

# Overview

A Case Study of an  
Investigative Journalism  
Viz Tool

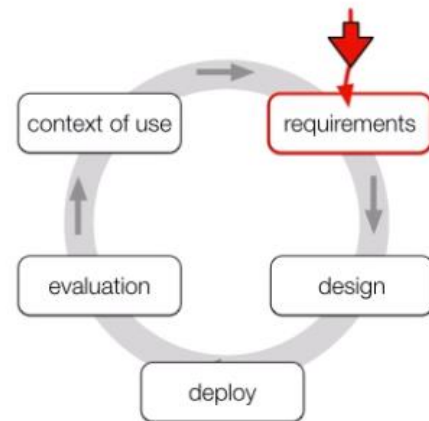
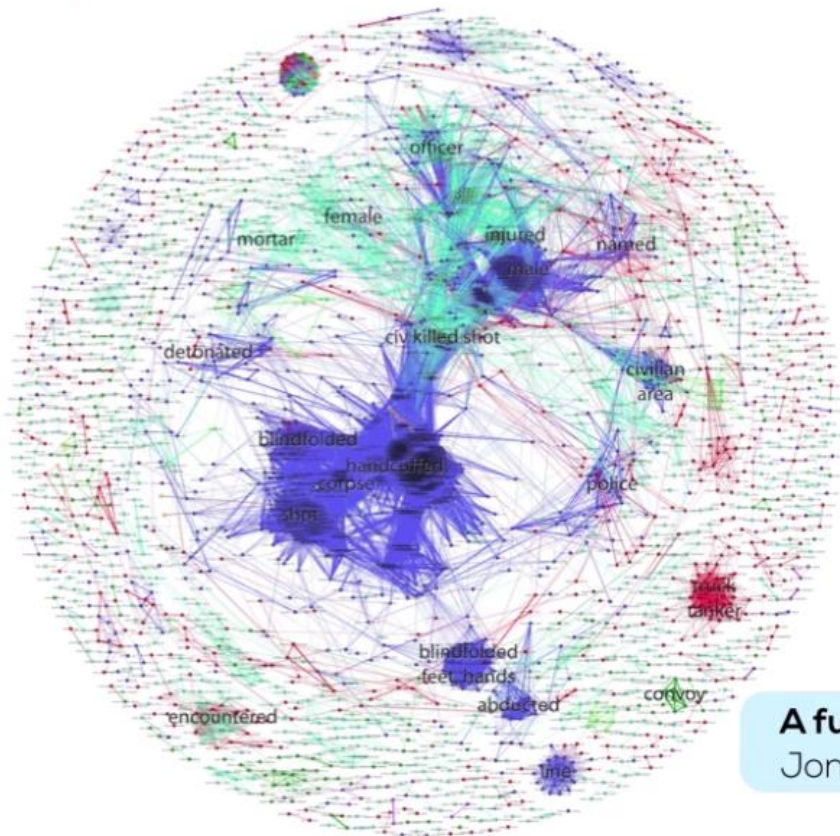


Michael Spagnut, Mindy Chiang

<https://www.overviewdocs.com/>

# Presentation Objectives

- To introduce an interesting **problem-driven** design project that has a significant visualization component
- To consider visualization of **textual data** in the specific context of **investigative journalism**
- To discuss the **evolution** of the **visualization design** of the tool and the rationale behind it



