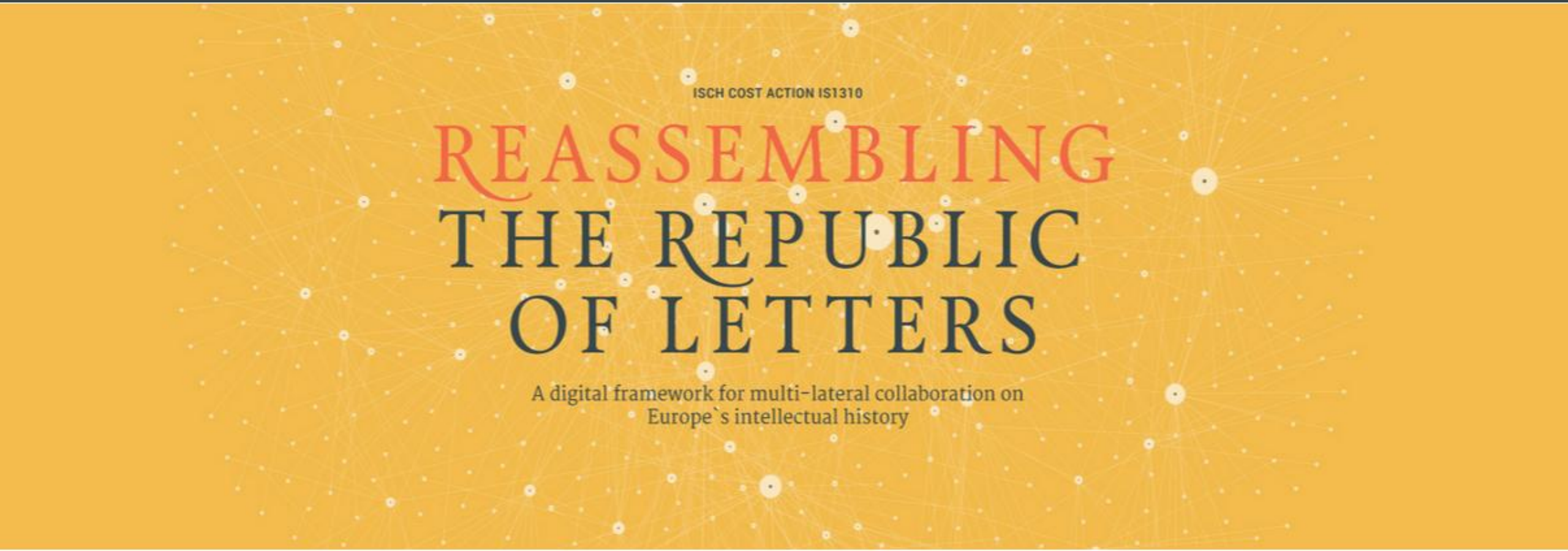
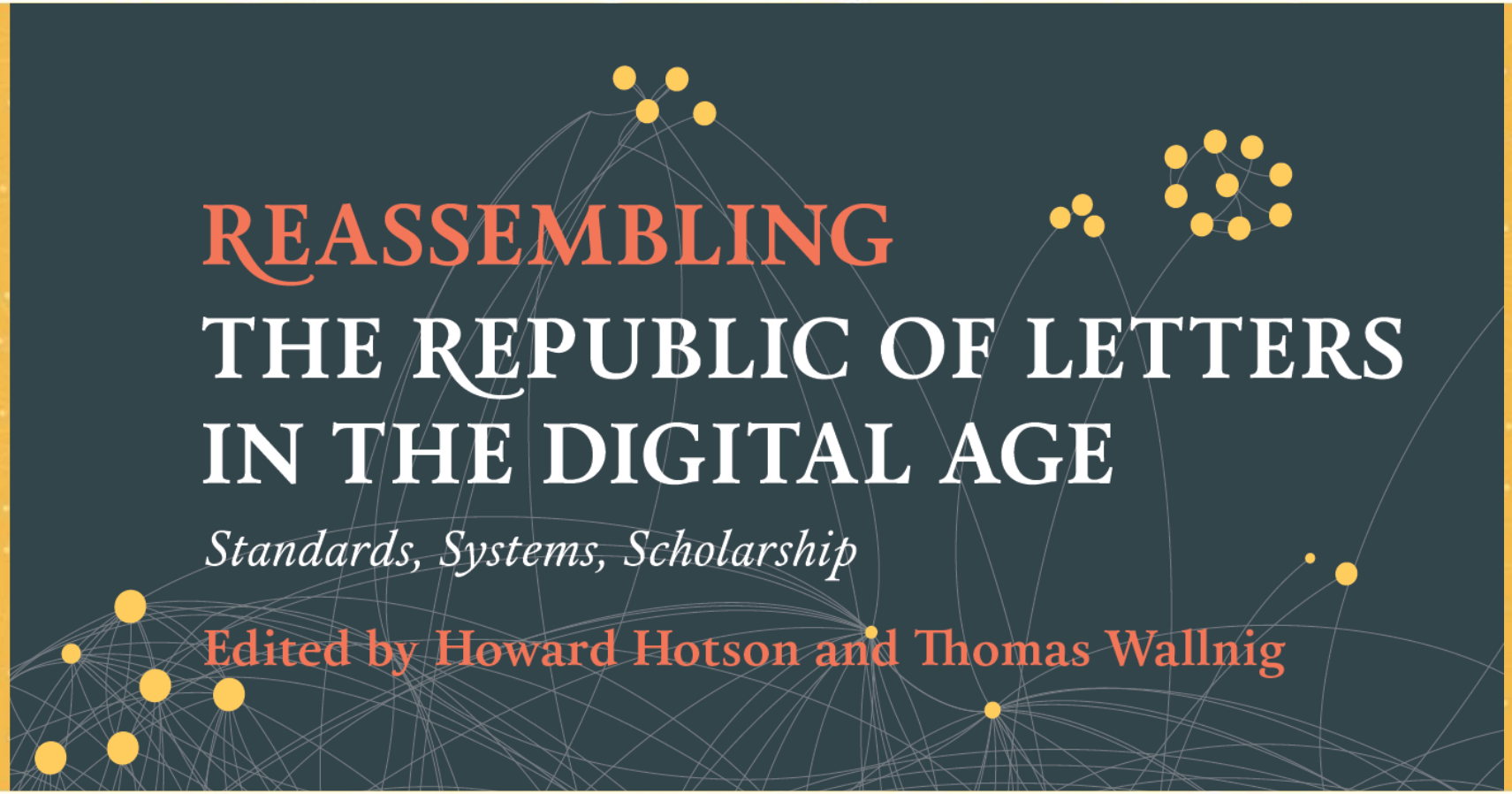
Howard Hotson (Oxford)



