

NewRadial is a web-based digital environment for humanities research and collaboration that encourages users to occupy, search, sort, and annotate databases in a visual field. It has been designed to function as a workspace in which primary objects from existing databases can be browsed, gathered, correlated, and augmented by multiple users in a dynamic visual environment. In addition, NewRadial offers a space in which secondary scholarship, exchange and debate can be centralized and mapped onto the primary data without deforming or destabilizing the original databases.

**The NewRadial prototype encourages three types of work:**

1. A simple search, sorting and manipulation of database objects in a visual field for the purposes of early scholarly inquiry and curiosity-based research.
2. Initial, raw and in-process commentary on connections and associations between database objects. Within the database’s visual field, scholars can add comments on such correlations, thus starting conversations, discussions and debates relating to such ideas. These discussions are hosted and archived by the NewRadial server.
3. Larger projects in which communities and individual users can collect, curate, and sort specific selections from a number of larger, independent databases. The newly developed “Collections” feature is a unique way to gather, map and annotate nodes that relate to specific research interests. NewRadial can be used to generate specific collections for users to browse and encourages the proliferation of conversations and secondary scholarship in and around such collections.

**Essential points:**

1. It resembles a data visualization application, but the nodes either iconically represent the source material or contain the source material.
2. Its primary advantage is that it makes use of adapters to display various types of databases and database content.  The adapters do not have to be locally hosted (and any distantly accessed material is cached, but not saved on the NewRadial server—like a web browser).  The adapters can be customized for any kind of media (images, text, video and audio) and can be used to display any database with a public API.
3. Significantly, NewRadial’s meta-adapter frontend can be used to simultaneously display content from databases that have NOT been standardized or are not usually compatible.  Unlike something like NINES (in which each database needs to achieve a common metadata standard to “work” within its Collex tool), NewRadial’s meta-adapter calibrates the adapters from various databases to work together.
4. Unlike many other dynamic scholarly environments, NewRadial promotes the examination of large-scale sets of data seen in databases such as ARC, DPLA, and Europeana. However, this exploration uniquely questions the optimal viewing point for humanities-based research into large datasets through a blending of the specificity of a close-reading environment with the reductive nature of large data set organizing that ultimately consolidates the benefits of the two.
5. It has (so far) been designed to function both as a browser and as an environment for critical correlation, commentary and collection (i.e. a scholarly space that can host collected commentary from a knowledge community.)  It is NOT a close reading environment.
6. NewRadial is released under the GNU GPL (v3 and above) and the source code is thus available for further customization and development.

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| **Radial** | Circular arrangement of related nodes |
| **Node** | Represents the individual aspects of the medium (ie: pages, artwork, etc.) |
| **Edge** | Visual representation of user-generated connections between two nodes |
| **Group** | A user created collection between a group of nodes |
| **Collection** | A specific selection of nodes saved or collected by the user from various search results. After signing in, Users can select nodes on the canvas and use the “Collect Items” function found in the **info panel**. Users can then save these cached nodes to a collection. Collections can be accessed, curated and annotated by using the “NewRadial collections” adapter and the username toolbar options. |
| **Adapter Search Panel** | Found on the right side of canvas under “S” tab. Select checkbox to the left of the adapter name for database search parameters, and select the “search” below adapters list to initiate the search. Multiple adapters can be searched simultaneously. Return to this panel to initiate another search. |
| **Info Panel** | The “I” panel on the right side of the screen containing information on the selection object. Context-sensitive options to work with data in NewRadial are also offered in this panel. |
| **Explore Panel** | Panel on the bottom left side of the screen which allows users to search results and to navigate the workspace via corresponding item titles under the categories of *Nodes*, *Edges*, and *Groups.* |
| **Search box** | Search box found in **Explore Panel** menu which allows users to further search and sort the nodes within NewRadial that are returned from an adapter search. |
| **Select Results** | Button used to select search results for group and radial creation |
| **Reset Button** | Located at the bottom of the display field, resets the workspace |
| **Comment** | Comment section is located within the **Info Panel** on the right-hand side of the canvas after clicking on an edge. |
| **Create Edge** | Right-click on first node, hold and drag edge and right click on second node |
| **Create Group** | Select nodes, then hit **Create Group from Selection** button in the info panel |
| **Create Radial** | Select nodes, then hit **Create Radial from Selection** button in the info panel |
| **Selecting a node** | Left-click on a node |
| **To Select Multiple Nodes** | Either:   1. Draw a box around a group of nodes by left-clicking and dragging while not on a node 2. Left-click on nodes while holding down ctrl-key |
| **Moving a node to a new location** | Left-click (hold) & drag |
| **Data source Info** | On Info Panel, left-click on image or click on **More Info** link |
| **To create a grouping box** | Left-click in empty space and drag the box outline around selected nodes |
| **To pan within the workspace** | Right-click & drag |
| **To zoom in** | Z |
| **To zoom out** | Shift + Z |
| **Moving a Radial** | In all adapters:  Left-click and hold on circle at center of radial, then move radial to new location  In adapters which feature parent and child nodes:   1. Right-click a yellow connection to pick up the child radial 2. Left-click a yellow connection to pick up the parent node |

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*Prototype:* [*http://inke.acadiau.ca/newradial*](http://inke.acadiau.ca/newradial)

*Developer version:* [*http://inke.acadiau.ca/newradial-dev*](http://inke.acadiau.ca/newradial-dev)

*Source Code:* [*http://sourceforge.net/projects/newradial-inke*](http://sourceforge.net/projects/newradial-inke)