

Discursive shifts in two Digital Humanities platforms

Cornelius Puschmann, Humboldt-University of Berlin/HIIG
puschmann@ibi.hu-berlin.de

Marco Toledo Baston, Duke University/HASTAC
marco.toledo@duke.edu

Issues and Questions

- Acceptance of social media in scholarly communication is generally low (Bader, Fritz, & Gloning, 2012, Rowlands et al, 2011)
- Newly emerging disciplinary communities integrate social media more readily than established fields (Ross et al, 2011)
- Scholarly social media platforms provide insights into ongoing discourses in the Digital Humanities (Kirschenbaum, 2010)
- **Q1:** How is scholarly communication in social media locally configured?
- **Q2:** How entrenched are labels related to the Digital Humanities in two different platforms?

Object of study

- HASTAC: US-based social network for humanities scholars/educators, funded by MacArthur Foundation, focus on learning and (new) media
- Hypotheses: based in France, publicly funded by the CNRS, represents a range of fields in the humanities and social sciences

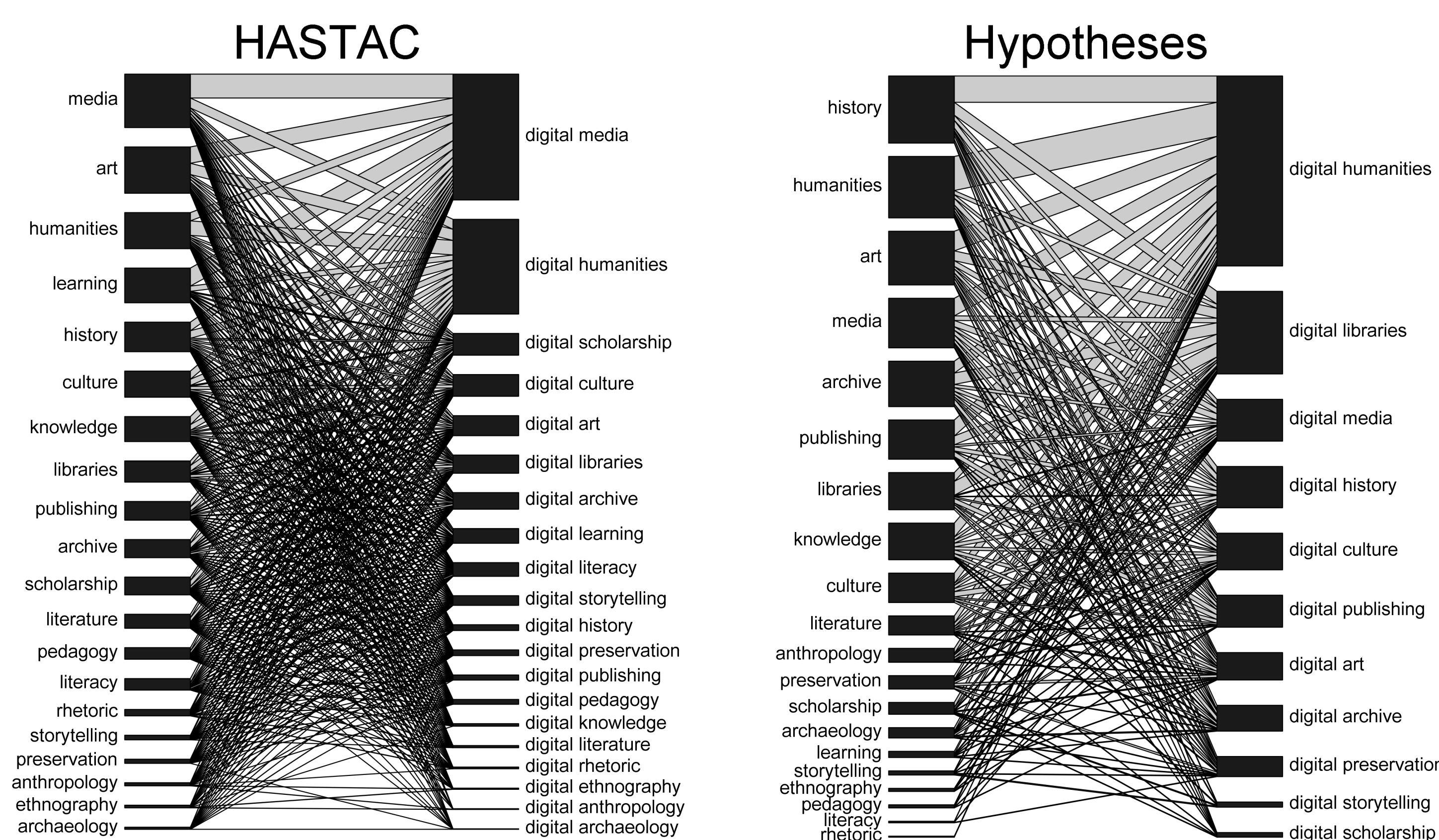


Figure 2: Bipartite graph of keyword associations.

