

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY—WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HIST 490/507: Digital Methods in History

Network Analysis Activity

For this activity, we will be using a tutorial dataset shared by Tom Brughmans. This dataset was created as part of the ICRATES database of tablewares in the Roman East. You can find further information about Vistorian, as well as the Brughmans and Bach Vistorian tutorial that the dataset was produced for [HERE](#).

Network Data

1. Download a copy of the Vistorian Tutorial Locations and Network Edges files from Canvas (in “Files” and in the “Activities”). The files can also be located [HERE](#).
2. Open the two files and explore the data. What kinds of information is recorded? How is the data organized? (ESB refers to the [Eastern Sigillata B](#) pottery style, and ESC is the [Eastern Sigillata C](#) style)
3. Save a copy of each of these tables as CSV files

Network Visualization with Vistorian

4. Open the Vistorian website: <https://vistorian.github.io/vistorian/>
5. Select “Visualize Your Data”
6. Click on the “New Network” button and select the option to “Upload a New Network”
7. Choose a name for your trial network
8. Select “Table Format” for your data and click “Next”
9. To upload the network, open or drag the “Vistorian_network” file onto the page to upload
10. Select “No” for question 2 (e.g., are the links directed)
11. For question 3, select the following column for each field:
 - a. Node 1 id – “From”
 - b. Node 2 id – “To”

- c. Link id – select nothing
 - d. Location of Node 1 – “Source_Location”
 - e. Location of Node 2 – “Target_Location”
 - f. Link Weight – “Weight”
 - g. Link Type – “Type”
12. For question 4, select “Yes”, the links are associated with time. For the “Time” field, select the “Period” column. Specify the temporal format to be %Y by clicking edit, deleting the current date format and writing %Y instead
 13. After clicking “Next”, you will have the opportunity to upload the location file “Vistorian_locations”. Select the following columns for each field:
 - a. Place Name – “Node_Name”
 - b. Latitude – “Latitude” → first value is 40.933...
 - c. Longitude – “Longitude” → first value is 24.973...
 14. After clicking “Next”, select “No” when asked whether there is a separate file for node type
 15. Review the uploaded information, and if it looks correct, select “Next”
 16. Select the “Node Link Map” (the last option)
 17. Drag the map view to center the network in view. Explore the node locations and tie connections. Zoom in and out of different regions and play with the various filters at the top of the screen. Record your observations (these will also be added to the Network Worksheet). What do you note about the network and this visualization? Are there any questions or issues that you see?
 18. Once you have explored this visualization and noted your observations, select “Return to Data View”
 19. On the left side of the window, you should see your network listed under “My Networks”. Click the “Vis” option to create a second visualization. Choose the “Node Link Diagram” (the first option). Explore the network (zooming in and out, changing the filter settings, clicking on different nodes to show their “ego-network”). Examine the node locations and tie connections and record your observations (these will also be added to the Network Worksheet). What do you note about the network and this visualization? Are there any questions or issues that you see? Does it relay any new information that the previous visualization did not? Are their aspects that are less clear than the previous visualization?
 20. Once you have explored this visualization, repeat steps 18 and 19 with a third visualization style of your choice. Record your observations on the Network Worksheet.