

The Accidental Digital Humanist: Applying Digital Technology to an Oral History Ph.D Project

Dr. Helen Southall
Dept. of Computer Science

Interview Database

Interview Coding

Interview Number: 4

Interviewee: Danny Morgan

Interviewer: Don Owens

Topic: Chester music scene, venues, ballrooms etc during WWII

Date Recorded: 2006 or 2007

Date Transferred: 2008-02-11 00:00:00

Recording File Name: Interview 4 - Danny Morgan

File Location: Passport

Sent for Transcription

First Name	Surname	DoB	Interviewed?	Musicia...	Instrument / Role	Armed Forces...	In Wilf's Diary?
1	Danny	Morgan	1927	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone	Royal Navy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Wilf	Field	c. 19...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bandleader, piano, organ	None - reserved occ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Ray	Cummings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (alto)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Frank	Fuller		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drums		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reg	Pritchard		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone	British Army	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Peter	Deer (Deponoo)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (alto, tenor), bandle...		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Dennis	Jones		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (tenor)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name	Street	Town	Notes	Men...
1	Clemences	Chester	Where SpecSavers is. Back entrance in St...	1950s
2	Chester Town Hall	Northgate Street	Too sophisticated for Danny Morgan's pur...	1940s
3	St Oswald's	Cheyney Road	Was attached to the church. Demolished &...	1940s
4	Chester College	Parigate Road	Now University of Chester. Gym used for...	1940s

Name	Tempo (Viet...	Tempo (M...	
1	Quickstep	46 / 48	184 / 192
2	Slow Foxtrot		
3	Paul Jones		
4	Palas Glide		
5	Holley Cokoy		
6	Ladies' Choice / La...		

Context

Event or Factor	
1	Drink
2	Cinema orchestras - demise due to 'talkies'
3	American (servicemen) 'arrived with their great music'
4	Sea Cadets
5	'Talent' or 'bobby' (i.e. women, at dances)
6	Dances finished at 10pm / 10:30pm
7	Discipline / good behaviour strictly enforced
8	Modern ballroom dancing
9	Royal Navy considered leave a privilege
10	Violence (at venues and dances)

Musical Styles and Activities

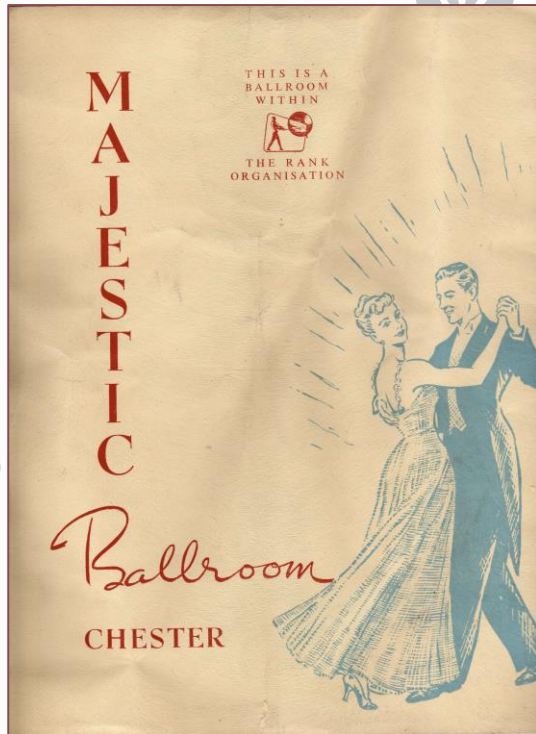
Style	Geographic
1	Civilian band (as opposed to...
2	Competitions and games

Dances mentioned

Name	Tempo (Viet...	Tempo (M...	
1	Quickstep	46 / 48	184 / 192
2	Slow Foxtrot		
3	Paul Jones		
4	Palas Glide		
5	Holley Cokoy		
6	Ladies' Choice / La...		

Record 4 of 54

The Accidental Digital Humanist: Applying Digital Technology to an Oral History Ph.D Project



- Background to the study
- The Local Dance Band Scene
- The Research Project
 - Planning & project management
 - Data acquisition, processing & storage
 - Coding and analysis
 - Visualisation and presentation
 - Writing up
- Conclusions
 - Lessons learned
 - Future plans



Background – Humanities and Sciences



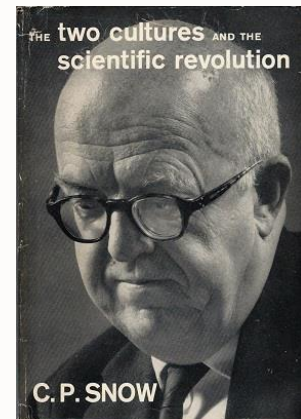
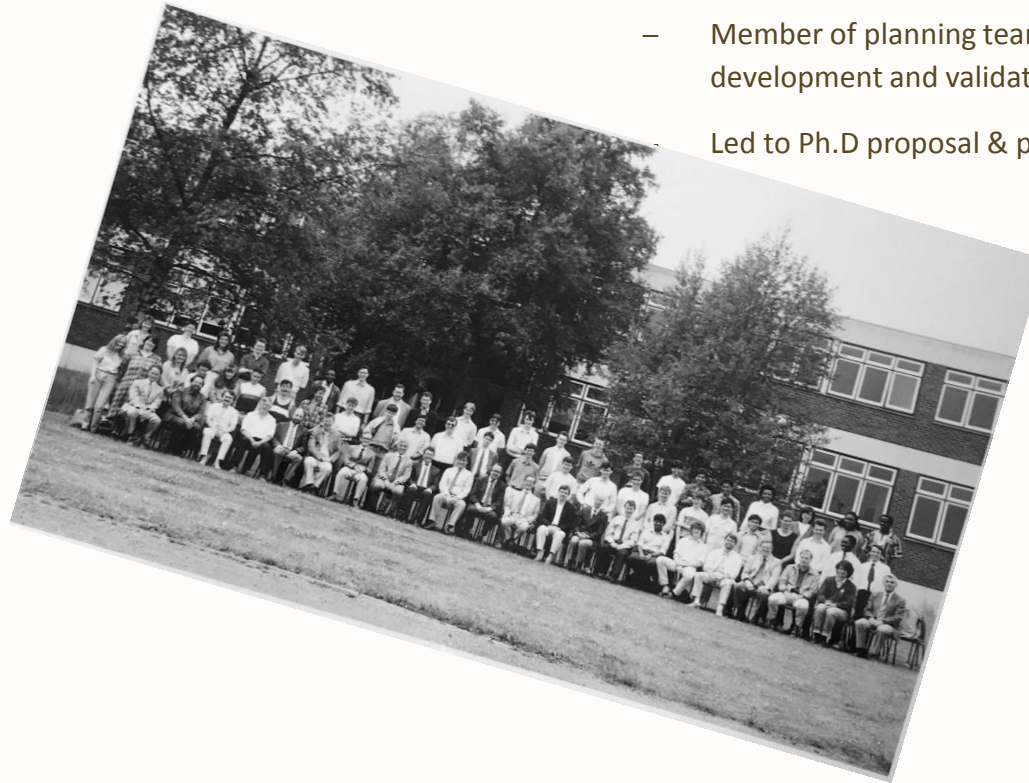
MUSIC — Humanities

Head of Department: S. D. Banfield, MA (Cantab.), DPhil (Oxon.), FRCO

The Principal Course

Music may be taken in combination with American Studies, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Economics, Electronics, English, French, Geography, Geology, German, Latin, Law, Mathematics, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Russian, Russian Studies, Sociology or a Double Language Combination (see p.63).

