

ISCH COST ACTION IS1310

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

1500-1800 ~ A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration
on Europe's intellectual history

What is the context?

- Background: Howard Hotson

Why do we need it?

- Research Questions: Robin Bunig, Thomas Wallnig

How should it be structured?

- Data model: Mikkel Jensen, Jetze Touber

How do we get data into it and link it together?

- Eetu Mäkelä, Jouni Tuominen, Antske Fokken

What do we get back out of it?

- Data analysis and visualisation: Martin Hadley, Sandra Toffolo

Where do we go from here?

- CofK / EMLO, COST RRL, H 2020, spinoff applications

REASSEMBLING
THE REPUBLIC
OF LETTERS

Between 1500 and 1800, the evolution of postal communication allowed ordinary men and women to scatter letters across and beyond Europe.



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This exchange helped knit together what contemporaries called the *respublica litteraria*, a knowledge-based civil society, crucial to that era's intellectual breakthroughs.



COST is supported by the
EU Framework Programme
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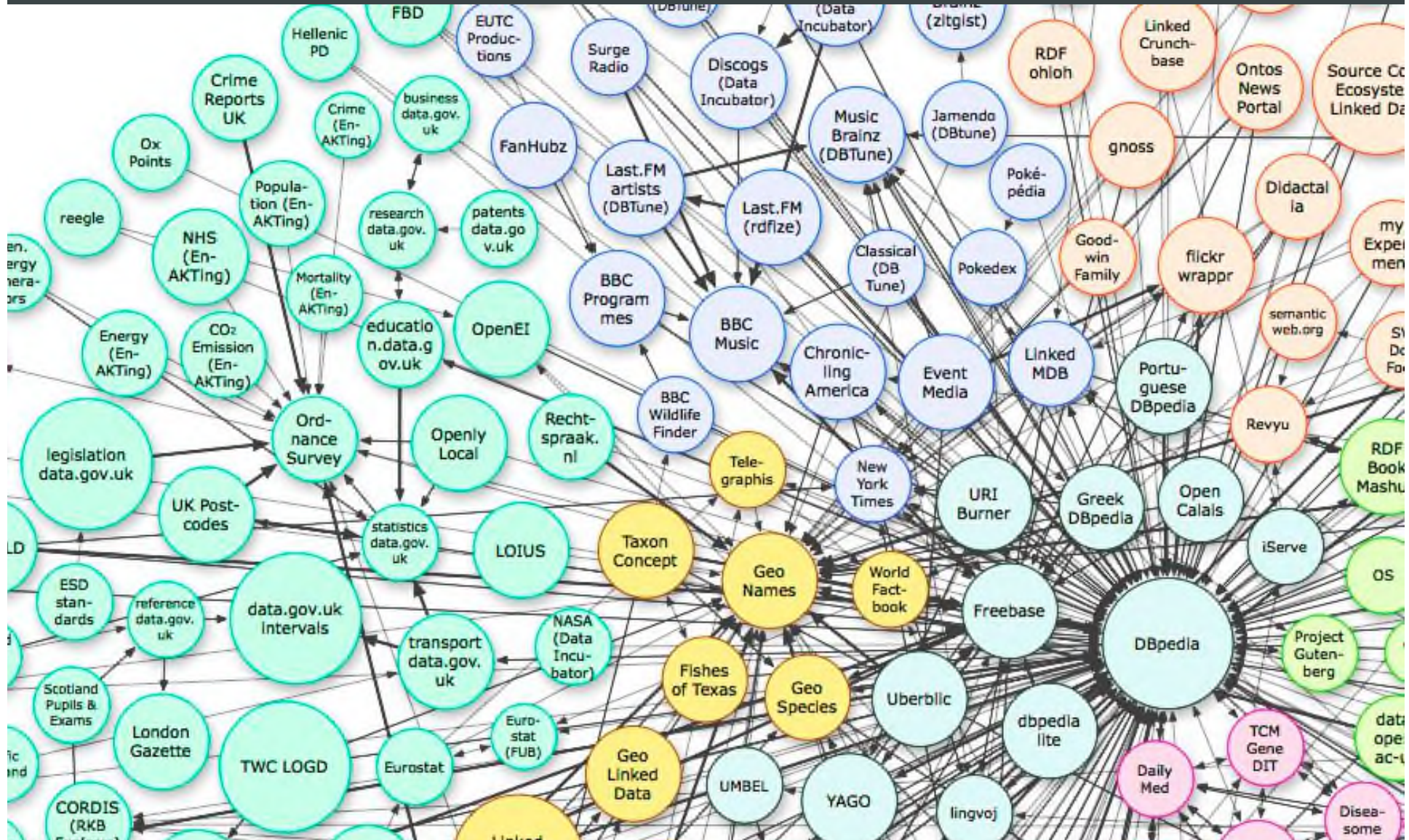
Yet the exchange of letters which created this community also dispersed the documentation required to study it, posing enormous difficulties for historians ever since.



