

Putting *Local* Metadata to Strategic Use: Visualizing 50 Years of NCF Theses with *ThesisLink*



Jane Bancroft Cook

LIBRARY

CAL MURGU
Digital Humanities Librarian
New College of Florida
cmurgu@ncf.edu

ATALAY KUTLAY
Digital Scholarship Student
Assistant
New College of Florida
atalay.kutlay18@ncf.edu

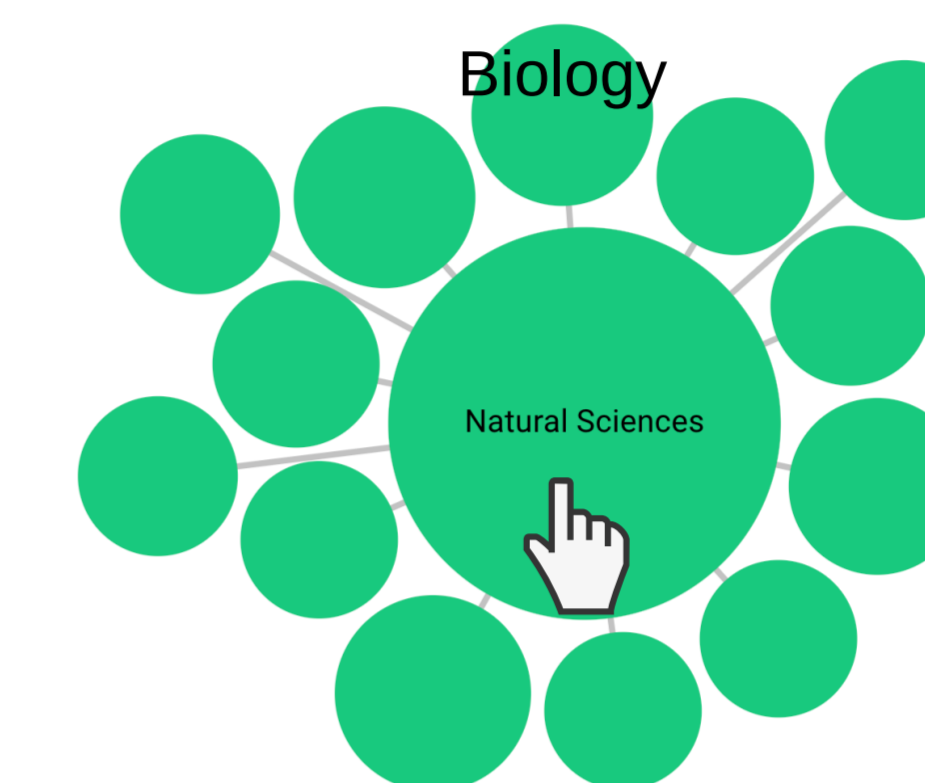
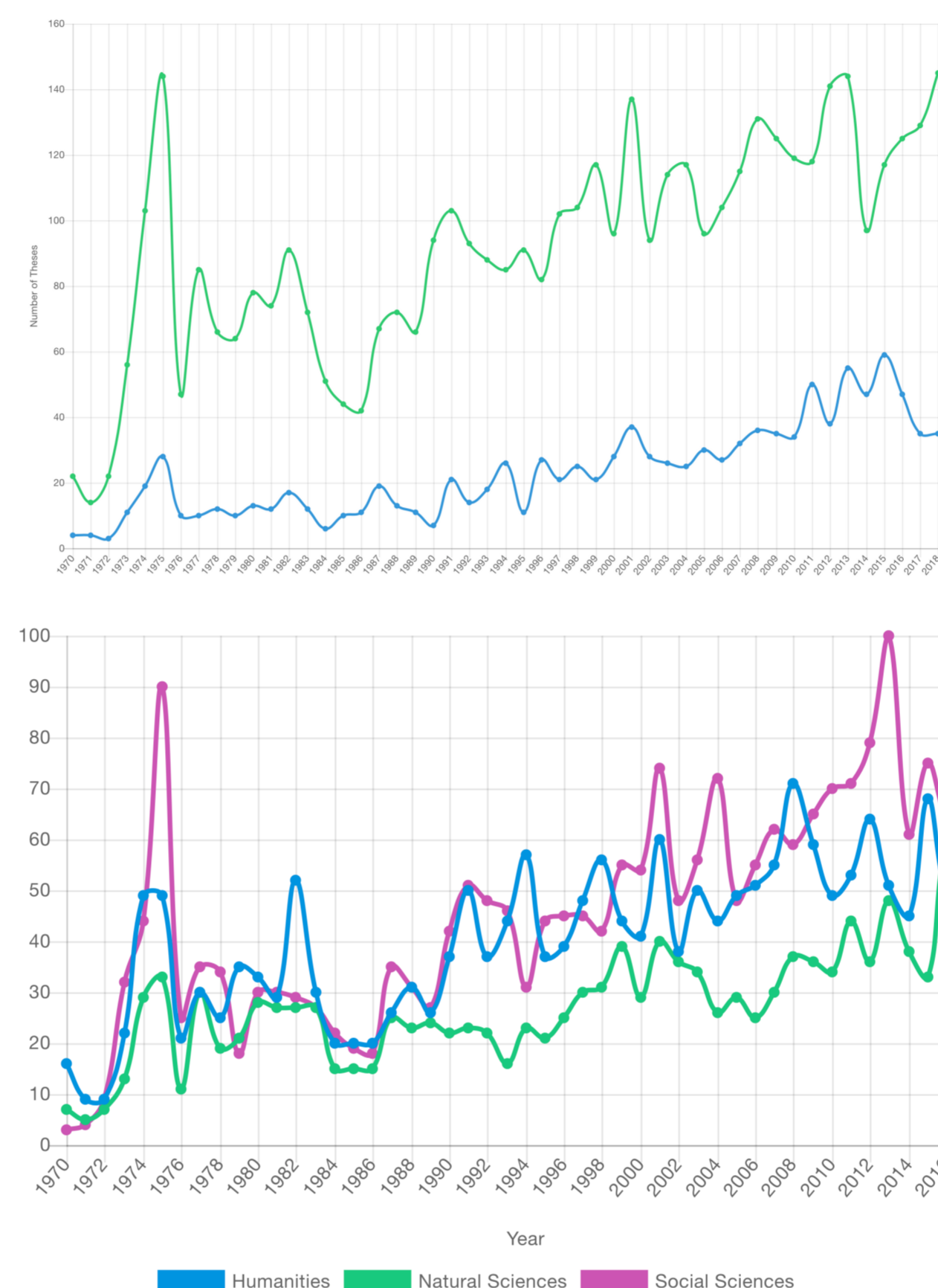
Florida Digital Humanities Conference 2019, University of North Florida, Jacksonville