- B.Sc. Physics & Music -> M.Sc. Computation
- Popular Music degree
 - Member of planning team for course development and validation
 - Led to Ph.D proposal & project



Background – Why Study Dance Bands in Chester?



- Wirral based wind band and dance band

- Heard a lot of anecdotes about local dance bands in earlier decades, & observed overlapping social networks of musicians

- Curious!

‘Rescue archaeology’

- If not me, then who?
- Approached the problem using all of my academic and professional experience:
 - Arts, sciences, humanities and business
- Didn’t encounter Digital Humanities as a discipline until after the research was complete

- Research Questions

- Finnegan (2007) refers to the ‘invisible but organised’ underlying structure of local music-making

- My study was based on a detailed investigation of a specific local scene, in this case, dance bands in Chester & North Wales

- Goal: to contribute to a better understanding of amateur and semi-professional music-making in a regional landscape

- Why there? Why then? Who? & How?



The Local Dance Band Scene

- Oral history project
- Based on Chester
 - Also taking in Cheshire, North Wales, Wirral, Liverpool, plus other places in UK & overseas
- 30 interviews
- 200+ photographs and images
- Most of this information was not available in public archives
- [3 minute video](#)
- A flavour of what my interviewees were talking about..

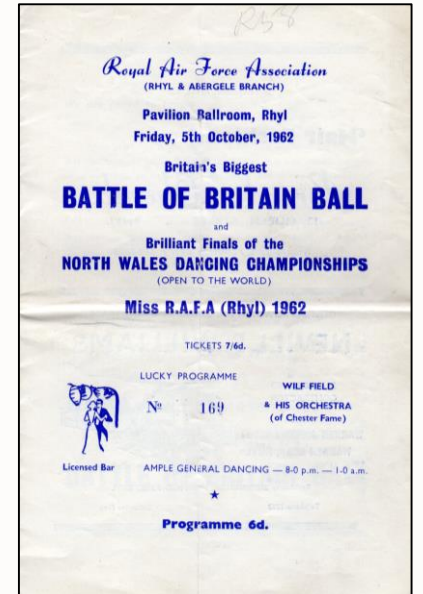
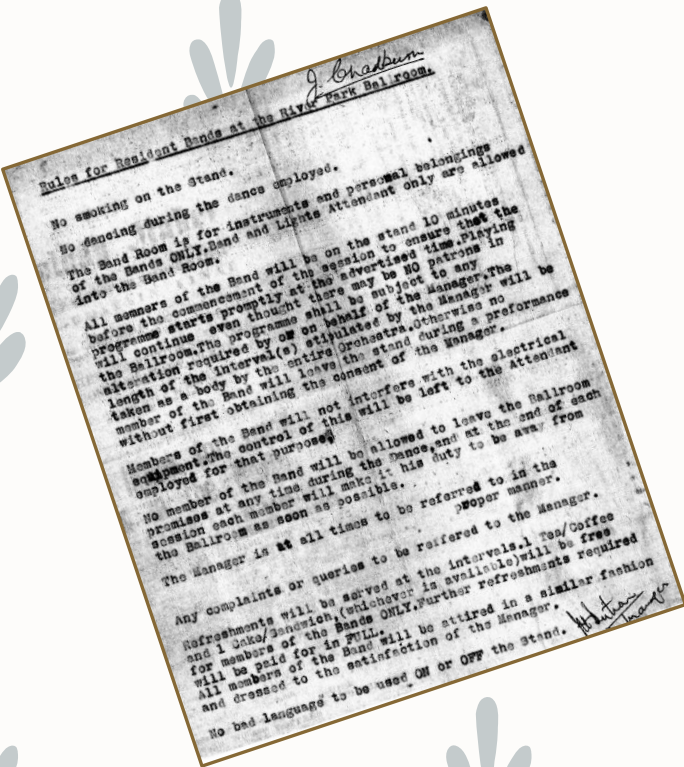
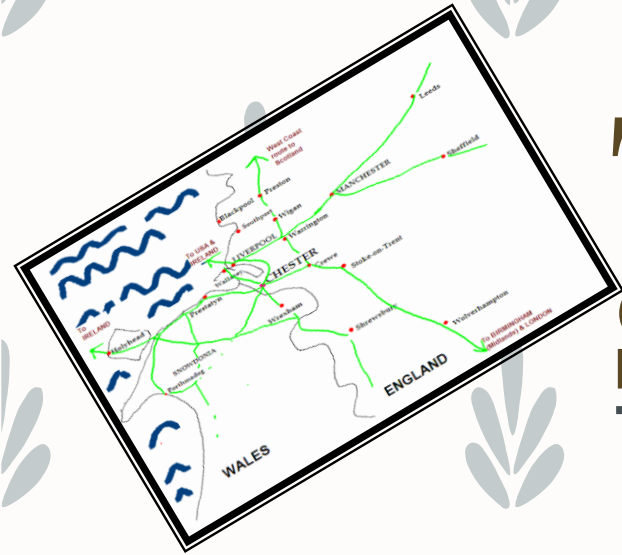
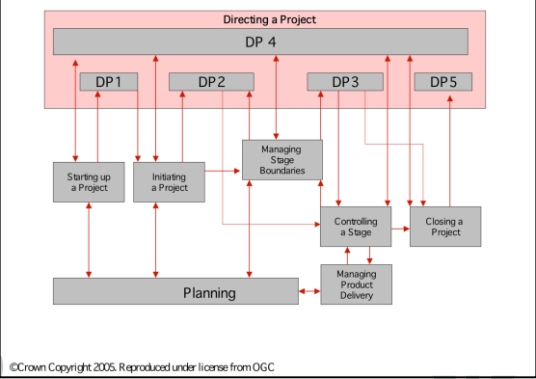
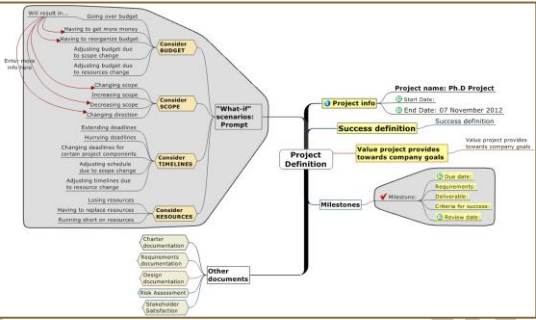
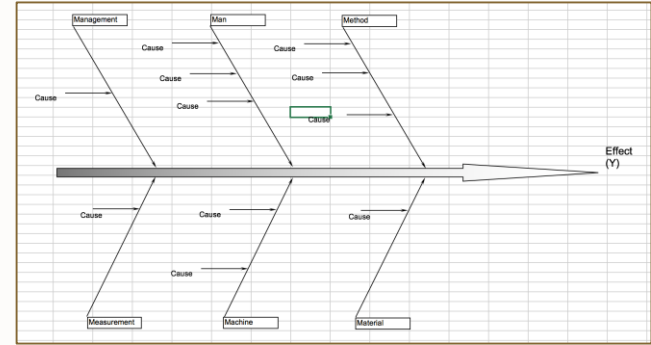


