

Reading Experience Database (RED)

- UK Open University project
- Collects all reading experiences of British subjects 1450-1945
- 26,000 records
- <http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/>

Reading Experience:

Evidence:

Charlotte Bronte to James Taylor, 1 February 1851: 'Have you yet read Miss Martineau's and Mr Atkinson's new work "Letters on the Nature and Development of Man?" ... It is the first exposition of avowed Atheism and Materialism I have ever read ...'

Century: 1850-1899

Date: Between 1 Jan 1851 and 1 Feb 1851

Country: England

Time: n/a

Place: city: Haworth county: Yorkshire

Type of Experience (Reader): silent aloud **unknown**
 solitary in company **unknown**
 single serial **unknown**

Type of Experience (Listener): solitary in company **unknown**
 single serial **unknown**

Reader: Charlotte Bronte

Age: Adult (18-100+)

Gender: Female

Date of Birth: 21 Apr 1816

Socio-economic group: Professional / academic / merchant / farmer

Occupation: Writer

Religion: Church of England

Country of origin: England

Country of experience: England

Text Being Read:

Author: Harriet and H. G. Martineau and Atkinson

Title: Letters on the Laws of Man's Nature and Development

Genre: Other religious, Social Science

Form of Text: Print: Book

Publication: 1851

Provenance: unknown

Source Information:

Record ID: 4408

Citation: Juliet Barker (ed.), *The Brontes: A Life in Letters* (London, 1997), p. 312, <http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/recorddetails2.php?id=4408>, accessed: 28 March 2012

Sentiment analysis project

- **Project goal:** take temperature of British attitudes toward literature using RED and subsets of RED data (e.g. by century, socio-ec group)
- **Sentiment analysis** used in consumer brand perception, movie reviews, Twitter
- Sentiment analysis often employs a given lexicon to determine the **semantic orientation** (polarity) of all words in text set
 - E.g. “excellent” = 1, “poor” = 0
 - Basic method: Texts given mean score based only on sentiment-bearing words from lexicon
 - More advanced: All words considered. If “party” occurs frequently near “excellent”, its score will be closer to 1

Challenges (so far)

- Choosing a lexicon
 - ANEW (Affective Norms for English Words): small set of words given an affective valence mean (1-9)
 - OpinionFinder: larger set of words tagged as positive or negative
 - Homemade: too time-consuming, but may include some historical words not found in other lexicons
- Working with messy crowd-sourced data
 - No authority control

	READER_FIRSTNAME	READER_SURNAME	BIRTH_YEAR	GENDER
1	Robert Louis	Stevenson	1870	Male
2	Robert Louis	Stevenson	1850	Male
3	Robert Louis	Stevenson	1881	Male
4	Robert Louis	Stevenson	1850	Female