

UMRI Pump Priming

Collaborations with Computer Science

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Jeff Nuttall : Mapping the International Underground

## **Context**

I am working on several projects connected to the polymath Jeff Nuttall, whose archive resides at the John Rylands Library. Nuttall (1933-2002) was a painter, editor, poet, and novelist, best known as a leading British counter-cultural figure of the 1960s and 1970s.

The first project mines the Nuttall archives to produce a network map of the authors, editors and artists who liaised with Nuttall during the 1960s and 1970s. The aim is to use D3 software to produce a searchable network map, which would allow viewers to see, for example, the sex, age and nationality of those mentioned in the archive. The network map will then be linked to the library catalogue.

The second project is an exhibition of Jeff Nuttall's archive at the John Rylands library from September 2016-March 2017. As part of the exhibition, I hope to include the network map, which would enable viewers (estimated at over ten thousand) to search the archives beyond the material on display.

## **Outcomes**

While I have been fortunate to have some excellent support from Louise Lever, I am looking for support in order to make the network map a visual and navigable success due to the demands on Louise. Specifically, I would like support in how best to input the data and how best to tailor the D£ program so that it is user-friendly and visually pleasing. The support would enable me to go forward with the inclusion of the network map in the exhibition; without the support, I may not be able to display the network map, since the application needs to be comprehensive to the general public; to look aesthetically pleasing, and to work efficiently. I would be happy for the student to have more input into the project, depending on their time and expertise.

## **Next Steps**

The timing is excellent: the data will be gathered from the archives in good time before June and there will be a highly visible public-engaging outcome during the six months of the Jeff Nuttall exhibition, and beyond via the library catalogue.