Figure 2.5 The PRINCE2 process model



© Crown Copyright 2005. Reproduced under license from OGC

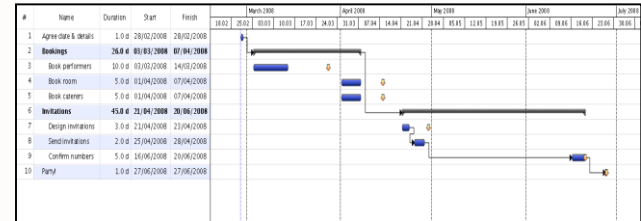
Planning and Project Management



- Advantages & disadvantages of doing humanities research while employed as a scientist (with a business background & a classical music degree)...
 - PRINCE2, M_o_R, Gantt charts, mind maps, Ishikawa diagrams... 😊
 - Spreadsheets, databases, backups, digitisation, audio and image processing... 😊
 - Epistemology? Oral history vs. ethnography? Pierre Bourdieu? :- (
 - Generally, methodology was more of a minefield than I expected it to be
 - & has proved very useful since finishing the Ph.D

Agree date & details	Book performers	Design initiatives	Send invitations	Confirm numbers
Start: 20/02/2008 Cost: £100	Start: 03/03/2008 Cost: £100	Start: 20/02/2008 Cost: £100	Start: 25/02/2008 Cost: £100	Start: 30/02/2008 Cost: £100
Finish: 20/02/2008 Budget: £100	Finish: 03/03/2008 Budget: £100	Finish: 20/02/2008 Budget: £100	Finish: 25/02/2008 Budget: £100	Finish: 30/02/2008 Budget: £100
IS: 20/02/2008 LS: 20/02/2008	IS: 03/03/2008 LS: 03/03/2008	IS: 20/02/2008 LS: 20/02/2008	IS: 25/02/2008 LS: 25/02/2008	IS: 30/02/2008 LS: 30/02/2008
OL: 5/04 LS: 5/04	OL: 5/04 LS: 5/04	OL: 5/04 LS: 5/04	OL: 5/04 LS: 5/04	OL: 5/04 LS: 5/04

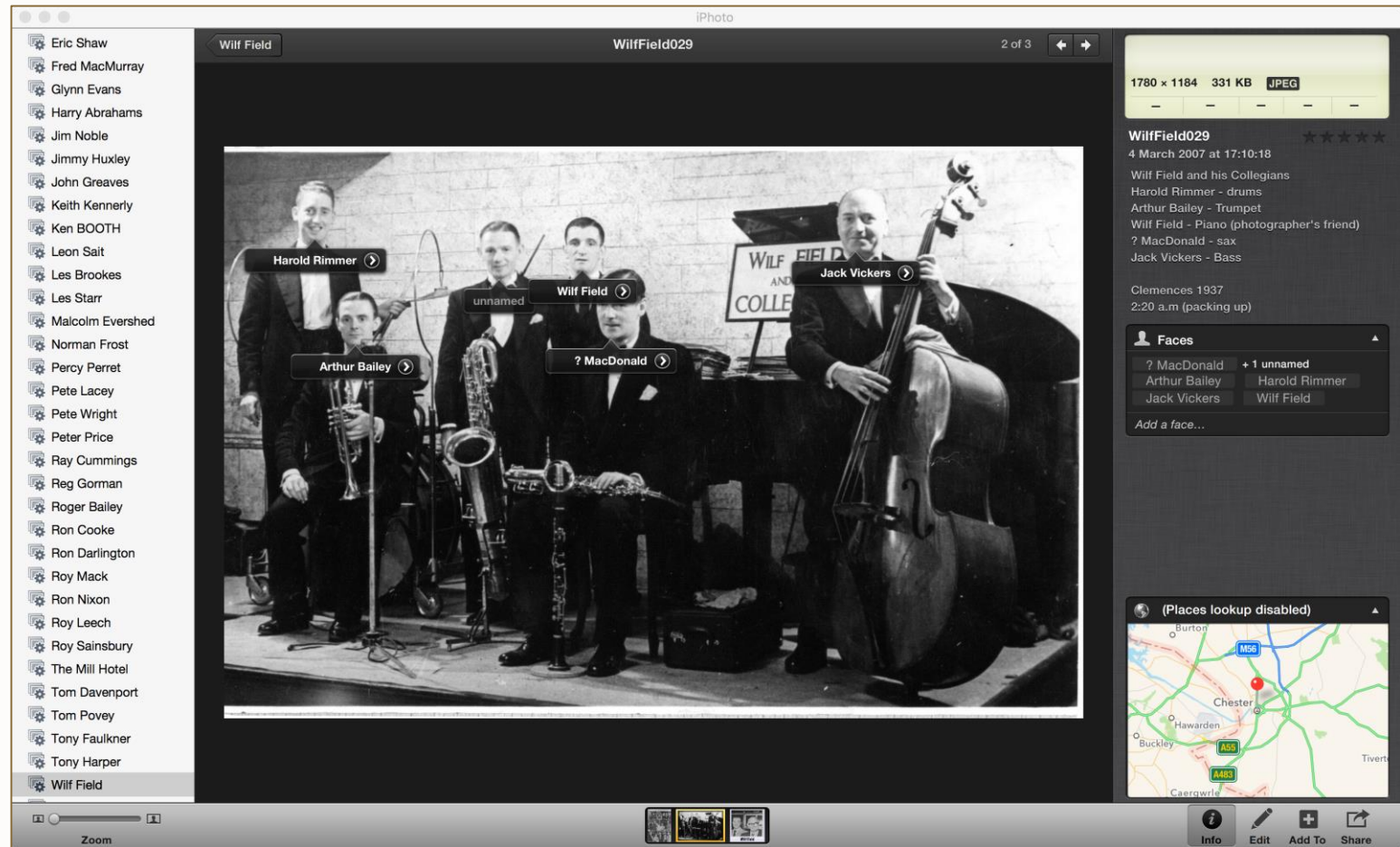
- It definitely helps to be organised, & digital technology can help with that
 - But it won't learn about (e.g.) *habitus* for you
 - Cheap e-books, Evernote and MindNode help, even then





