The Consecrated Literary Network:
Using Archival Metadata to Construct
Literary Networks from the National
Library of Australia

Dr. Beth McLean (University of
Melbourne) & Fiannuala Morgan (PhD
Candidate, ANU)

https://github.com/Finnoscarmorgan/Archive_Network

'Very Hungry Caterpillar' roof repairs at the National Library of Australia attract attention

Broadcast Thu 28 Jul 2022 at 5:30am

'There is one thing that all networks, however, have in common: they are always connective. They do not rely on powerful models of rootedness or nativity but on contiguity and conjunction, on distance and accidental ties as well as close ones. To focus on the network as a form is to articulate points of contact and connectedness, rather than to take these for granted.'

Caroline Levine, 'From Nation to Network', *Victorian Studies* 55.4

- **Research Focus**:
  - <u>Analysing presentation of archives as catalog records, not historical relations or archive contents.</u>
- **Primary Objective**:
  - Emphasis on presenting archives as catalog records.
  - Catalog records as crucial for declaring and retrieving archival material.
- **Complex Access Process**:
  - Archival collections inaccessible to the public.
  - Access involves reading Finding-Aids.
  - Negotiating access terms and bureaucracy.
- **'Opening Up' the Archive**:
  - Recent interest in Design and Digital Humanities.
  - Aims to address access constraints.
  - Generous Interfaces and critical use of meta-data to improve institutional practices.

Research Questions:

- What is the 'archival extent' (size in metres) of each archive, and how can this provide insight into questions of cultural significance and value?
- How can we measure significance in the archives based on connections between different archives?
- How does this process provide a critical position from which to interrogate questions of cultural significance?
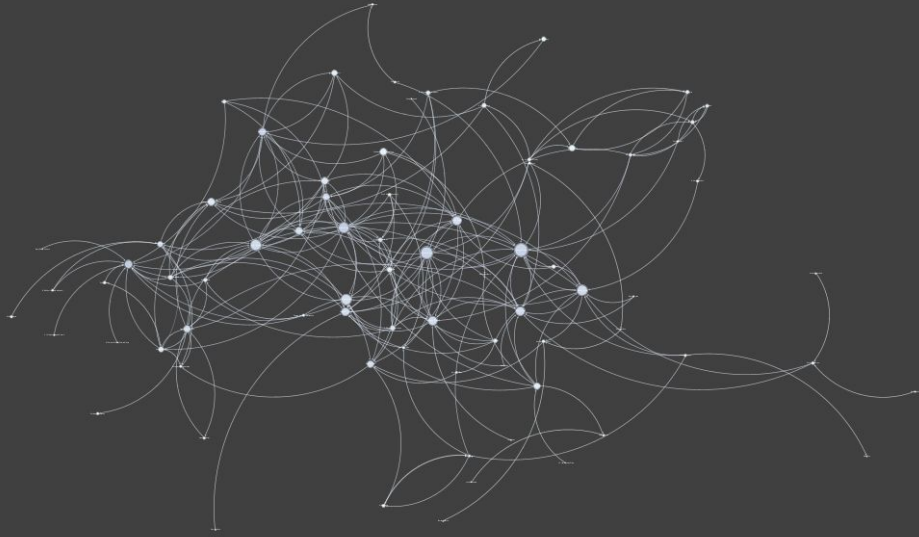
Network analysis is a powerful method for studying relationships and connections within complex systems. It involves visualising and analysing the links (edges) between various entities (nodes) to reveal patterns, structures, and insights that might not be apparent at first glance.

Nodes: Represent entities such as people, organisations, or data points.

Edges: Depict connections, relationships, or interactions between nodes.

