

Appraising Professional Networks

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Abstract: This poster will explore the application of social network analysis tools to the appraisal of a research community, and its use in identifying individuals from whom to solicit professional papers. While the contributions of individual faculty members can be quantified and reviewed in a variety of ways, network analysis provides a useful approach for assessing the contributions of scholars in terms of their connections with researchers. Using the faculty of a university department as a case study, the poster will consider how visualizing networks might be used as additional metrics in a professional papers program or subject-based archive to select which faculty members to solicit for donations.

About the Author:

Cory Nimer is the University Archivist at Brigham Young University, and a member of the university's professional papers program staff. He has previously worked at BYU as a technical services archivist and supervisor of the processing unit. His research interests include archival description, finding aid presentation, and the history of archives and libraries in Utah. Cory holds an MA degree in History from Sonoma State University and an MLIS degree from San José State University.