Pier-Francesco Mola (c.1647-57)
:Victoria and Albert Museum


REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

To reassemble that scattered material and chart the history of that imagined community, we need to harness the ongoing revolution in digital communications.




REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

As the advantages of digital technology for this field have become apparent in recent years, web-based projects on early modern correspondence have proliferated.



*Home





Briefe spielte die Korrespondenz- und Ergänzungsnetze von Köln und den humanistisch nachträglichen

Autoren/Herausgeber:

Δ - Ε - Λ - Ρ - Ω

Acidalius, Valens
Arenhold, Silvester J.
Ascham, Roger
Baier, Ferdinand Jakob
Baier, Johann Jakob



Universität Leiden

Opening hours

Clusius project

Since 2004, the project has been sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and departments of the University of Leiden.

- Clusius and his work
- Aim of the project
- Publications
- Contact
- Access to the data

Clusius and his work

Since 2004, the project has been sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and departments of the University of Leiden.

(1526-1609), entomologist and naturalist, in the context of the project. The project has been performed. The project is part of the granted Geesteswetenschappen.

Clusius and his work

Since 2004, the project has been sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and departments of the University of Leiden.

- Dr F. Egmund (of Clusius for the Clusius and the Clusius project)
- E. van Gelder, Carolus Clusius (ca. 1570-1590)
- S.M.W. van Zan PhD research on botanists: Frans

Aim of the project

The project aims to catalogue the correspondence of Johann Valentin Andreae, to digitalize the documents and to provide a Repertorium in form of an on-line database and a printed catalogue. The basis of sources for the project comprises a collection of about 5300 letters, most of which are held in the Herzog August Bibliothek (according to latest estimates, about 4827 items from the total amount). In addition, 350 "occasional poems" and 10 entries in family registers have to be catalogued. Andreae's early correspondence was almost completely destroyed by a fire in the city of Calvin in 1634, during the Thirty Years War. The writings preserved in

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MAPPING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS
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Case Studies People Shared Research Teaching

Mapping the Republic of Letters



LEIBNIZ-EDITION

Kalliope Verbundkatalog
Nachlässe und Autographen

Herzlich willkommen bei Kalliope, dem zentralen Suche

HERZOG AUGUST BIBLIOTHEK WOLFFENBÜTTEL

HOME ABOUT EMLO PROJECTS EVENTS

Inventory of the correspondence of Johann Valentin Andreae (1586-1654)



Johann Valentin Andreae (1586-1654), writer of devotional literature, preacher, Christian utopian, art collector, naturalist and member of the Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft, represents an imposing but ambiguous figure among theologians of the first half of the 17th century. As the newly emerging research on Andreae has pointed out, his practical- and piety-oriented theology, his effort to found a *societas Christiana* and his fundamental participation in Resuscitacionism, which he derived later in his life, all these aspects of his work belong to a European movement for the renewal of intellectual culture, spiritual literature and modern sciences. The correspondence of Johann Valentin Andreae provides an important key to understanding the network of theologians and scholars with whom he was in contact, as well as to investigating the development of his concept of piety and his connections with Resuscitacionism, as well as to tackling questions about the history of the production of art and its circulation or aspects of everyday life. His correspondence therefore opens up new research perspectives on 17th century church history as well as on hermetic traditions and thus makes a contribution to German studies, to research on Pietism and to the histories of "mentality" or "war".

The project aims to catalogue the correspondence of Johann Valentin Andreae, to digitalize the documents and to provide a Repertorium in form of an on-line database and a printed catalogue. The basis of sources for the project comprises a collection of about 5300 letters, most of which are held in the Herzog August Bibliothek (according to latest estimates, about 4827 items from the total amount). In addition, 350 "occasional poems" and 10 entries in family registers have to be catalogued. Andreae's early correspondence was almost completely destroyed by a fire in the city of Calvin in 1634, during the Thirty Years War. The writings preserved in

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Digital Library (DOL)

Circulation of Knowledge and Learned Practices in the 17th-century Dutch Republic

A web-based Humanities' Collaboratory on Correspondences.

The scientific revolution of the 17th century was driven by countless discoveries in the workshop, in the observatory and in society at large. A dramatic increase in the amount of information gave rise to new knowledge. But how were new elements of knowledge disseminated and appropriated? In short: how did knowledge circulate?