Papers, 1967-1969 [manuscript]

|	
Bib ID	2074597
Format	📄 **Manuscript**
Author	Clift, Charmian, 1923-1969
Access Conditions	**Available for reference. Not for loan.**
Description	1967-1969 2 cm.
Summary	Literary typescripts including: 'The End of the morning' - Nd., 47 leaves. 'Greener grows the grass' -ca. 1969. 'The Minor mishap' - 1968/69, 1 leaf. 'Charmian Clift' -1968?, 3 leaves. 'End of the Morning' and 'Greener grows the grass' are two portions of an autobiographical novel that Clift was working on shortly before her death. (See: Gary Kinnane, "George Johnston: a biography", Melbourne, 1986, pp. 77-80.) Also includes three letters to June Crooke from Clift, 1967-1968, and one letter to Crooke from George Johnston, November 1967. (Crooke was the wife of the painter Ray Crooke).
Biography/History	Charmian Clift was a journalist and author who was married to a novelist George Johnston, with whom she collaborated on a number of literary projects.
Notes	Manuscript reference no. : NLA MS 7839.
Related Material	Associated material: Additional papers are held in National Library of Australia Manuscript Section at MS 5027.
Subjects	Crooke, June -- Correspondence. | Clift, Charmian, 1923-1969 -- Archives. | Johnston, George, 1912-1970 -- Correspondence. | Authors, Australian -- 20th century -- Archives.
Time Coverage	1967-1969
Occupation	Authors
Other authors/contributors	Johnston, George, 1912-1970

Catalogue entry for Charmian Clift at The National Library of Australia

```json
},
"Letters from Christina Stead to Margaret Hanks and Percia Stead, 1938-1982 [manuscript]": {
    "Bib ID": "1357743",
    "Format": "Manuscript,  Online – Google Books",
    "Author": "Stead, Christina, 1902-1983",
    "Access Conditions": "Available for research. Not for loan.",
    "Description": "[1938-1982]\u00a0\n0.06 m (2 folders)",
    "Summary": "The collection comprises letters from Christina Stead to her niece Margaret Ha
    "Biography/History": "Novelist and short-story writer. Further biographical information av
    "Notes": "Manuscript reference no. : MS 8477.",
    "Subjects": "Stead, Christina, 1902-1983 -- Archives. \u00a0|\u00a0 Stead, Christina, 1902
    "Time Coverage": "1938-1982",
    "Occupation": "Authors.",
    "Terms of Use": "Copying permitted for research purposes.",
    "ORGANIZATION": [],
    "LOCATION": [],
    "PERSON": [
        "Christina Stead",
        "Margaret Hanks",
        "Percia Stead",
        "Christina Stead",
        "Rodney Wetherell"
    ]
},
```

Example of metadata and format retrieved from NLA Catalogue

- 974 archives harvested from the NLA
- 4444 different individuals mentioned in the catalogue metadata
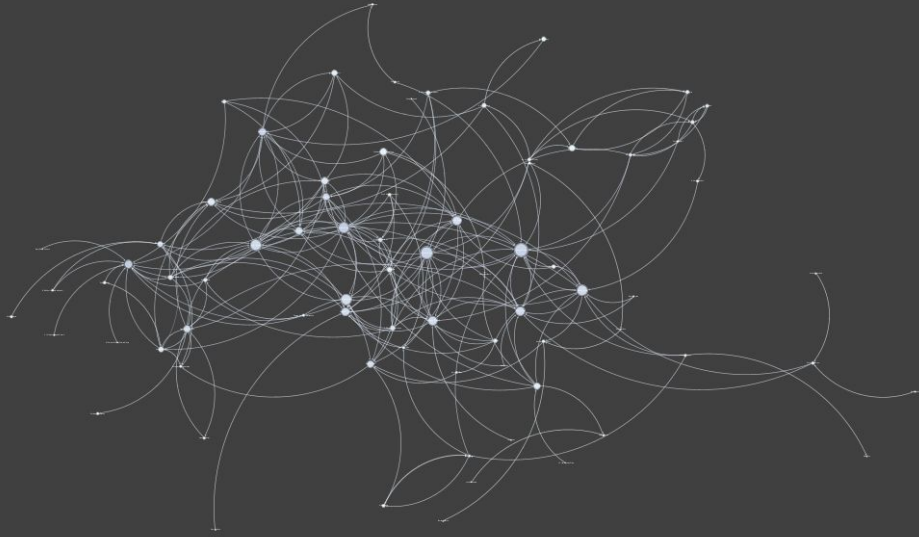- 6094 entries in final database

