Dr. Matelski

HST 201

**Text Analysis of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire**

Sample data set (Runaway Slave Ads):

<https://voyant-tools.org/?corpus=495b0f205e2d1086df18823af57174c1&stopList=stop.en.taporware.txt>

*This is a sample set to help familiarize you with Voyant; you will be creating your own unique dataset for your essay on the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.*

**Step 1:**

Familiarize yourself on Canvas with the provided data sets of primary sources. These include:

* Eye witness accounts (published oral histories)
* Official reports about the fire (i.e. fire marshall’s official findings)
* Newspaper accounts (both local and regional)
* Court transcripts from the trial against the factory owners
* Contemporary and historical songs and poems about the fire

**Step 2:**

Based on the resources available to you, identify a research question. What are you curious to learn more about? *Note:* this is different than the sciences where one forms a hypothesis, i.e. what they *think* they’re going to discover. Come to the project with curiosity and an open mind.

**Step 3:**

Go to <https://voyant-tools.org/>.

Once at Voyant’s launch page, upload a selection of primary sources. (Click “Upload” and choose your word docs). You’ll need to have downloaded the documents from Canvas onto your computer. Click the “Reveal” button to create your corpus of data.

Experiment with different combinations of data. For example, create a master Word file of all of the eyewitness accounts or the newspaper accounts and compare them to each other. You should “clean up” your data by deleting the bibliographic information found in each document prior to creating your corpus.

Remember to manipulate your stopword lists! A stopword list is a set of words that should be excluded from the results of a tool. Typically, stopword lists contain function words that don’t carry as much meaning, such as prepositions (in, to, from, etc.) Depending on your event, you will want to add to Voyant’s pre-determined stopword list.

For a more thorough tutorial of Voyant and its multiple functions, see <http://docs.voyant-tools.org/>

**Step 4:**

In a 4-5 page paper, report your findings.

Your introduction (limit to one paragraph) should introduce the reader to the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Assume that your reader is unfamiliar with American history. You do not need to cite this information unless you’ve looked at sources beyond the notes you took on the documentary.

Your introduction will end with your thesis statement.

*Your essay will employ both qualitative and quantitative evidence.* That is, you can (and should) quote directly from the print sources, but the focus of the essay should be quantitative analysis (i.e. what you discovered through using Voyant).

Your thesis will be supported by at least **two data outputs** (but ideally more) from Voyant such as the “cirrus”, “terms”, “trends”, “collocates”, and “links” analysis.

Questions you may not have been able to answer previously but are now able to because of tools like Voyant might include:

* What are the most frequently used words in a text?
* What words do not appear at all or appear infrequently?
* Do any of these words (or absence of words) represent any sort of theme?
* How is this word choice significant in terms of framing this historic event?
* What might contemporaries have thought about the fire and preceding events (based on reports and news accounts) compared to what we know now?

Beyond simply talking about your findings, use charts imported from Voyant to support your argument. You will need to explain your data, just like one would explain/expound upon a direct quote. In essence, don’t make your reader do the heavy lifting. Additionally, include a caption beneath each table/chart that explains what the visual is trying to illustrate. **Graphs and charts do not count toward your final page count.**

*Citing Voyant evidence:*

* Include the following citation on your works cited page:

Sinclair, Stefan and Geoffrey Rockwell. *Voyant Tools.* 2018. Web. Date Accessed.

<http://voyant-tools/org.>

* You should also include the URL to your dataset on the works cited page, similar to the one for the Runaway Slave Advertisements at the top of this assignment. To do this, follow these steps:
  + Once you’ve uploaded your articles and Voyant has fetched your corpus, hover your cursor over the blue question mark in the top right-hand corner. Multiple icons will appear.
  + Click on the middle icon that looks like a box with an arrow coming out of it.
  + A new box will appear that gives you the option to Export your URL.
  + Click on “Export” and copy-and-paste the URL that appears in the search bar of the new browser window that opens.
* For each in-text citation, it is appropriate for this assignment to identify in parenthesis the kind of tool utilized in that particular analysis (i.e. Cirrus, Terms, Summary, Trends, Contents, etc.)

Ex: The word “body” appeared in the articles twenty-four times (Cirrus).

*Formatting your paper:*

* Use 12-point font in one of the standard typefaces (Times New Roman, Times).
* Do not place extra spaces between paragraphs or between the heading and the title or the title and the text
* Your title should be centered, in plain 12-point text, with appropriate words capitalized – no title page is necessary
* All pages should be paginated
* All margins should be one inch (the default margins for most word processing programs)
* Quotations must be enclosed in quotations marks, and MLA citation practices should be observed
* Do not use contractions, jargon, or the first person
* Check spelling and proofread

Refer to the syllabus for information regarding late work and academic dishonesty.

*Resources:*

1. Me! Office hours on syllabus or by appointment
2. Tech Fellows: peers with a background in computer science

Tech fellows are available for drop-in meetings (no appointment needed) in LSB 113. See their schedule here: <https://dla.endicott.edu/#techfellows>

Meetings with a tech fellow are also available by appointment: [http://bit.ly/ec-techfellows](http://bit.ly/ec-techfellows" \t "_blank)