In order to answer this question the CKCC project built a web application called ePistolarium. With this application researchers can browse and analyze around 20,000 letters that were written by and sent to 17th-century scholars who lived in the Dutch Republic. Moreover, the ePistolarium enables visualizations of geographical, time-based, social network and co-citation inquiries.

Go to the ePistolarium and browse through the letters with the faceted search. Or watch the video-instruction with an introduction to the tool.

Read more about the CKCC project and its outcomes in publications and lectures.

Research partners



03/06/2013 Version 1.0 of ePistolarium released [More...](#)

28/09/2012 Version 0.4 of the ePistolarium released [More...](#)

REASSEMBLING
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OF LETTERS

To reassemble the scattered data on this community, we now need a revolution in *digital* communications, based on collaboratively developed standards and infrastructure.



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Why do we need it? Research Questions

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)



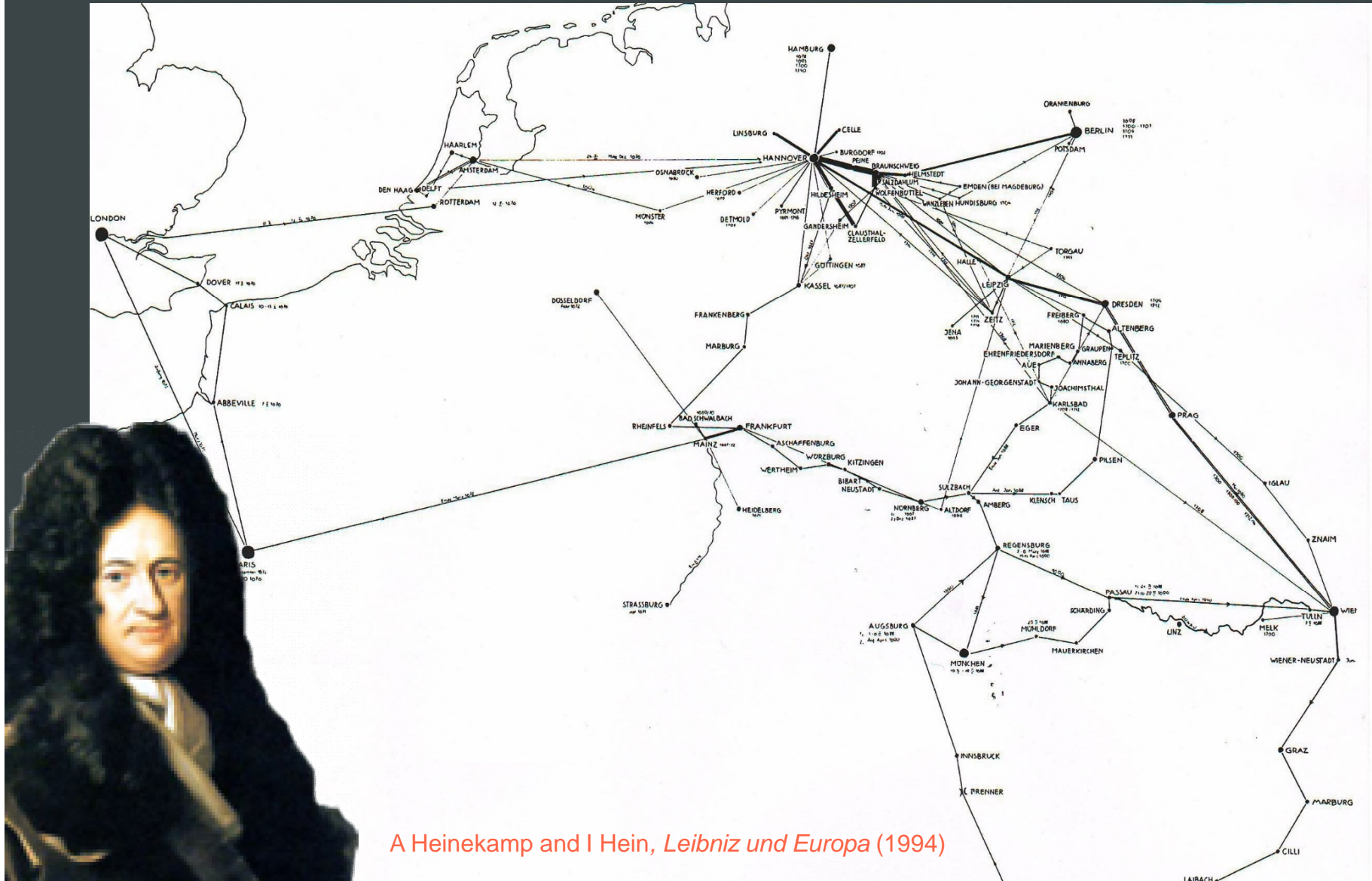
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Leibniz's network
A static view