Data acquisition, processing & storage

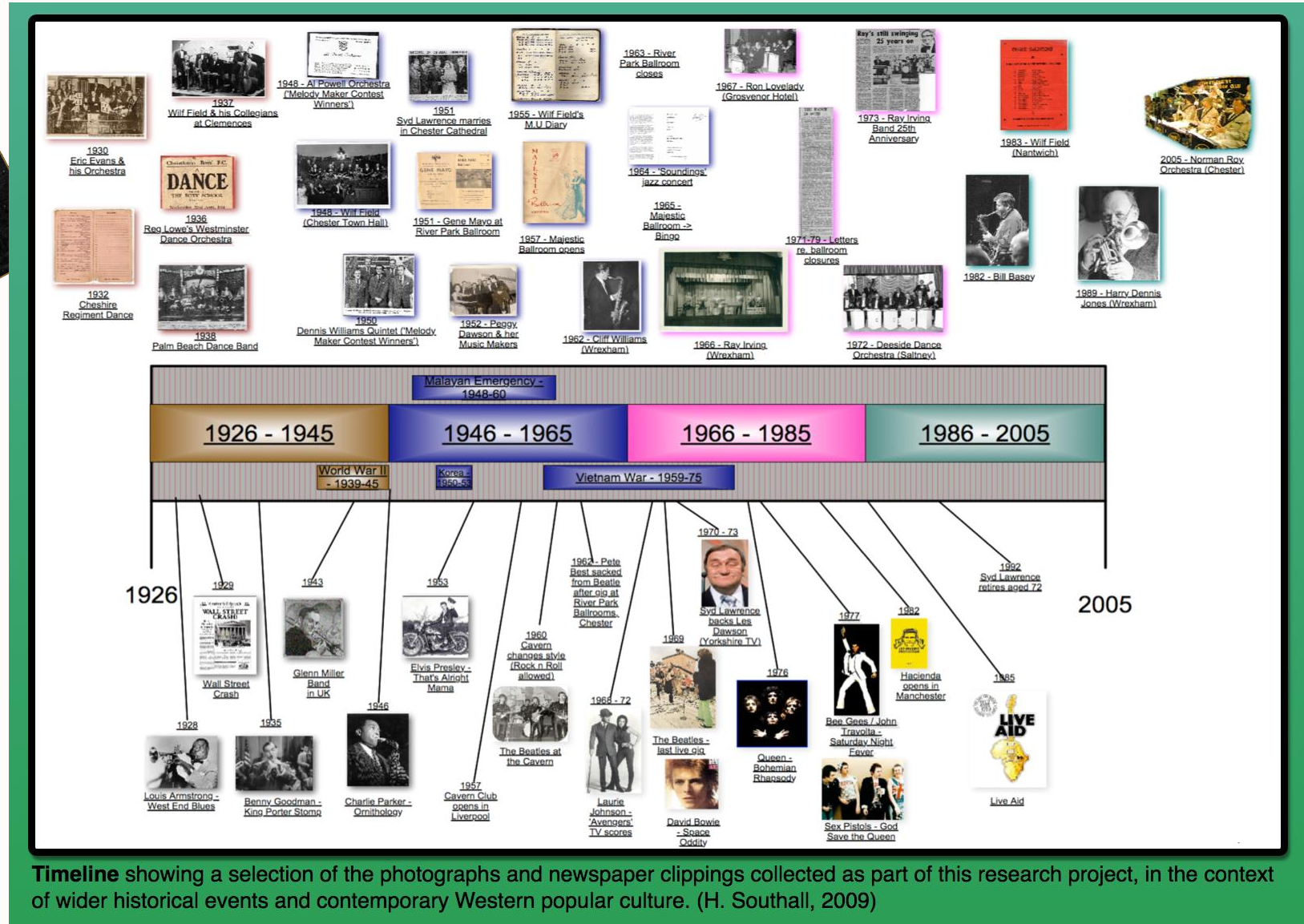
- Raw data = audio recordings of interviews + photographs, newspaper cuttings, etc.
- Recordings were on cassette tape(!)
 - Transferred to .mp3 for remote transcription
 - Or to music software for cleaning up & separation of tracks
 - *A slow process...*
- Apple image software was a huge help with the photos and cuttings
 - Separating & tidying up
 - Tagging, annotations, automated collections



Coding and Analysis - Overview



Starting from the data: While waiting for the interview transcripts, I started work on the images, which raised some interesting questions for further investigation.



Timeline showing a selection of the photographs and newspaper clippings collected as part of this research project, in the context of wider historical events and contemporary Western popular culture. (H. Southall, 2009)

Coding and analysis - Characters and categories



LEISURE
DENE DRIVE, WINSFORD, CHESHIRE

CIVIC HALL
WINSFORD

ADVANCE NOTICE
4 AUG. TIGHT FIT
5 SEPT. LENNIE HENRY SHOW
3 OCT. THE KRANKIES
19 DEC. CILLA BLACK

MEMORIAL HALL
NORTHWICH

HAYHURST ROOM
PHONE NORTHWICH 47422

Open Tuesday to Saturday, 12 noon-2 p.m. (closed Monday). For lunch and bar snacks. Morning coffee on Saturdays from 10.30 a.m.

SPECIAL LUNCH DAILY £1.50
SIRLOIN STEAK £2.15
GAMMON & PINEAPPLE £1.65
ROAST BEEF, LAMB OR PORK £1.50

All served with vegetables and potatoes.
CHILDREN'S MENU 50p/60p
SWEET TROLLEY from 45p

Enjoy a lunch time drink in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

COME DANCING
Wilf Field — JULY 31
Wilf Rigby — AUGUST 28
STARTS 8 p.m. — BOOK A TABLE.

RUDHEATH LEISURE CENTRE

JOG FIT

- Working with the transcripts
 - 100,000+ words
- Highlighting people, places, events etc in transcripts
 - Done manually...
- Excel spreadsheet (flat file)
 - Soon got too complex for this
- Bento database (Relational, with forms, queries, & links to iPhoto), with tables for:-
 - Interviews
 - People
 - Bands
 - Venues
 - Musical Styles & Activities
 - Dances
 - Historical Context

TELEPHONE NUMBERS			ADDRESSES		
PIANO	DRUMS	BASS	TRUMPET	ALTO	TENOR
FRANK	HAROLD	FRANK	FRED	BILL	TED
ART. TURNER	GORDON	MANLEY	FRANK MITCHELL	TEO	GORMAN
MANLEY	LLOYD	NUTTALL	DEREK MITCHELL	CUMMINGS	BOWNESS
STAN ROBERTS	H. JONES	HUNTER	RIP	GORMAN	HIGNETT
BRICKLAND	FULLER	KANE	MC GINLEY	DAVENPORT	BUTLER
PARRY	MURPHY	ERIC	HUGGRIPEE	BUTLER	TRAILL
WEAVER	BURGESS	S. JOHNSON	DAI WILLIAMS	PEARSE	LOVELADY
CARTWRIGHT	ALAN LEWIS	GRIFFITHS	PARKER	WILKY	DEPONIO
LOVELADY	ROLANDI	KENNEDY	TOMMY JONES	LOVELADY	ROBINSON
RIMMER	DOBSON	N. JOHNSON	DEI JONES	PARKER	SCALES
FORD	F. HALL	NEWMAN	JOE ROSE	TURNER	GWINN/MORRIS
DOBSON	D. HALL	PRICE	CHESTER	SCOTT	PORTLOCK
SHEEN	LES EVANS	HARRIS	CAMERON	BLAKE	MARTIN
PEARSE	TOYE	FARROW	KENNEDY	D. WILLIAMS	CERRARD
PARIONAGE	RON COOKS	JOHN HUGHES	MC MAHON	DEPONIO	LESTER
HAWARD	GRIFFIN	WHITHEAD	KEN SIMMONS	BERNARD JONES	DAVENPORT
FRANCE	WHITELEY	PERCY PARKER	BRIAN STOKES	ROSS	ROY LEACH
GIBSON	OWEN		SADLER	GREEN	PRETTY
MARSDON	KINSEY	VIOLIN	ACCORDION	TRAILL	LESGRIFFITHS
NALL	UNWICK	BOOTH	FRANK	HARROP	DENNIS JONES
	MOORE	JOY	MANLEY	JOHNION	
		JOHN	SCALES	BOWNESS	
		BOWNESS	SRESTY		TROMBONE
		BUTLER	HARAY		LEIGHT
		V. TOOLE	GERMAN	BARITONE	GLAZZARD
				LEACH	RATHBONE

Coding and analysis – Looking for relationships

Used Bento (single-user FileMaker-type database) due to cost, ease of use on Mac, & links to Apple image software. (A larger research team would have required something like NVivo.)