Size Matters
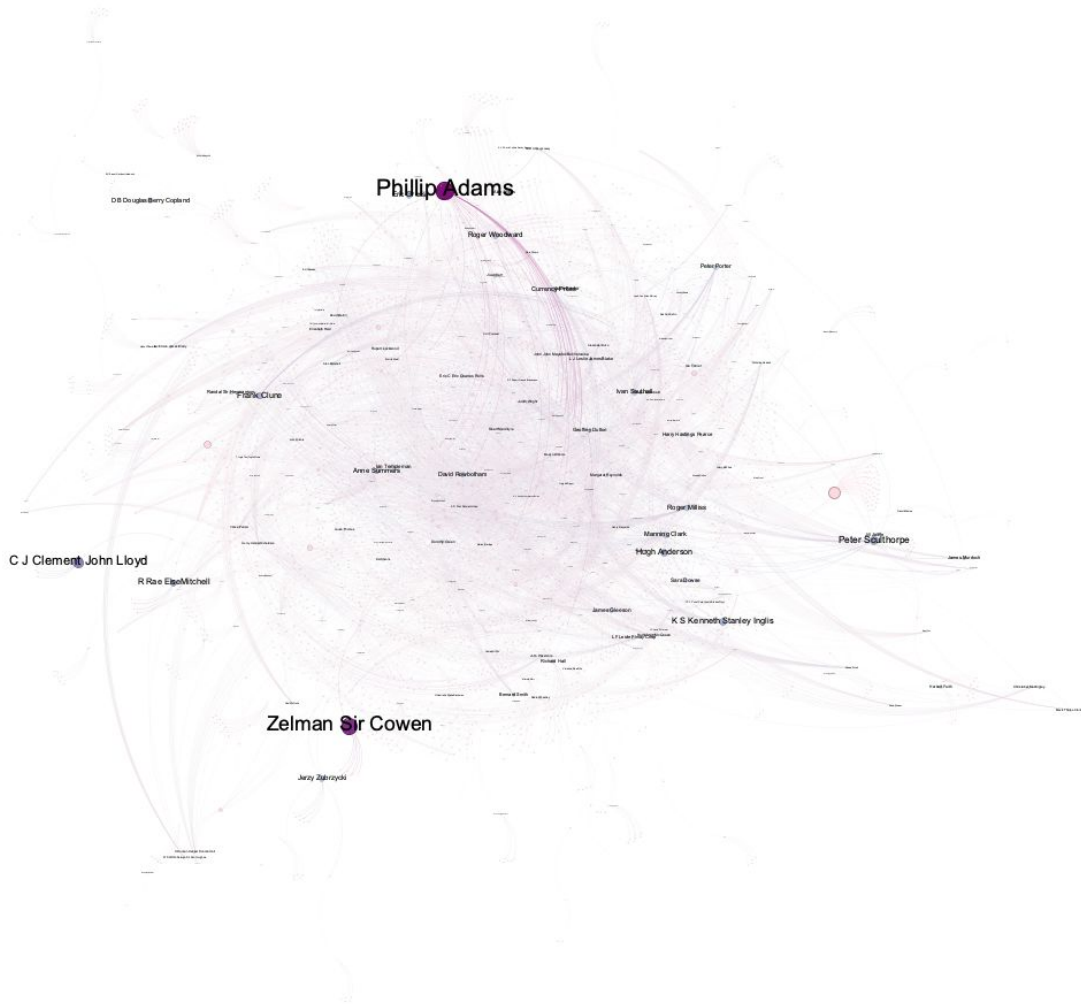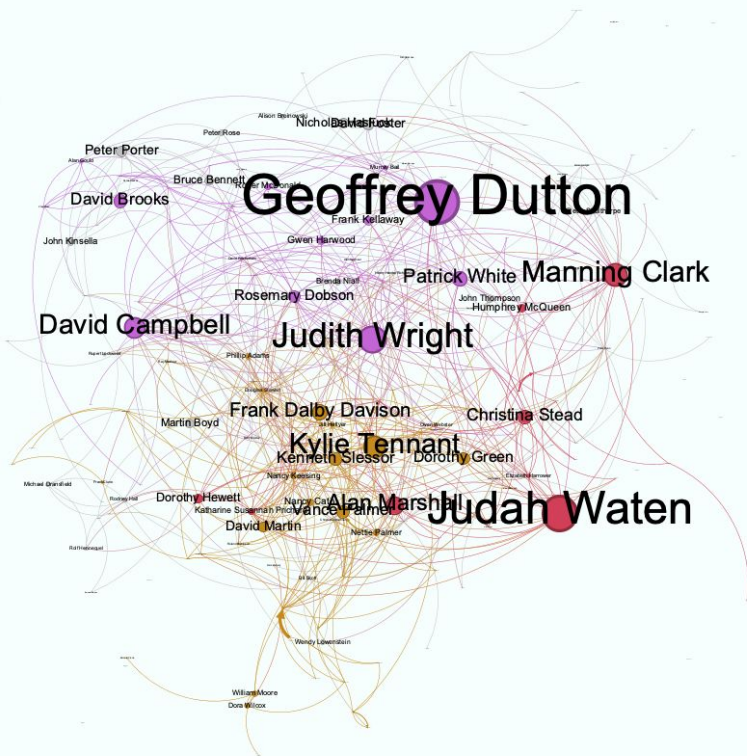
Betweenness centrality is a key concept in network analysis that measures the importance of a node (or sometimes an edge) in a network based on its ability to act as a bridge or intermediary between other nodes.