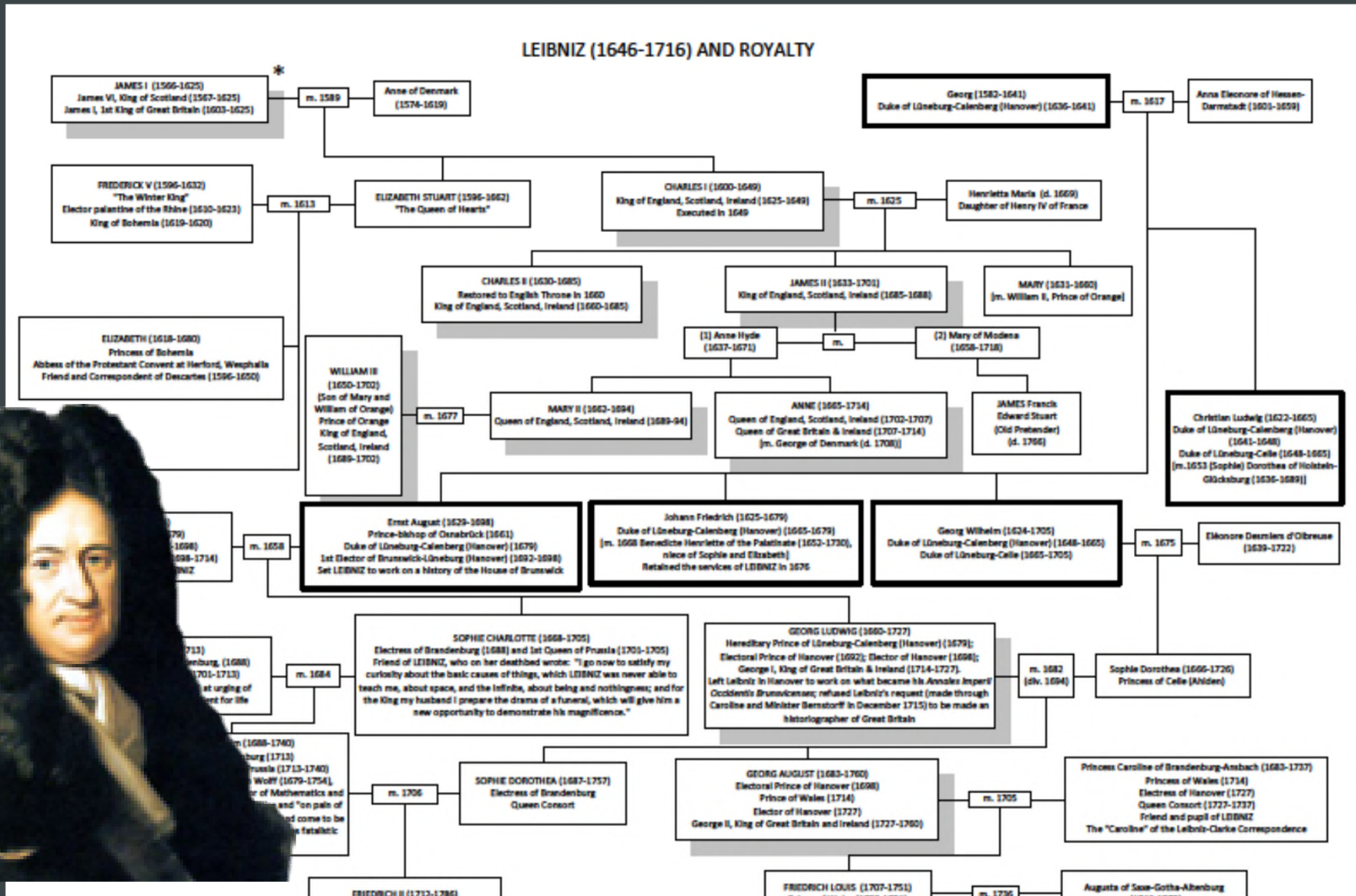
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Leibniz's network A dynamic view