LIBRARIES

- Digital Media
- Bento Templates
- Sport
- Thesis Editing Tasks
- Interview Database**
- People
- Bands
- Venues
- Musical Styles and A...
- Dances
- Historical Context
- Photos
- Last 12 Months
- Last Import
- Dave Crofts
- Drummer
- Stan Bowness
- Harold Jones
- Harry Dennis Jones
- Des Jones
- Jimmy Chadburn
- Colin Gibson
- Brian Roberts
- Syd Lawrence
- BetwsNewYear
- Derek Mitchell
- DuoBrochureIdeas
- Harry Marsden

Interview Database

Interview Coding

Search

Interview Number: 4

Interviewee: Danny Morgan

Interviewer: Don Owens

Topic: Chester music scene, venues, ballrooms etc during WWII

Date Recorded: 2006 or 2007

Date Transferred: 2008-02-11 00:00:00

Recording File Name: Interview 4 - Danny Morgan

File Location: Passport

Sent for Transcription

CHARACTERS

	First Name	Surname	DoB	Interviewed?	Musica...	Instrument / Role	Armed Forces...	In Wilf's Diary?
1	Danny	Morgan	1927	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone	Royal Navy	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Wilf	Field	c. 19...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bandleader, piano, organ	None - reserved occ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Ray	Cummings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (alto)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Frank	Fuller		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drums		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Reg	Pritchard		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone	British Army	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Peter	Dee (Deponoo)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (alto, tenor) , bandle...		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Dennis	Jones		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saxophone (tenor)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Venues mentioned

	Name	Street	Town	Notes	Menti
1	Clemences		Chester	Where SpecSavers is. Back entrance in St...	1950s
2	Chester Town Hall	Northgate Street	Chester	Too sophisticated for Danny Morgan's pur...	1940s
3	St Oswald's	Cheyney Road	Chester	Was attached to the church. Demolished &...	1940s
4	Chester College	Parkgate Road	Chester	Now University of Chester. Gym used for...	1940s

Bands mentioned

	Name
1	The Four Aces
2	Danny Morgan
3	Bernard Snook
4	Brian Cartwright
5	Colin Gibson (early band)

Context

	Event or Factor
1	Drink
2	Cinema orchestras - demise due to 'talkies'
3	American (servicemen) 'arrived with their great music'
4	Sea Cadets
5	'Talent' or 'totty' (i.e. women, at dances)
6	Dances finished at 10pm / 10:30pm
7	Discipline / good behaviour strictly enforced
8	Modern ballroom dancing
9	Royal Navy considered leave a privilege
10	Violence (at venues and dances)

Musical Styles and Activities

	Style	Geographic
1	Civilian band (as opposed to...	
2	Competitions and games	

Dances mentioned

	Name	Tempo (Vict...	Tempo (Me
1	Quickstep	46 / 48	184 / 192
2	Slow Foxtrot		
3	Paul Jones		
4	Palais Glide		
5	Hokey Cokey		
6	Ladies' Choice / La...		

Interview Database Fields

FIELDS

- Cost
- Date Created
- Date Modified
- Date Recorded
- Date Transfe...
- File Location
- Interview Nu...
- Interviewee
- Interviewer
- Recording Fil...
- Sent for Tran...

Form | Field | Text Box | Image Box | Objects | Themes | Labels | Shading | Text Size | Align Edges

Form Unlocked

Record 4 of 54

Coding and analysis – Looking for relationships

- Geographical and social networks
- How many...

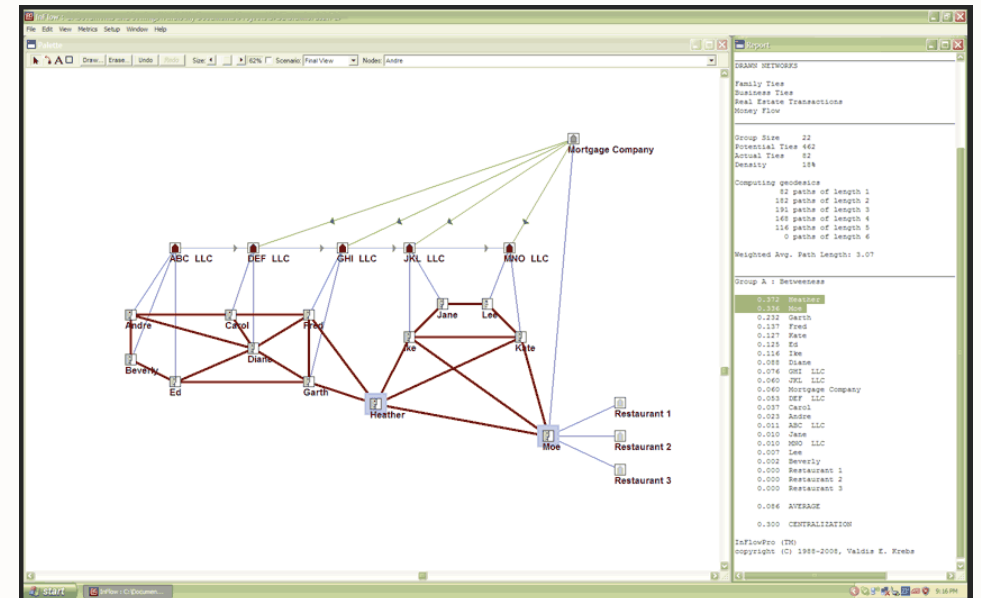
- bands?
- venues?
- musicians?
- fans?

- Wilf's diary

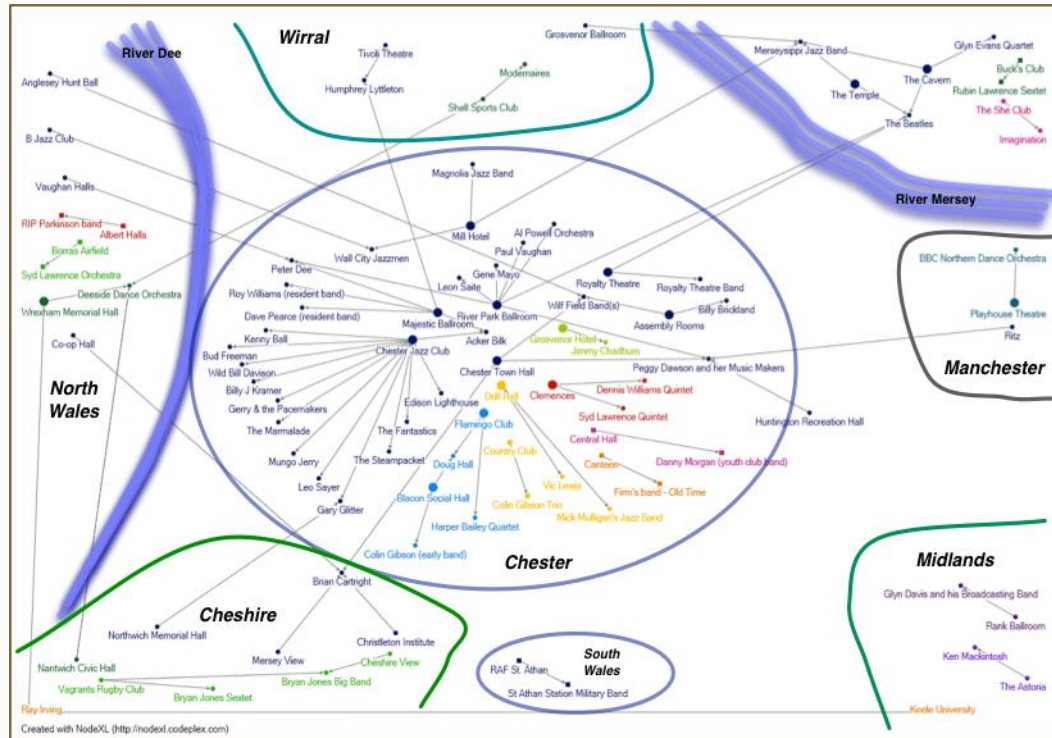
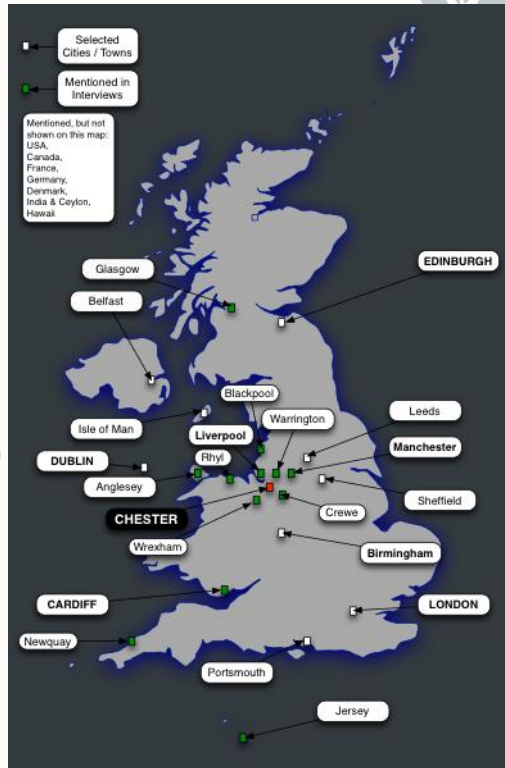
- “... I know a man who can...”