**A full-text visualization of the Iraq War Logs.**  
Jonathan Stray, Associated Press (Dec. 2010)

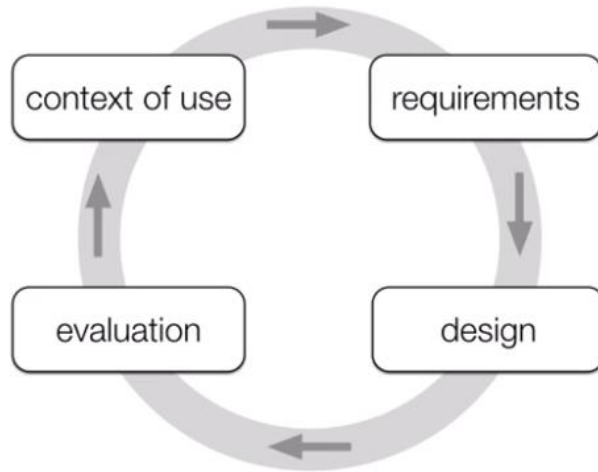


## 4 VERSIONS, 6 CASE STUDIES

Case Study	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
Document Collection	4,500 pages from FOIA	5,996 emails from FOIA	8,680 pages from FOIA	1,278 survey comments	4,653 emails from FOIA	1,680 bills
Question	<i>What did security contractors do during Iraq war?</i>	<i>Were municipal police funds mismanaged?</i>	<i>Were Paul Ryan's campaign statements hypocritical?</i>	<i>What is the gun ownership debate about?</i>	<i>Was gov't response to emergency incident effective?</i>	<i>Did gov't pass bills addressing police misconduct?</i>

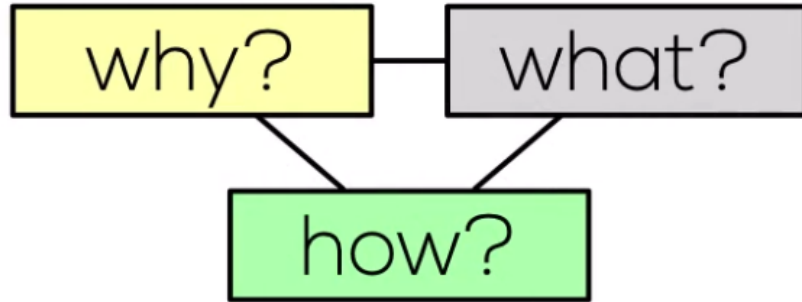


# HUMAN-CENTRED VIS DESIGN



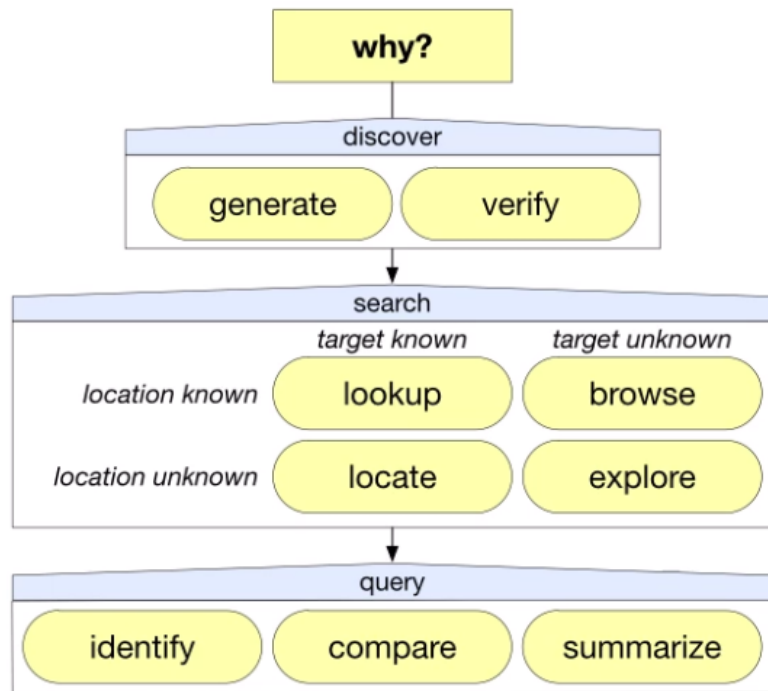
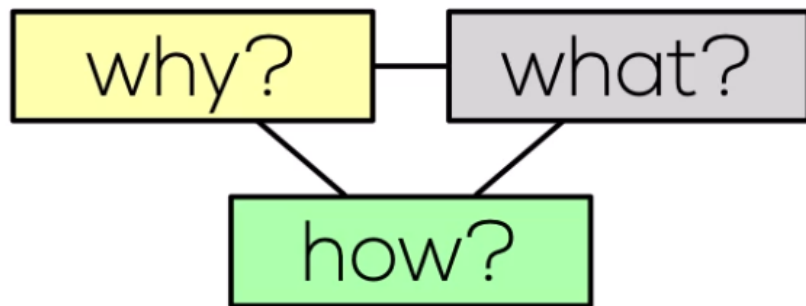
Lloyd & Dykes (IEEE TVCG / InfoVis 2011)

# VIS TASK ANALYSIS



Brehmer & Munzner: "A multi-level typology of abstract visualization tasks" (IEEE TVCG / InfoVis 2013).