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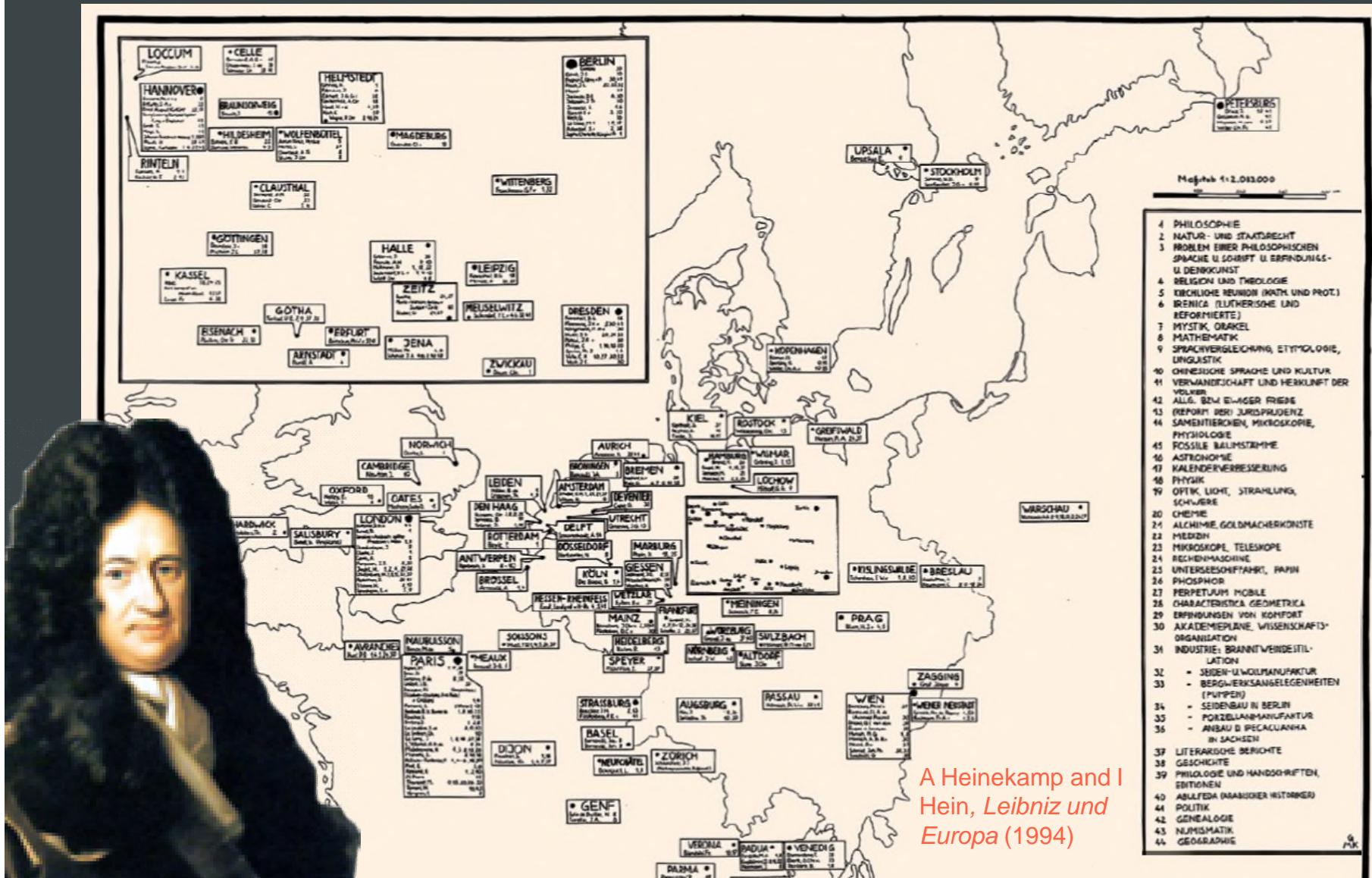
Leibniz's network A genetic view



REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

Leibniz's network

People, places and topics



A Heinekamp and I
Hein, Leibniz und
Europa (1994)

Definition

What do we mean by 'prosopography'? = Biographical data in structured form

Purpose

Why do we need it? What are we aiming for?

Task

disambiguating people
understanding networks
understanding content
a generic tool

Requisites

basic data
location and contact histories
rich biographical information
standard solutions

Basic approach

A dynamic model: based on event streams rather than attributes
(every attribute has its history: Leibniz was not born a mathematician, etc.)