- How to..

- analyse, describe, visualise, explain?
- Social Network Analysis, via “Throwing Sheep in the Boardroom” & NodeXL

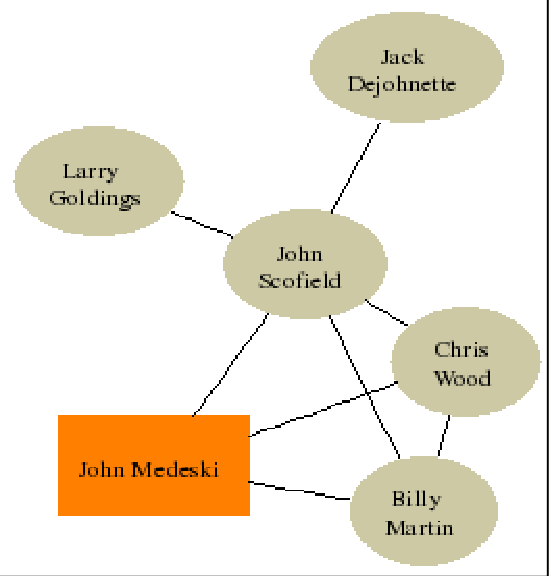


Visualisation and presentation - Geography

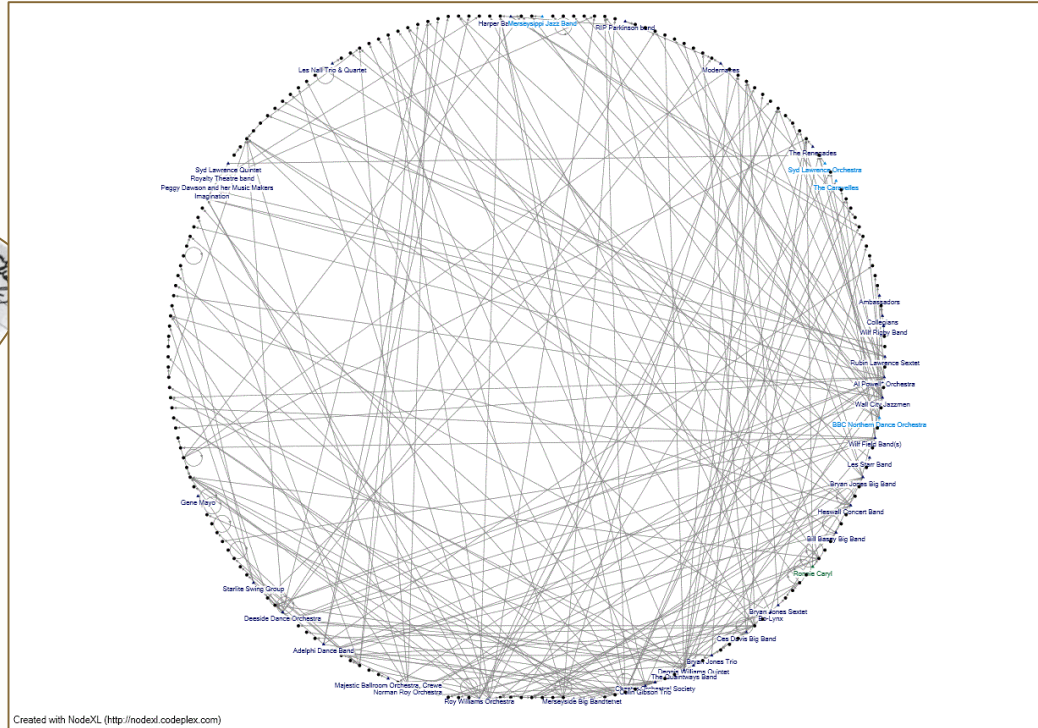
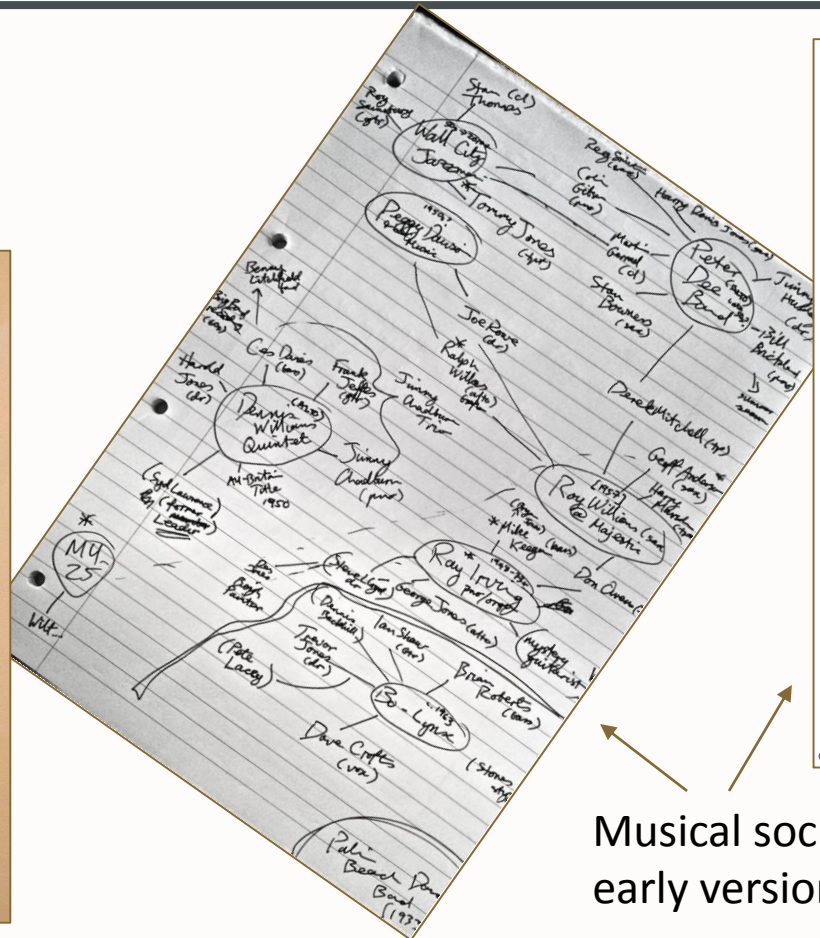