INTRODUCTION

New College (small liberal arts college) prides itself on its flexible environment for multidisciplinary study. Students can declare multiple AOCs (areas of concentration), in multiple Divisions (schools). We sought to develop a tool that visualized this multidisciplinary using readily available metadata. *ThesisLink* visualizes 50 years of thesis metadata, providing an alternative way to explore multidisciplinary in undergraduate theses. Multidisciplinary is defined as having multiple areas of concentration (for example, *Computer Science* and *Literary Studies*).

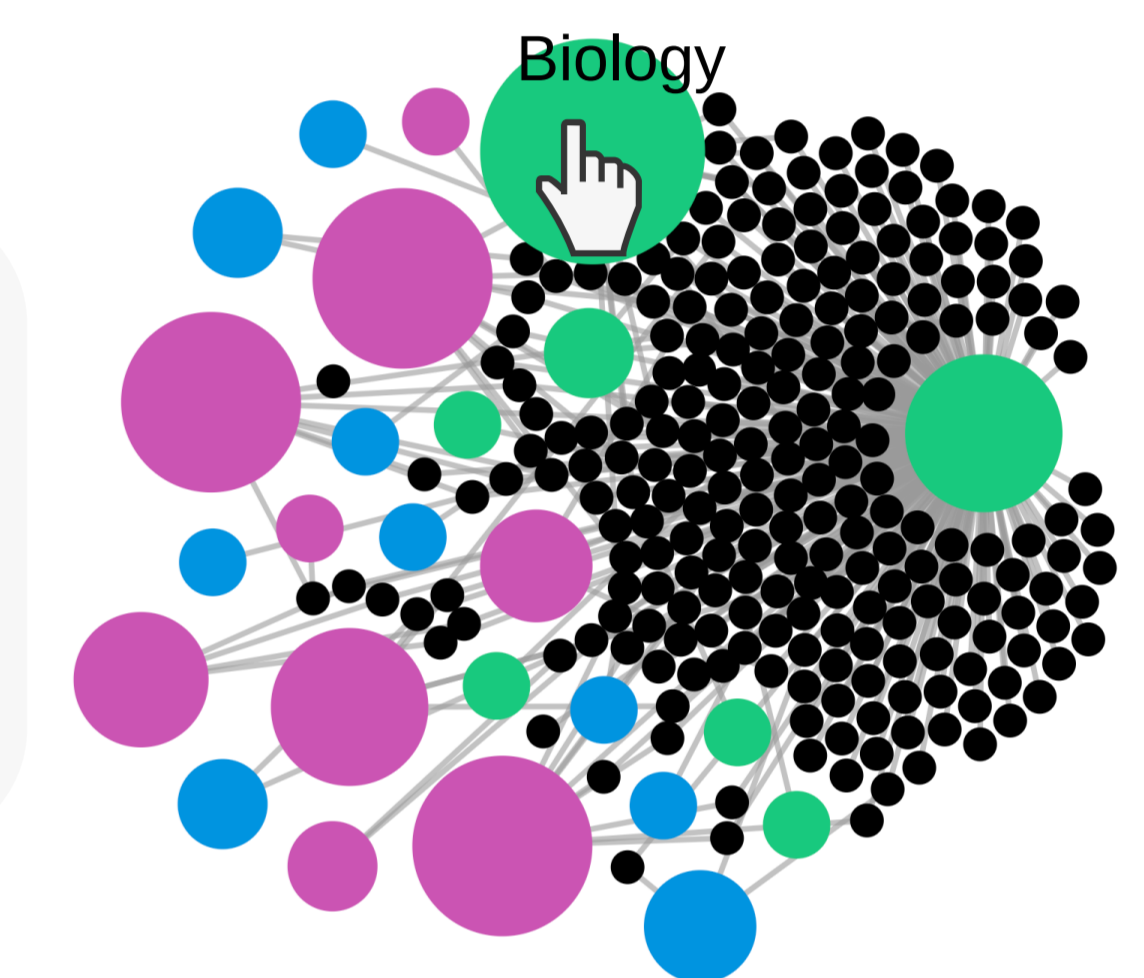
Preliminary analysis of thesis distribution across divisions showed increase in the number of multidisciplinary theses.

Can we provide an alternative method of exploring this metadata?



Clicking on a Division (School) will visualize all associated AOCs (Programs)

Clicking on an AOC will visualize single- and multi-disciplinary theses published in the last 50 years** (black nodes)

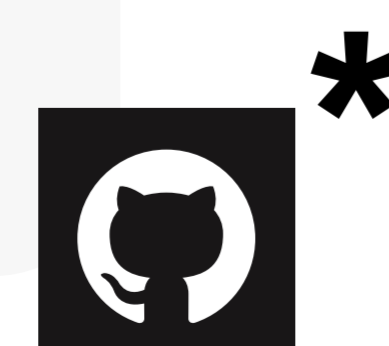


OBJECTIVES

- Visualize thesis distribution across divisions (schools) and areas of concentration (programs)
- Showcase library capacity with respect to digital projects to promote collaboration¹
- Strategic purpose for administrators interested in visualizing multidisciplinary at New College