Balance The greatest difficulty will be to find a balance between

Simplicity (easy to learn)

Comprehensiveness (covers many cases)

User-friendliness (easy to use)

Durability (not requiring revision) Flexibility (adaptable to many purposes)

Possible starting point

Academics: i.e. the species of intellectuals with the most regular and best documented careers

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

How should it be structured? Data model Pilot projects



Person

Hartlib, Samuel, 1600-1662

Catalogue Statistics

299 letters written • 3234 letters received • 72 letters mentioning

Hide unknown Show unknown Separate charts Stack bars Split bars

Letters written, Addressee of letters and Mentioned in

Letters Written

Decade

Letters per year

1620s 1625: 3 • 1626: 1

1630s 1630: 4 • 1632: 1 • 1634: 2 • 1635: 1 • 1637: 1 • 1638: 5 • 1639: 5

1640s 1640: 21 • 1641: 7 • 1642: 3 • 1643: 7 • 1644: 6 • 1645: 5 • 1647: 7 • 1648: 7 • 1649: 2

1650s 1650: 6 • 1651: 6 • 1652: 1 • 1653: 6 • 1654: 10 • 1655: 8 • 1656: 12 • 1657: 12 • 1658: 36 • 1659: 29

1660s 1660: 28 • 1661: 29 • 1662: 3

???? Unknown year: 25

Letters Received

Decade

Letters per year

1620s 1620: 1 • 1621: 1 • 1624: 1 • 1626: 1 • 1628: 14 • 1629: 6

1630s 1630: 7 • 1631: 17 • 1632: 6 • 1633: 16 • 1634: 47 • 1635: 69 • 1636: 73 • 1637: 82 • 1638: 102 • 1639: 84

Alternative names

Hartlieb: Hartliebb;
Albureth: Gartlib: Hartlip;
Hartlibb: Hartlibius

Related Resources

Wikipedia
ODNB entry

Date of birth

1600 (approximate)

Date of death

1662

Parent of

Clodius, Mary, d.1668
married Fridrich Clodius,
1653
Hartlib, Samuel, b.1631
Son of Samuel Hartlib (c.
1600-62); Godson of Ralph
Austen
Rothé, Nan, d.1679
Wife of Johannes Rothé;
Daughter of Samuel
Hartlib; Sister of Samuel
Hartlib Jr

Sibling of

Hartlib, Georg, d.1651
Rector in Vilnius brother
of Samuel Hartlib

genealogy
personal life
social status
personal location history
social contact
ecclesiastical activities
educational activities
professional activity
learned activities
creative work activity

genealogy

personal life

social status

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social contact

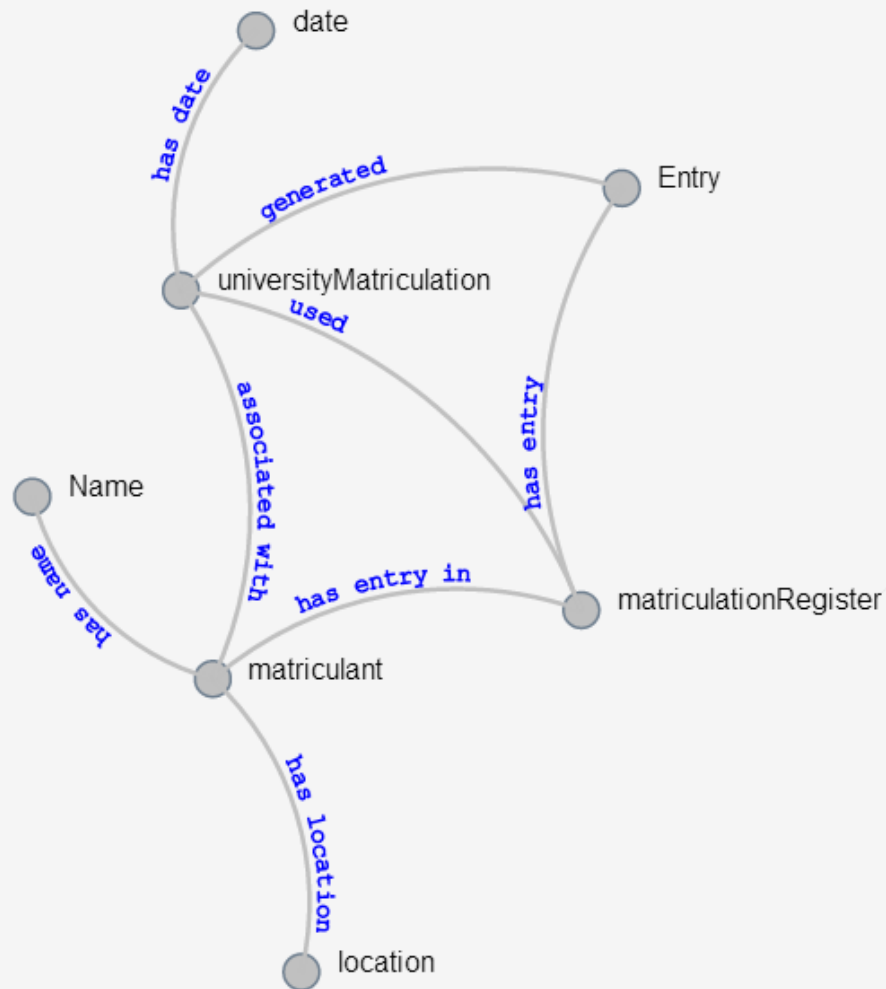
ecclesiastical activities

educational activities

professional activity

learned activities

creative work activity



REASSEMBLING
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How do we get data into it? Data inputting Spreadsheet