It quantifies the extent to which a node lies on the shortest paths between other pairs of nodes in the network. Nodes with high betweenness centrality play a critical role in maintaining connectivity within a network.
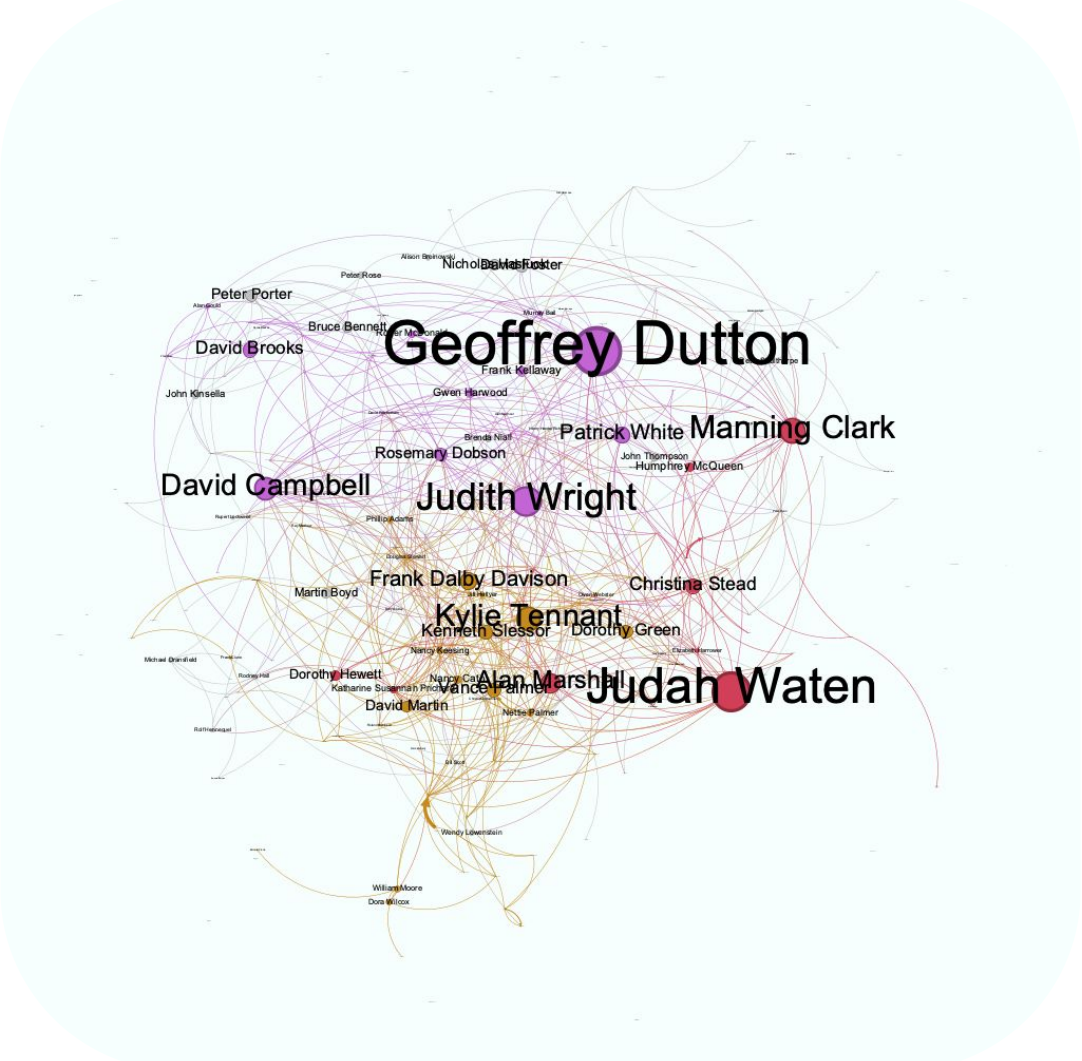
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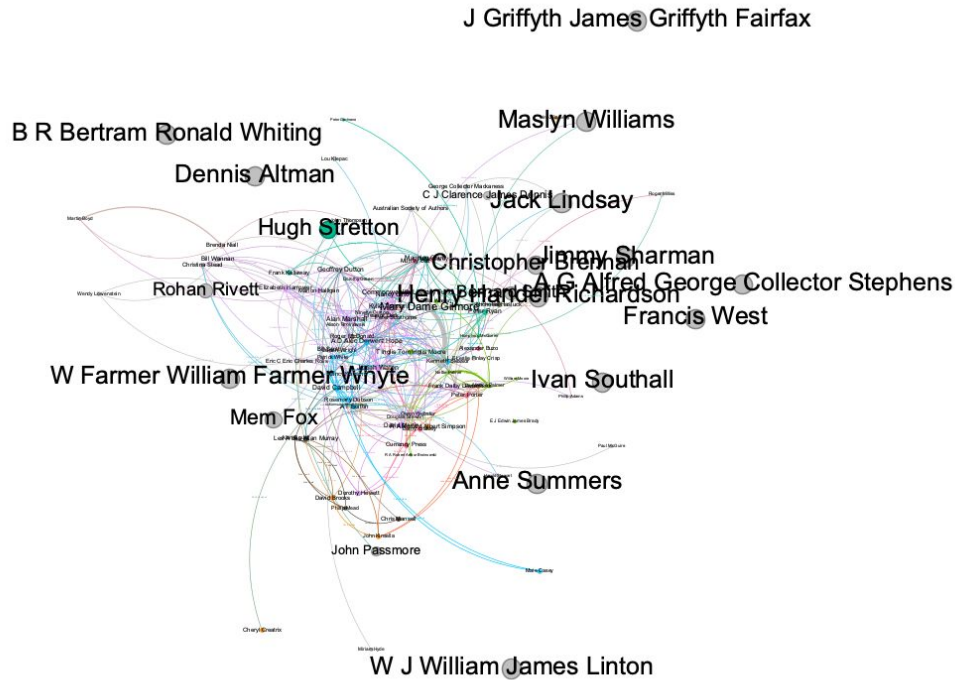
Closeness centrality can be a useful metric for identifying individuals or entities with the potential for greater influence in social networks. Those with high closeness centrality can spread their influence more effectively because they are well-connected to others.