

Archival Description and Network Analysis

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Abstract:

Recent advances in automation, archival authority work, and linked data technologies provide archivists and researchers with new opportunities to visualize finding aid content. Projects such as the Emory's work on the Belfast Group, or the Social Networks and Archival Context Project (SNAC), demonstrate the possibilities for exploring archival social networks through enhanced archival description. However, using existing descriptive surrogates as the basis for such projects may limit the utility and accuracy of such visualizations. This poster will explore the impact of archival and library descriptive practice on network analysis, comparing multiple graphs for a defined group of Utah historians produced from data taken from biographical research, finding aid harvesting, expanded indexing of archival collections, and bibliographic references.

About the Author:

Cory Nimer is the University Archivist at Brigham Young University. He has previously worked at BYU as a technical services archivist and supervisor of the processing unit. His 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.