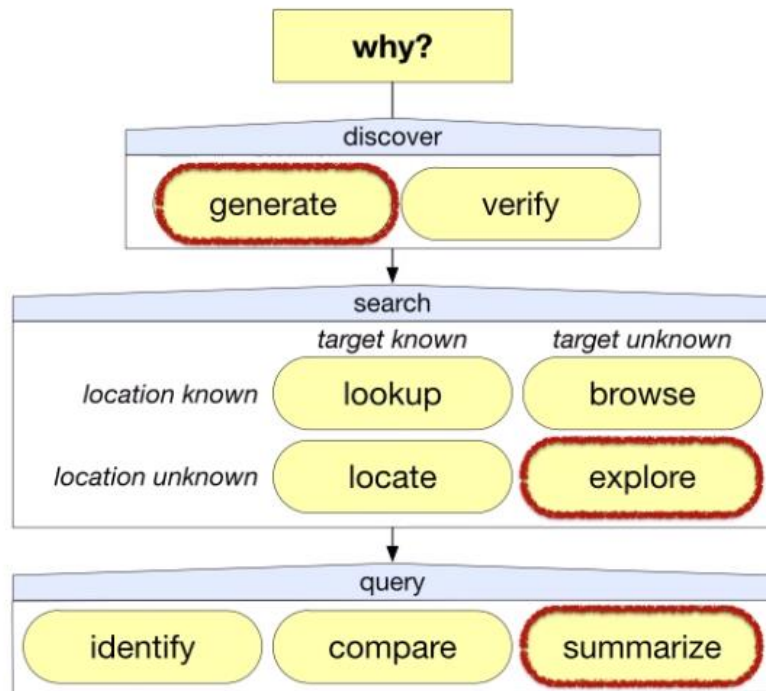
# VIS TASK ANALYSIS



Brehmer & Munzner: "A multi-level typology of abstract visualization tasks" (IEEE TVCG / InfoVis 2013).