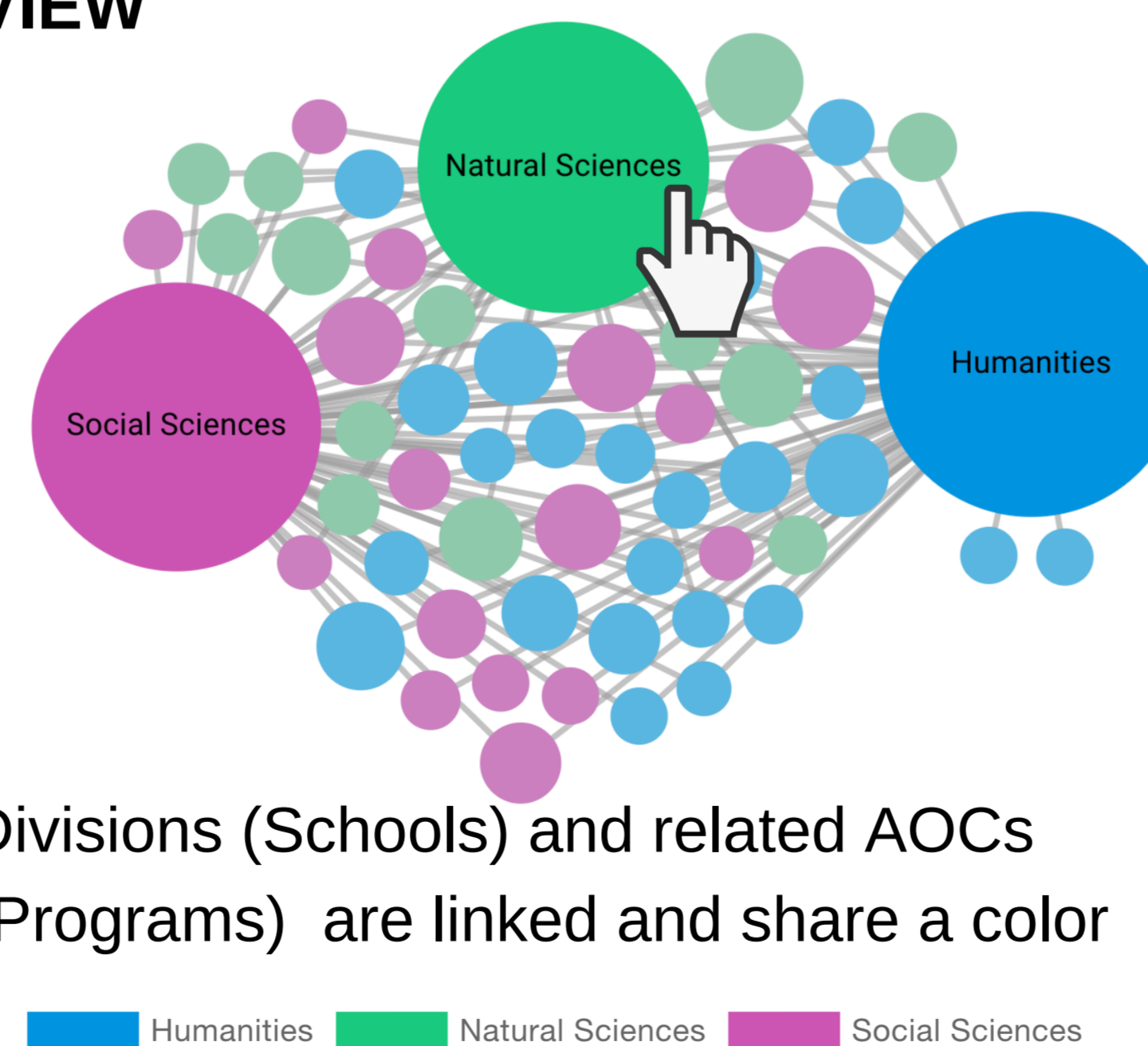
METHODS

ThesisLink is built on **PHP**, and uses **HTML**, **CSS**, and **Javascript**, with **Jquery** and **D3** libraries for the frontend. **D3.js** is a powerful Javascript library that brings data to life using HTML, SVG, and CSS and heavily used in the simulation page.