References

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- Rowlands, I., Nicholas, D., Russell, B., Canty, N., & Watkinson, A. (2011). Social media use in the research workflow. *Learned Publishing*, 24(3), 183–195.

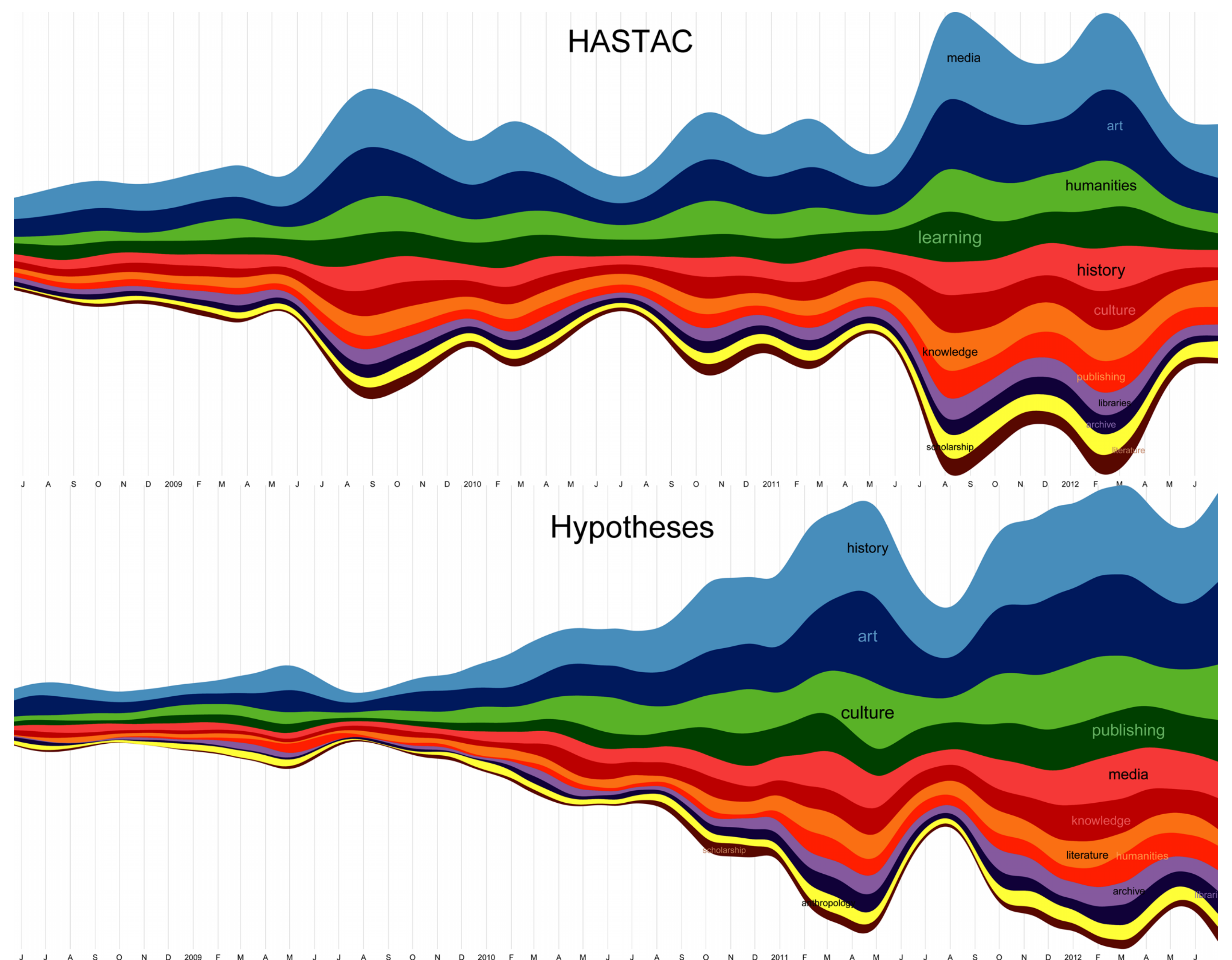


Figure 1: Stream graph of keyword frequencies over time.

