou du moins leur apparence . Les hommes n-ont pu imaginer cette science barbare qu'on appelle Théologie , que parce quels fe font méfiés des foins de la providence. Depuis dix-huit cents ans que l'on dispute dans les écoles de la foi-disant théologie , quel fruit a ^-on retiré des disputes</p>

**Figure 21** Viewing differences between the source passage and its subsequent reuse: sections in green in the source have been removed in the reuse, and sections in darker red in the reuse are additions to the original passage.



To look up a word in a dictionary, select the word and press 'd' on your keyboard.  
To find documents similar to a particular passage, select the passage and press 's' on your keyboard.

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Documents similar to highlighted passage

20 most similar documents:

- LOCKE, JOHN • CHAPITRE X. DE LA FACULTÉ DE RETENIR SES IDÉES. • *Abregé de l'essai de Monsieur Locke, sur l'entendement humain, traduit de l'anglois par Mr. Bosset.* • 1741
- HELVÉTIUS, CLAUDE ADRIEN, 1715-1771. • SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 4 • *De l'homme : de ses facultés intellectuelles et de son éducation* • 1771
- HOLBACH, PAUL HENRI THIRY, BARON D', 1723-1789. • SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 3 • *La morale universelle, ou, Les devoirs de l'homme fondés sur sa nature.* • 1776
- HELVÉTIUS, CLAUDE ADRIEN, 1715-1771. • DISCOURS 1 CHAPITRE 1 • *De l'esprit.* • 1758
- QUESNAY, FRANÇOIS • DEUXIÈME PARTIE. • *Aspect de la psychologie. L'ame est une substance, qui a la propriété de sentir; la propriété de sentir, est la propriété radicale de toutes les affections facultés de lame* • 1760
- CONDILLAC, ETIENNE BONNOT DE, 1714-1780. • CHAPITRE 5 • *Traité des animaux* • 1755
- CACAULT DE LA MIMARDIÈRE, ÉLISABETH • TROISIÈME DIALOGUE. DE L'ESPRIT. • *Dialogues raisonnés d'Hortense de Julie, sur les principes fondamentaux de la sagesse, ou philosophie morale, autres sujets ... Par Mademoiselle Cacaault de la Mimardière, ...* • 1785
- HELVÉTIUS, CLAUDE ADRIEN, 1715-1771. • SECTION 2 CHAPITRE 2 • *De l'homme : de ses facultés intellectuelles et de son éducation* • 1771
- EULER, LEONHARD • LETTRE CIX. • *Lettres à une princesse d'Allemagne sur divers sujets de physique et de philosophie.* • 1775
- LA METTRIE, JULIEN OFFRAY DE • §. X. DE LA MÉMOIRE. • *Histoire naturelle de l'ame, traduite de l'anglois de M. Charp. par feu M. H\*\*\* de l'Académie des Sciences,* • 1747
- DESTUTT DE TRACY, ANTOINE LOUIS CLAUDE, COMTE, 1754-1836. • CHAPITRE 2 • *Mémoire sur la faculté de penser* • 1798
- DUTENS, L. (LOUIS) • LETTRE PREMIÈRE. • *Lettres à Monsieur D. B. sur la réfutation du livre de l'esprit d'Helvétius, par J.J. Rousseau, avec quelques lettres de ces deux auteurs.* • 1779
- EULER, LEONHARD • LETTRE LXXXI. • *Lettres à une princesse d'Allemagne sur divers sujets de physique et de philosophie.* • 1775
- DESTUTT DE TRACY, ANTOINE LOUIS CLAUDE, COMTE, 1754-1836. • CHAPITRE 4 • *Mémoire sur la faculté de penser* • 1798
- BRESSY, JOSEPH • §. I. DES SENS FACTICES. • *Recherches sur les vapeurs. Par M. Bressy, ...* • 1789
- CONDILLAC, ETIENNE BONNOT DE, 1714-1780. • PARTIE 3 CHAPITRE 11 • *Traité des sensations* • 1754
- HOLBACH, PAUL HENRI THIRY, BARON D', 1723-1789. • SECTION 1 CHAPITRE 11 • *La morale universelle, ou, Les devoirs de l'homme fondés sur sa nature.* • 1776
- PLUQUET, FRANÇOIS-ANDRÉ-ADRIEN • SECTION II. DES EFFETS ESSENTIELS DU LUXE SUR LE CUR HUMAN. • *Traité philosophique et politique sur le luxe – Volume 1* • 1786
- VOLTAIRE, 1694-1778. • FACULTÉ • *Questions sur l'Encyclopédie (F - L)* • 1752
- CITOYEN DU MONDE • CHAP. XVI. DU JUGEMENT. • *Nuances de la vérité. Par un citoyen du monde.* • 1775

je me rappelle l'image d'un chêne ; alors mes organes intérieurs doivent nécessairement se trouver à peu près dans la même situation où ils étoient à la vue de ce chêne. Or cette situation des organes doit incontestablement produire une sensation : il est donc évident que se ressouvenir, c'est sentir. Ce principe posé, je dis encore que c'est dans la capacité que nous avons d'appercevoir les ressemblances ou les différences, les convenances ou les disconvenances qu'ont entr'eux les objets divers, que consistent toutes les opérations de l'esprit. Or cette capacité n'est que la sensibilité physique même : tout se réduit donc à sentir.

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Pour nous assurer de cette vérité, considérons la nature. Elle nous présente des objets, ces objets ont des rapports avec nous et des rapports entr'eux; la connaissance de ces rapports forme ce qu'on appelle l'esprit : il est plus ou moins grand, selon que nos connaissances en ce genre sont plus ou moins étendues. L'esprit humain s'éleve jusqu'à la connaissance de ces rapports ; mais ce sont des bornes qu'il ne franchit jamais. Ainsi tous les mots qui composent les diverses langues, et qu'on neut regarder comme la collection des signes de toutes les pensées des hommes, nous rappellent ou des images, tels sont les mots, chêne, océan

**Figure 22** Most similar documents to the following passage, which is highlighted in the text behind the pop-up: 'Nous avons en nous deux facultés, ou, si je l'ose dire, deux puissances passives, dont l'existence est généralement et distinctement reconnue. L'une est la faculté de recevoir les impressions différentes que font sur nous les objets extérieurs; on la nomme sensibilité physique. L'autre est la faculté de conserver l'impression que ces objets ont faite sur nous; on l'appelle mémoire: et la mémoire n'est autre chose qu'une sensation continuée, mais affoiblie.' (Helvétius, *De l'esprit*, 1758)

and perhaps to other languages,<sup>22</sup> could greatly enhance its value as a research tool. As the field of digital humanities continues to evolve and mature, and as new strides are made within the realm of computational methods for text analysis, it will be exciting to see how platforms like the Intertextual Hub develop and adapt to better serve the ever-evolving needs of researchers.

<sup>22</sup> The advent of large multilingual language models is rapidly making sophisticated cross-lingual analysis a tangible possibility. However, it is important to recognise that the currently accessible multilingual language models, often available via the Hugging Face hub (<https://huggingface.co/>), may not be as advanced as the as-yet-unreleased models developed by companies such as OpenAI or Google. Therefore, the availability of sophisticated open-source cross-lingual textual analytics is highly dependent on the continued availability of newer and more performant models.



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