Activity				Primary participant (person)			Secondary participant (person/group)				Date one			
Event label	Event Category	EventType / RelationshipType	Event name / description	Emlo_ID	Name (surname, forename)	Role of primary participant	Emlo_ID	Name (surname, forename)	Type	Role of secondary participant	year	month	day	uncerta
444	1	MajorLifeEvents	Birth	300073	de Geer, Louis	Born	-	-	-	-	1587	11		
445	2	MajorLifeEvents	Death	300073	de Geer, Louis	Deceased	-	-	-	-	1652	6	19	
446	3	FamilyRelationships	FamilyRelationship	300073	de Geer, Louis	Father	200138	de Geer, Laurentius	Person	Son				
447	4	FamilyRelationships	FamilyRelationship	300073	de Geer, Louis	Father	900406	de Geer, Stephan	Person	Son				
448	5	SocialStatusChange	Ennoblement	300073	de Geer, Louis						1641	8	4	
449	6	FamilyRelationships	FamilyRelationship	300073	de Geer, Louis	Son		Gaillarmont, Louis de (1	Person	Father				
450	7	MajorLifeEvents	Habitation	300073	de Geer, Louis	Inhabitant	-	-	-	-	1587			
451	8	ProfessionalActivities		300073	de Geer, Louis	Refugee	-	-	-	-	1595			
452	9	MajorLifeEvents	Habitation	300073	de Geer, Louis	Inhabitant	-	-	-	-	1595			
453	10	ProfessionalActivities	OtherProfessions	300073	de Geer, Louis	Merchant	-	-	-	-	1608			
454	11	FamilyRelationships	FamilyRelationship	300073	de Geer, Louis	marriage		Gérard, Adrienne de (d.	Person	Wife	1611			
455	12	ProfessionalActivities	OtherProfessions	300073	de Geer, Louis	weapons					1611			
456	13	FamilyRelationships	FamilyRelationship	300073	de Geer, Louis	Brother-in-law		Trip, Elias (d. 1635)	Person	Brother-in-law				
457	14	MajorLifeEvents	Habitation	300073	de Geer, Louis	Inhabitant	-	-	-	-	1611			
458	15	MajorLifeEvents	Habitation	300073	de Geer, Louis	Inhabitant	-	-	-	-	1615			

Date two				Location name					Textual source		Who entered the data		Whose notes did you use		Addit
year	month	day	uncertainty	date type	Emlo_ID	More details of place (free text)	Type-ahead, or City if new location	Region	Country	location Type	Source	Source Details	Who entered the data	Whose notes did you use	Addit
			Uncertain		900096		Liège, Wallonia, Belgium				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
					300024		Amsterdam, North Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
							-				<i>Nederlands adelsboek</i>	83 (1993), 158	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1595			Approximate	Duration	900096		Liège, Wallonia, Belgium				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1608			Between		900027		Aachen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1605			Between		200044		Dordrecht, South Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1611			Duration		741		La Rochelle, Poitou-Charentes, France				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
					200044		Dordrecht, South Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1652							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1615			Duration		200044		Dordrecht, South Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1622			Duration		300024		Amsterdam, North Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	
1628			Duration		300024	in the Huis me	Amsterdam, North Holland, (United Provinces) Netherlands				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	other sources s
							-				NNBW	X, 275-277	Robin Buning	Robin Buning	house in 1634