# VIS TASK ANALYSIS

**T1: generate hypotheses**  
→ **explore** → **summarize**  
case studies 1, 4

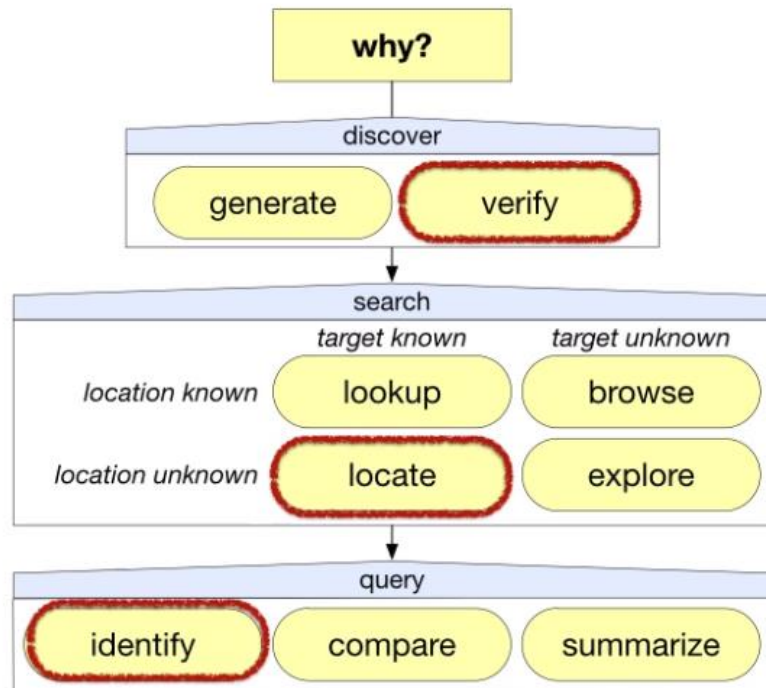


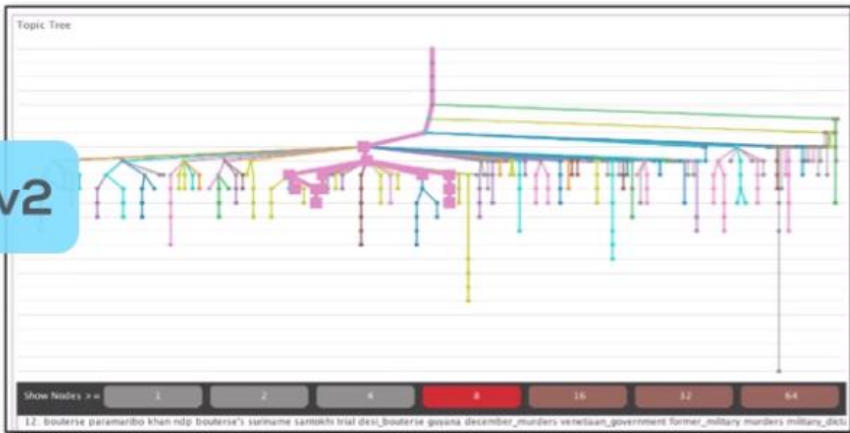


# VIS TASK ANALYSIS

**T1: generate hypotheses**  
→ **explore** → **summarize**  
case studies 1, 4

**T2: verify hypotheses**  
→ **locate** → **identify**  
case studies 2, 3, 5, 6





v2



v2

RELATED WORK

EV  
Chen et al.

InfoSky  
Granitzer et al.

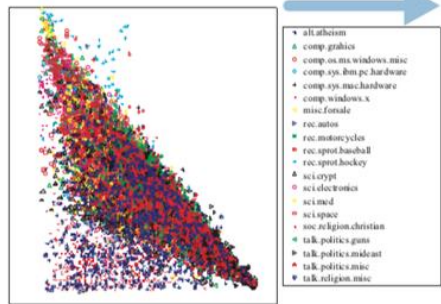
Jigsaw  
Görg et al.

Leaksplorer  
Bretschneider

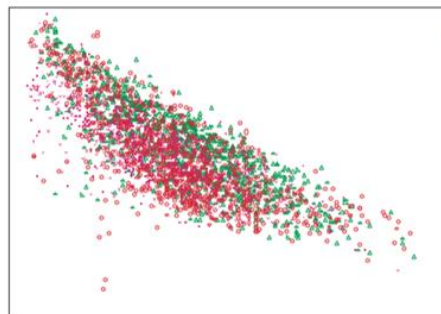
PEX  
Paulovich et al.

ForceSPIRE  
Endert et al.

