



INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

University of London
School of Advanced Study

Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data

Jane Winters (Reader in Digital Humanities, Institute of
Historical Research)

Digging into Data, Phase 3 start-up meeting, 30 April 2-13



The data

- UK Hansard (House of Commons debates, 1803 to the present)
- Canadian Hansard (1867 to the present)
- Parliamentary proceedings of the Netherlands, 1814 to the present)



Aims and objectives

- To enhance the existing corpus of parliamentary data, 1803-2014, using NLP and linked data
- To develop new and adapt existing tools which will allow the comparative, longitudinal study of the enhanced data
- To explore substantive research questions which will both test and inform the development of those tools



The project team

- Canada – Chris Cochrane, Graeme Hirst and Nona Naderi (University of Toronto)
- Netherlands – Jaap Kamps and Maarten Marx (University of Amsterdam)
- UK – Jonathan Blaney, Martin Steer and Jane Winters (IHR); Richard Gartner (KCL); Paul Seaward (History of Parliament); Luke Blaxill (University of Oxford)



Key deliverables

- A joint dataset covering all three jurisdictions, available as enriched XML proceedings and RDF triples linked to DBpedia
- A range of NLP tools for the comparative longitudinal study of parliamentary data
- Substantive case studies focusing on left/right ideological polarisation and migration
- End-of-project big data workshop



Previous work

- Political Mashup project - <http://politicalmashup.nl/>
- Linking Parliamentary Records through Metadata (LIPARM) - <http://www.liparm.ac.uk/>
- Millbank Hansard - <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/>
- They Work For You - <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>
- PARLINFO - <http://www.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/>

Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data

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Parliamentary proceedings reflect our history from centuries ago to the present day. They exist in a common format that has survived the test of time, and reflect any event of significance (through times of war and peace, of economic crisis and prosperity). With carefully curated proceedings becoming available in digital form in many countries, new research opportunities arise to





Communication

- Project website and blog – <http://dilipad.history.ac.uk>
- Twitter account - @parl_data
- Series of short video interviews with project team
- Draft articles presented for open peer review on the project website
- Conference and seminar presentations
- Final two-day big data workshop
- Four peer-reviewed scholarly articles



Measuring success

- Comparison of enhanced UK and Canadian data with gold standard of Dutch data
- Acceptance of Parliamentary Markup Language (PML) schema by TEI
- Usage of data and tools
- User testing and feedback
- Peer review
- On-going collaboration between project partners