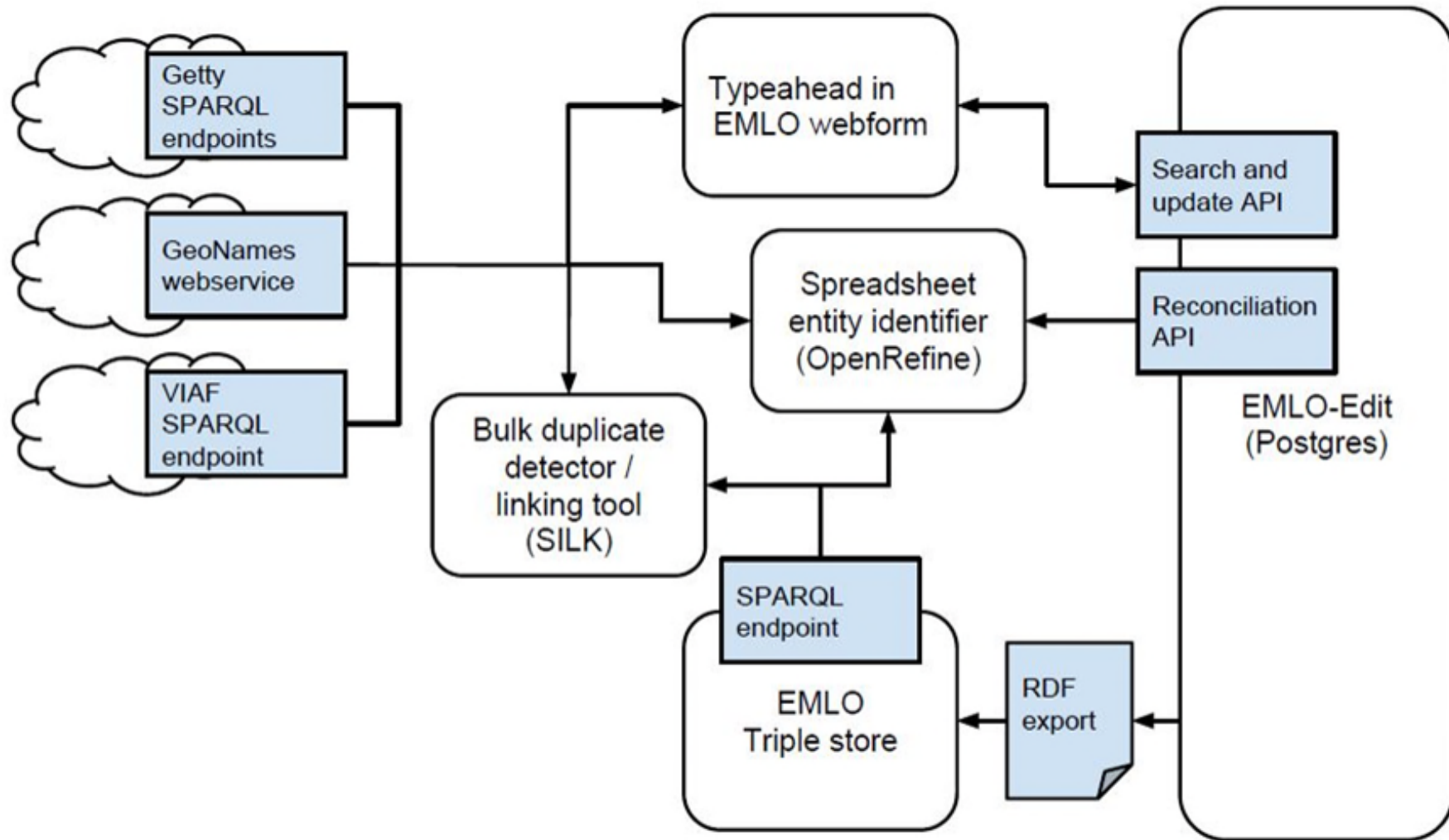
Education

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UniversityMatriculation

Show graph Show assertions + -

Matriculant + - Enter details of Matriculant	MatriculationRegister + - Enter details of MatriculationRegister	Entry + - Enter details of Entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Is this a date range?		
Year Enter year	Month Enter month	Day Enter day
<input type="checkbox"/> Inferred date	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain date	<input type="checkbox"/> Approximate date
Location name Enter details of location name	Room Enter details of room	Building Enter details of building
Parish Enter details of parish	City Enter details of city	County Enter details of county
Country Enter details of country	Empire Enter details of empire	
Notes on place <input type="text"/>		



REASSEMBLING
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What do we get out of it? **Data output**
typical entry

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1599-05-10 | matriculation, Paedagogium , Herborn |
| 1600-10-08 | in third class, Paedagogium , Herborn |
| 1602-10-02 | matriculation, schola publica , Herborn |
| 1605 | theological disputation under Johannes Piscator |
| 1605 | verses in disputation by Joannes Vetterus |
| 1606-04-29 | matriculation, University of Marburg |
| 1606-late | travelled to Westphalia |
| 1607-07 | matriculation, University of Basel
studied mathematics under Leonhardt
Zubler |
| 1608 | Published <i>Flores theologici</i> , Basel |
| 1608-10-10 | letter from Caspar Waser, Basel |

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