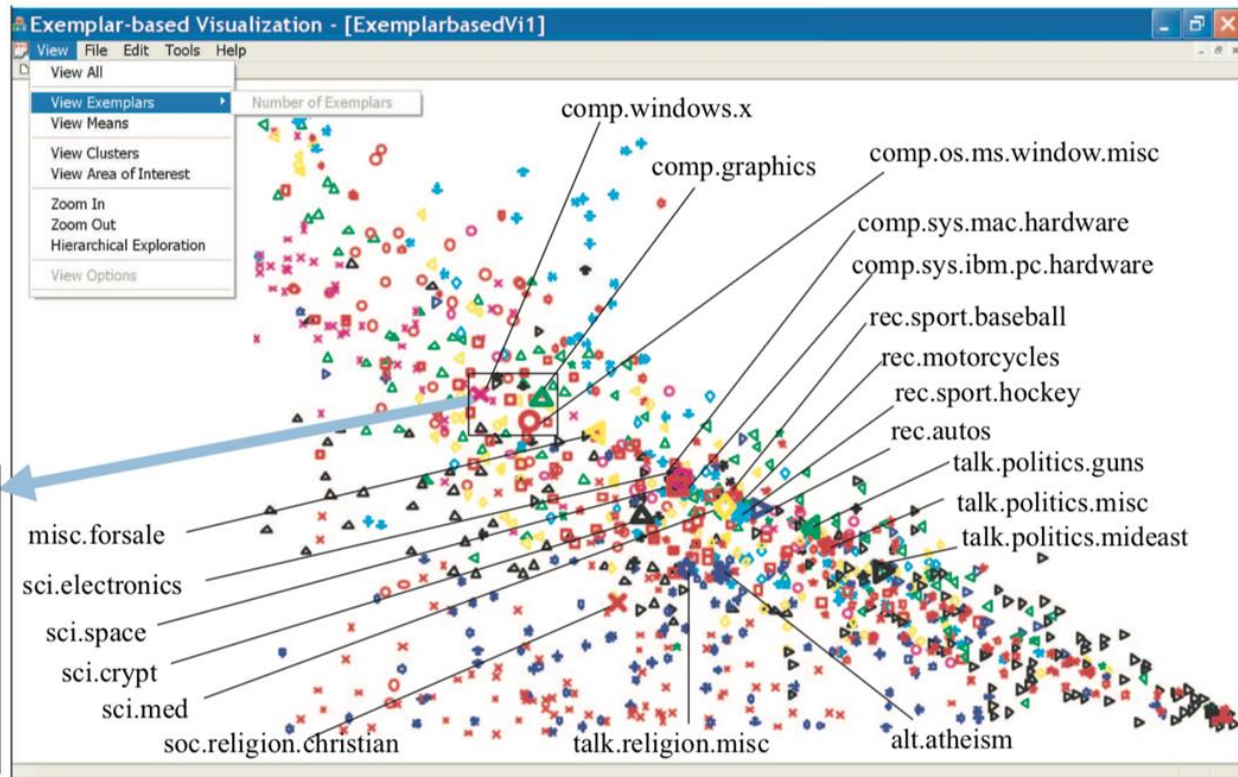




(a)

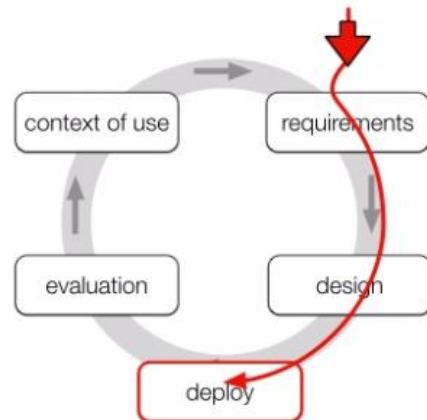
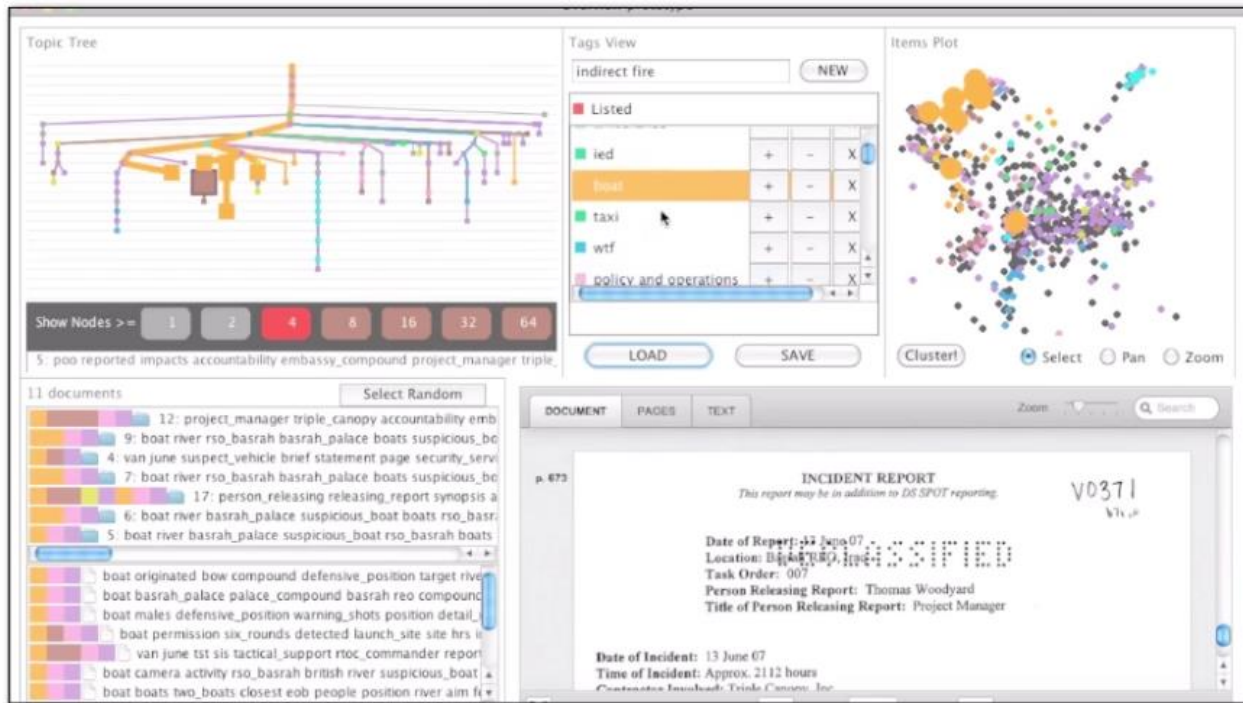