Bands, Venues & Promoters (in Space)

Visualisation and presentation - Musical social networks

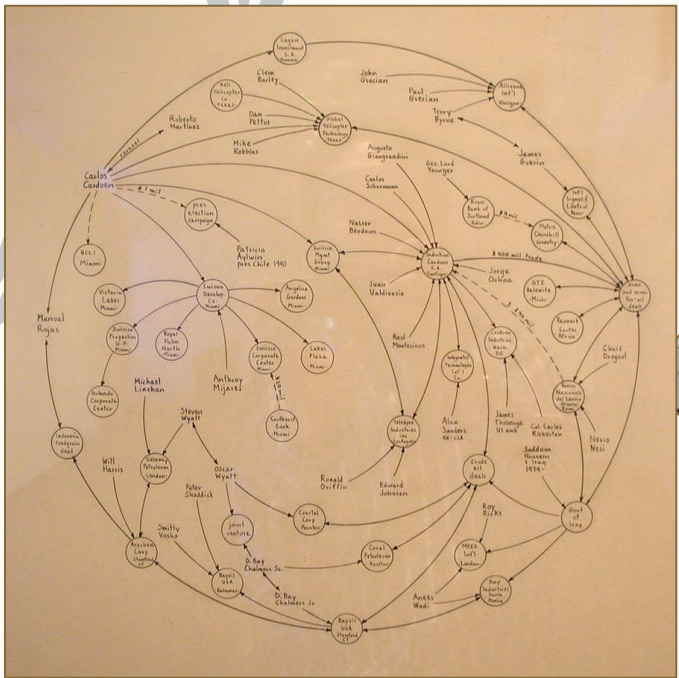


Orghammogram for John Medeski ("The Hammond Jazz Inventory")



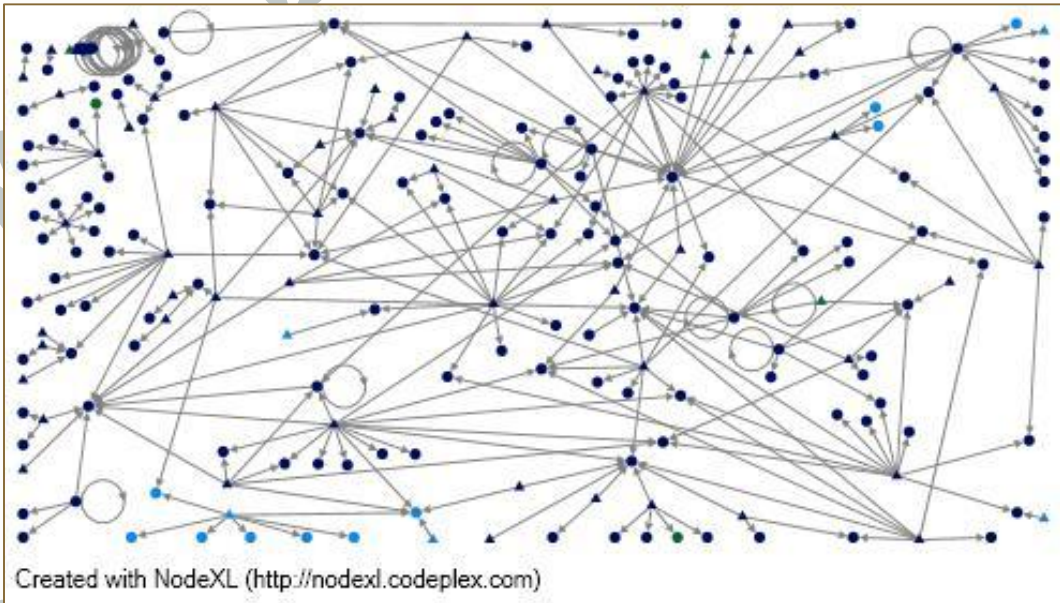
Created with NodeXL (<http://nodexl.codeplex.com>)