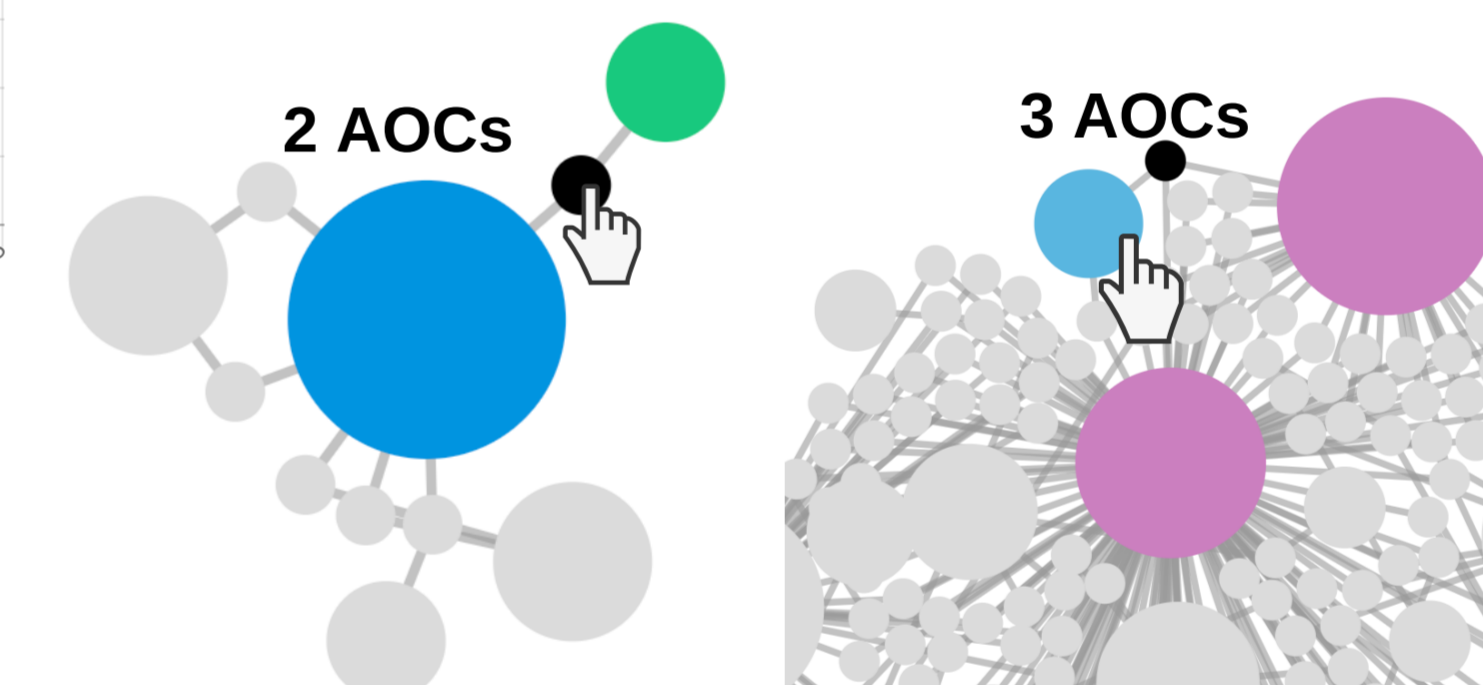


RESULTS

NETWORK VIEW



Divisions (Schools) and related AOCs (Programs) are linked and share a color



Title : The Paths of Memory

Thesis Record : <http://ncf.sobek.ufl.edu/NCFE003091>

Graduation Date : 2002

Author(s) : Davis, Simon W.

Division : Natural Sciences

Clicking on a thesis (black node) will highlight the intellectual link between thesis and AOCs and provide additional metadata, including a link to the thesis record (and electronic copy)

FUTURE

We will release a version of *ThesisLink* that enables users to import and visualize their very own thesis networks. *ThesisLink* is also a showcase project, and we will use the tool and its technology to grow collaborations with faculty interested in DH, as well as administrators interested in strategic planning.

¹ Vandegrift, Micah, and Stewart Varner. "Evolving in common: Creating mutually supportive relationships between libraries and the digital humanities." *Journal of Library Administration* 53, no. 1 (2013): 67-78.

* Code available at <https://github.com/ncflib/ThesesLink> ** AOCs (programs) with fewer than 10 theses published are not visualized