(c)



(b)

# OVERVIEW V.2 (DESKTOP APP), 2012

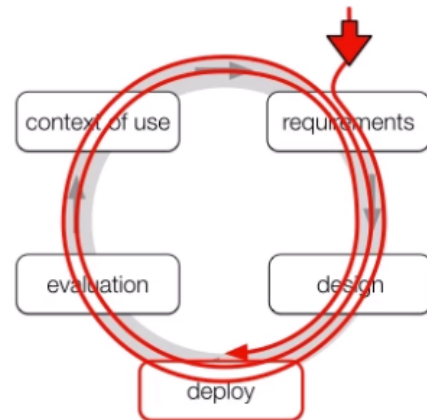




# OVERVIEW V.4, FALL 2013

The screenshot displays the 'OVERVIEW' application interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Blog', 'Help', and 'Contact us', along with 'Admin', 'Your document sets', and 'Log out'. The main content area is titled '91 documents in search "environmental"'. On the left, a 'tag visualization' shows a hierarchical tree of tags, with 'letter, gas, oil, program, ocs, leases, royalty, sale, lesley, briefing' at the top level. Below this, there are several smaller tag clouds and lists, including 'letter, gas, program, oil, briefing, leases, ocs, royalty, lesley, decision' and 'letter, decision, program, comments, ju...'. At the bottom left, there are buttons for 'all letters', 'Atlantis platform', and 'form letter', along with a 'tag name' input field and a 'Create new tag' button. On the right, a list of documents is shown, each with a title and key words. The documents listed are:

- MMS10 Pdf 1 1 3 (Key words: report, answer, dpp, cumulative\_effects, taxes, corporate, profits)
- MMS10 Pdf 19 80 88 (Key words: expiration\_date, massachusetts, box, new\_york, street)
- MMS10 Pdf 20 89 97 (Key words: expiration\_date, carolina, box, louisiana, working\_group, street)
- MMS10 Pdf 21 98 100 (Key words: fax, san\_francisco, street, portland, box)
- MMS10 Pdf 23 102 103 (Key words: alternative\_energy, uses, space, energy\_development, use\_conflicts)
- MMS10 Pdf 2 4 5 (Key words: environmental\_division, alternatives\_environment, energy\_alternatives, oc...)
- MMS10 Pdf 3 6 48 (Key words: electricity, fuel, vehicles, sector, generation, industrial, power)
- MMS10 Pdf 4 49 57 (Key words: dwwra\_leases, tax, revenues, companies\_holding)
- MMS13 Pdf 10 24 27 (Key words: dpp, report, tef, answer, bbo, bboe, unleased)