Methods and Data

- Method: Co-word analysis of English-language blog post full texts
- Data: 14,000 blog posts, half from each platform
- We extracted keyword collocations and tracked changes over time in both networks (Figure 1)
- We compared a set of terms in both networks to examine how accepted labels such as 'digital history' are (Figures 2 and 3)

Findings

- There is a strong dependency of digital concepts on their non-digital counterparts ('digital history' strongly co-occurs with 'history')
- Terms prefixed with 'digital' are quite popular in HASTAC, much less so in Hypotheses

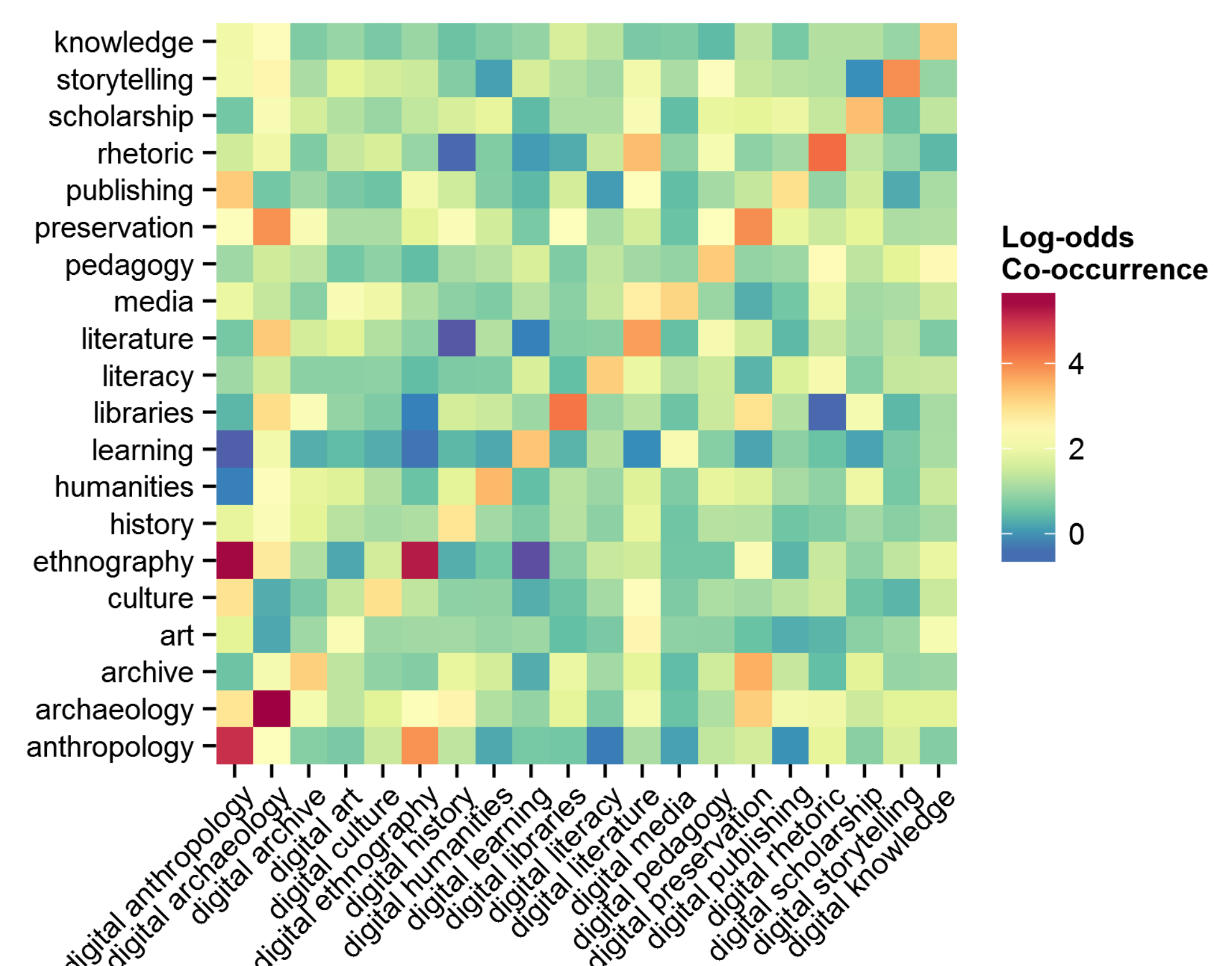


Figure 3: Heatmap of keyword associations in HASTAC.