Musical social networks for Chester dance bands – early versions

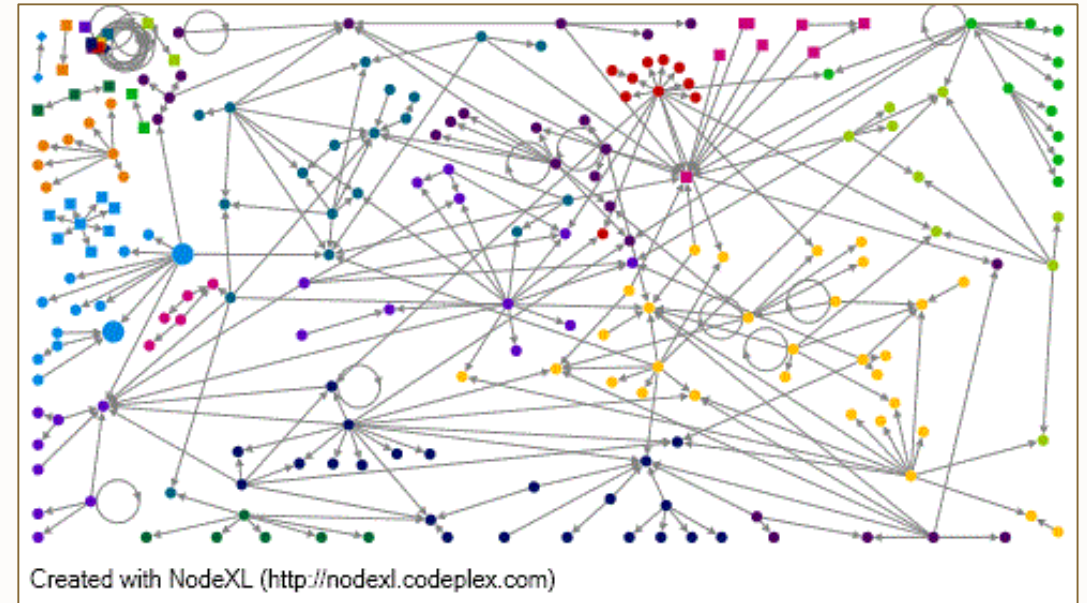


Mark Lombardi – Conspiracy as art

Visualisation and presentation – Musical social networks



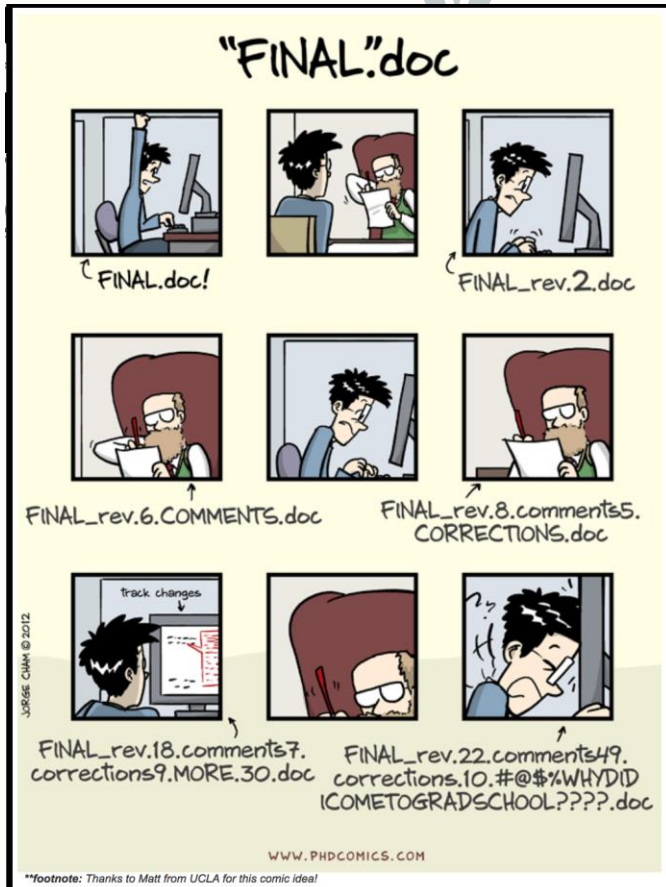
Teasing out the patterns



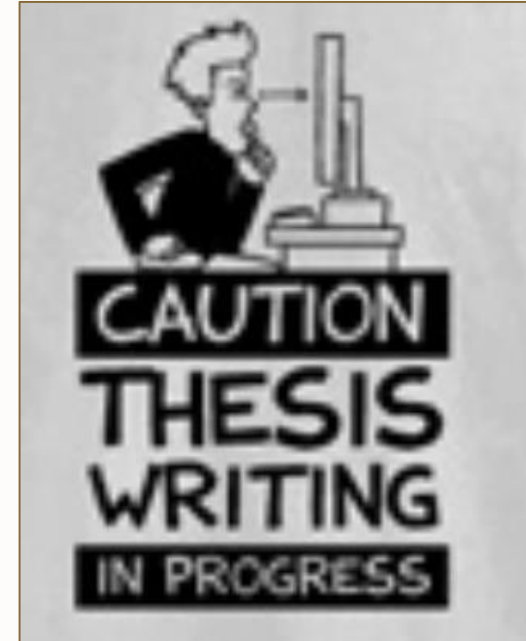
Colour-coded clusters

n.b: These diagrams ended up in an appendix to the thesis, but were critical in identifying key themes and relationships for the final theoretical analysis. There is plenty still to investigate here.

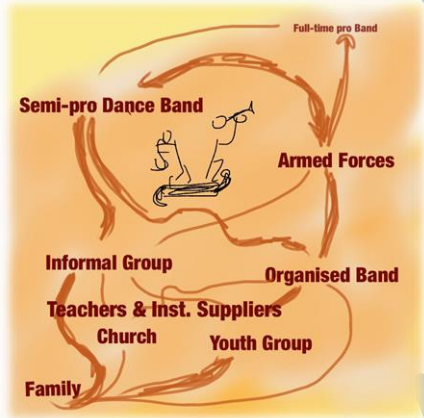
Writing up



- iPhoto & Bento
- Evernote
- EndNote (or equivalent)
- Dropbox (ditto)
- Scapple & MindNode
- Scrivener
 - Designed for really big documents
- Word
 - **Not** designed for really big documents
- Time Machine
- phdcomics.com
- Facebook & Twitter
- Version Control
- Logical file naming conventions



Conclusions



– Lessons learned

- Digital techniques are just that: techniques
 - *Need sound theoretical frameworks, appropriate to the discipline(s), as well*
 - *Sometimes, if you wait a while, technology catches up (& saves you a job)*
 - *Backups. Lots of them.*
- The dangers of having “Two Cultures” that don’t collaborate enough are still with us:-

"Today, bereft of understanding of fundamental issues and writings in the development of liberal democracy, computer geeks devise ever better ways to track people... simply because they can. ... Humanists on the other hand do not understand the underlying technology and are convinced, for example, that tracking meta-data means the government reads their emails."

Ilves (2014).

• Future plans

- 44TH ICTM World Conference, July 2017
- Work with the Digital Humanities Centre
 - [Virtual River Park Ballroom](#)
 - with Lee Beever & University of Liverpool
 - Virtual Weirdstone / Harry Potter
 - Cholera & Climate Change – Tipping Points



References

-
- Baade, Christina L. (2006). The Dancing Front': Dance Music, Dancing, and the BBC in World War II. *Popular Music*, 25(3).
 - Brocken, Michael. (2010). *Other voices : hidden histories of Liverpool's popular music scenes, 1930s - 1970s*: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.
 - Cham, Jorge. (2012). "Final".doc. from <http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comicid=1531>
 - Chernobyl VR Project - Visit Chernobyl Without Leaving Home. (2016). Retrieved 7th January, 2017, from <http://www.chernobylvrproject.com/en>
 - Dinosaurs Everywhere!, . (2015). *Useless Apps by Useless Creations*. Retrieved 7th January, 2017, from <http://uselessiphonestuff.com/?app=dinosaurs-everywhere>
 - Fraser, Matthew, & Dutta, Soumitra. (2008). *Throwing Sheep in the Boardroom*: Wiley.
 - Finnegan Ruth H. . (2007). *The Hidden Musicians: Music-Making in an English Town*: Wesleyan University Press.
 - Granovetter, Mark (1973). The Strength of Weak Ties. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 78(6), 1360-1380.
 - Guidebook for Organisational Network Analysis. (2012). Retrieved from <https://www.socilyzer.com/ona-guidebook.pdf>
 - Hansen, Derek, Schneiderman, Ben, & Smith, Marc A. (2010). *Analyzing Social Media Networks with NodeXL: Insights from a Connected World*
 - Holger, Dieter. (2016). You Can Now Meet Terrifying Dinosaurs in VR with Google Cardboard. *News*. Retrieved 7th January, 2017, from <http://vrscout.com/news/virtual-dinosaurs-google-cardboard-arts-culture/>
 - Ilves, Toomas Hendrik. (2014). "Rebooting Trust? Freedom vs Security in Cyberspace": Opening address at Munich Security Conference Cyber 31 Retrieved 20th March, 2017, from <https://e-estonia.com/rebooting-trust-freedom-vs-security-cyberspace-toomas-hendrik-ilves/>
 - Krebs, Valdis. (1996). Visualising Human Networks. *Release 1.0 - Esther Dyson's Monthly Report*, 1996, 1-25.
 - Krebs, Valdis. (2010). Uncloaking a Slumlord Conspiracy with Social Network Analysis. Retrieved 17th July, 2012, from <http://www.orgnet.com/cases.html>
 - Lombardi, Mark. (n.d.). Retrieved 26th February, 2010, from <http://www.albany.edu/museum/wwwmuseum/work/lombardi/index.html>
 - Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2. (2009). TSO.
 - Ordnance Survey. Ancient Roam (Chester - 1950s). *EDiNA Historic Digimap*. Retrieved July 10th, 2012, from <http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/ancientroam/historic>
 - Simon, Kerri. (n.d.). The Cause and Effect (a.k.a Fishbone) Diagram. *Six Sigma Tools and Templates*. Retrieved 7th January, 2017, from <https://www.isixsigma.com/tools-templates/cause-effect/cause-and-effect-aka-fishbone-diagram/>
 - Snow, Charles Percy. (1959). *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*: Oxford University Press.
 - The Hammond Jazz Inventory. (n.d.). *The Hammond Jazz Inventory*. Retrieved 24th February, 2010, from <http://www.hammondjazz.net/index.php>
 - Wasserman, Stanley, & Faust, Katherine. (1994). *Social Network Analysis*: Cambridge University Press.