**clockwise from TL:**  
full-text search,  
document list /  
viewer,  
tag controls,  
tree visualization

# Design Decisions

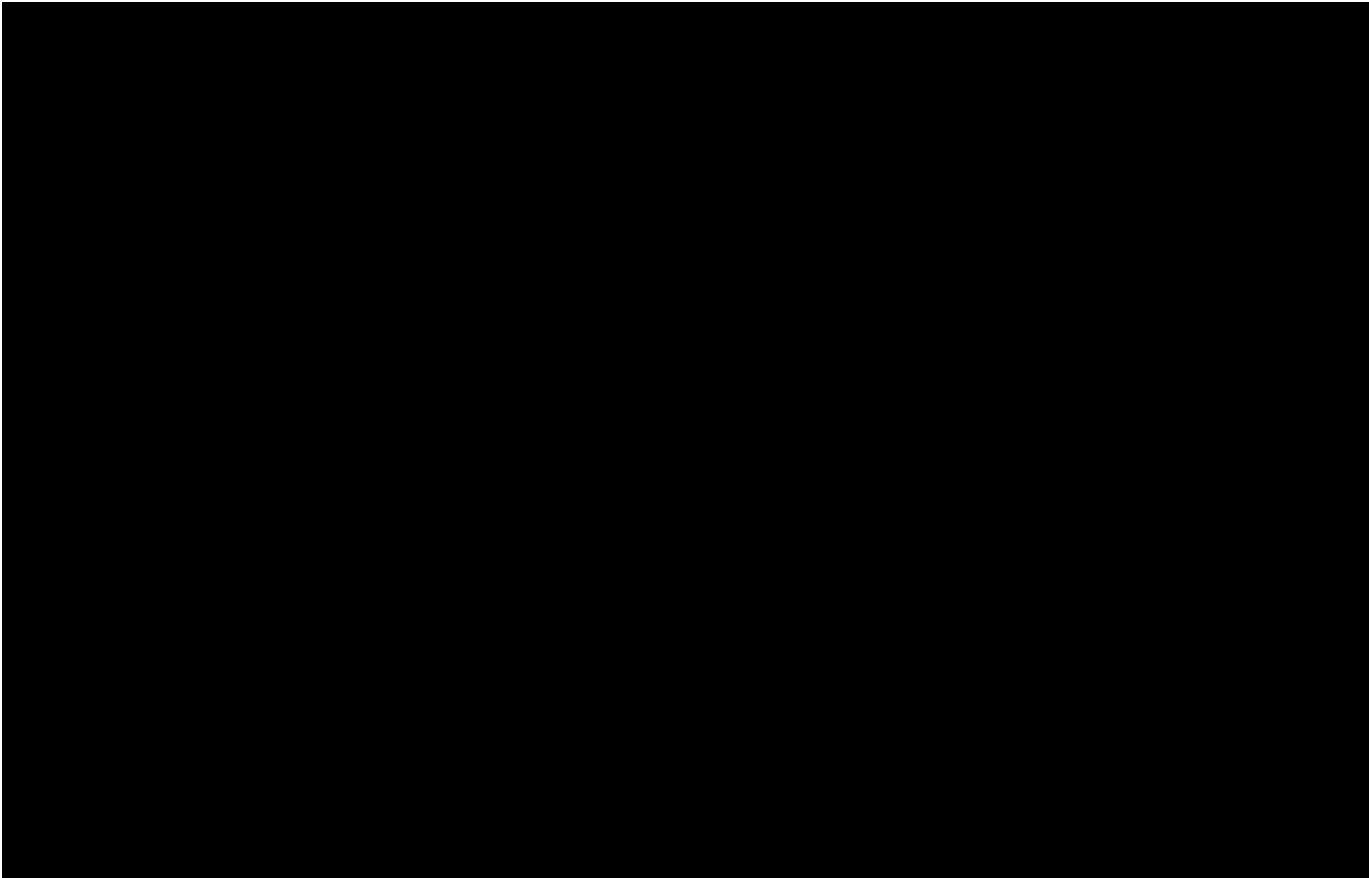
Q. Why show a tree?

A. Tree structures afford structured and systematic exploration.

# Design Decisions

Q. Why no scatter plot?

A. It was seldom used and design changes offered much of the same functionality.





# Tool demonstration – <https://www.overviewdocs.com/>



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The screenshot displays the Overview interface. At the top, a dark header reads "Overview: search, visualize, and review your documents". Below this, a word cloud visualizes document content, with "paris" being a prominent word. To the right, a list of 55 documents is shown, including titles like "2009 09 03 Invest Service Group Memorandum of Association 2" and "2010 02 09 Rubis International Memorandum of Association". Each document entry includes key words and a "French" language indicator. At the bottom, a video player is visible, showing a play button and a duration of 01:10. The Vimeo logo is also present in the bottom right corner.