CERL Annual Seminar, SUB Göttingen, 9 October 2019



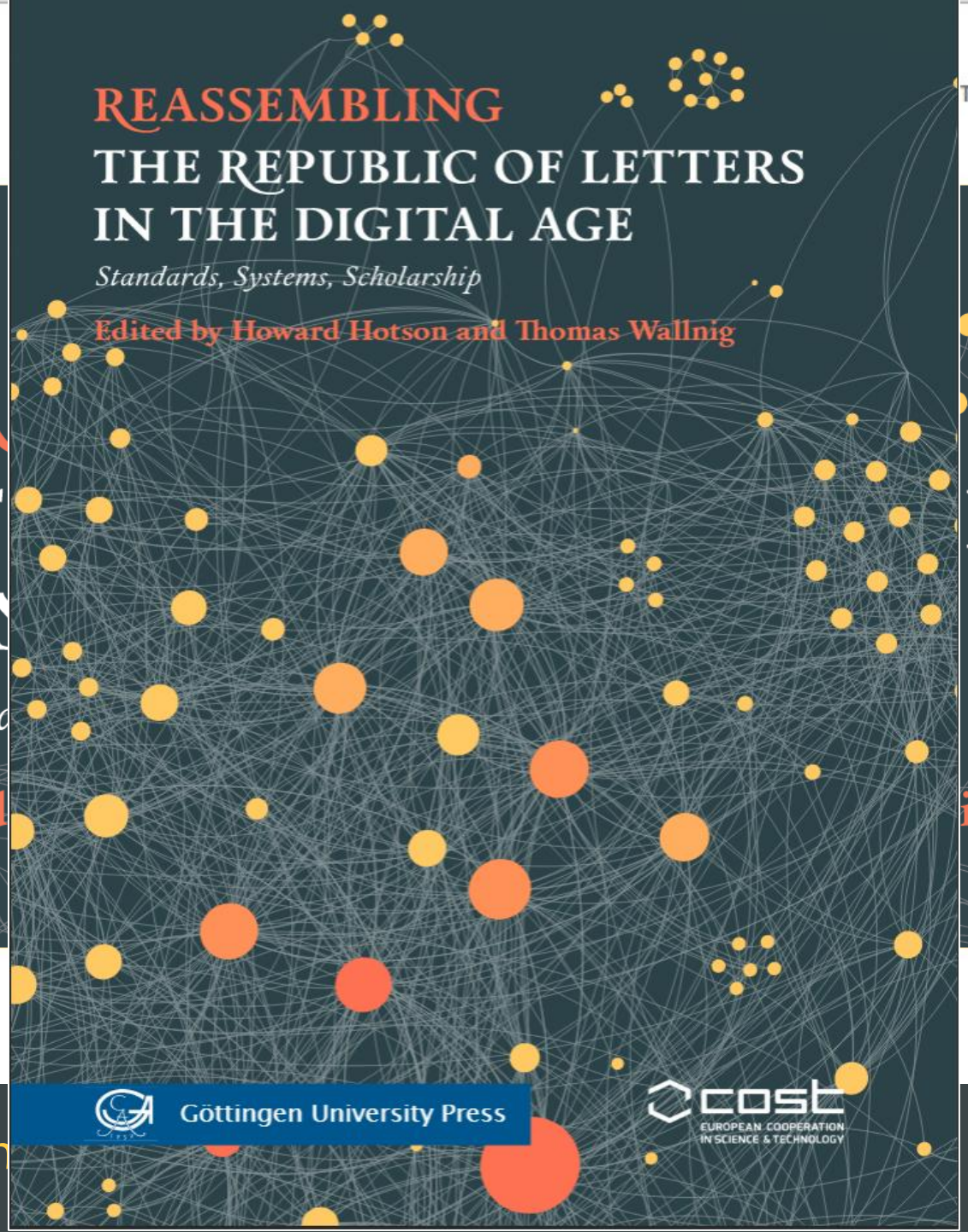
WEBSITE: www.republicofletters.net



BOOK: Göttingen University Press, 2019

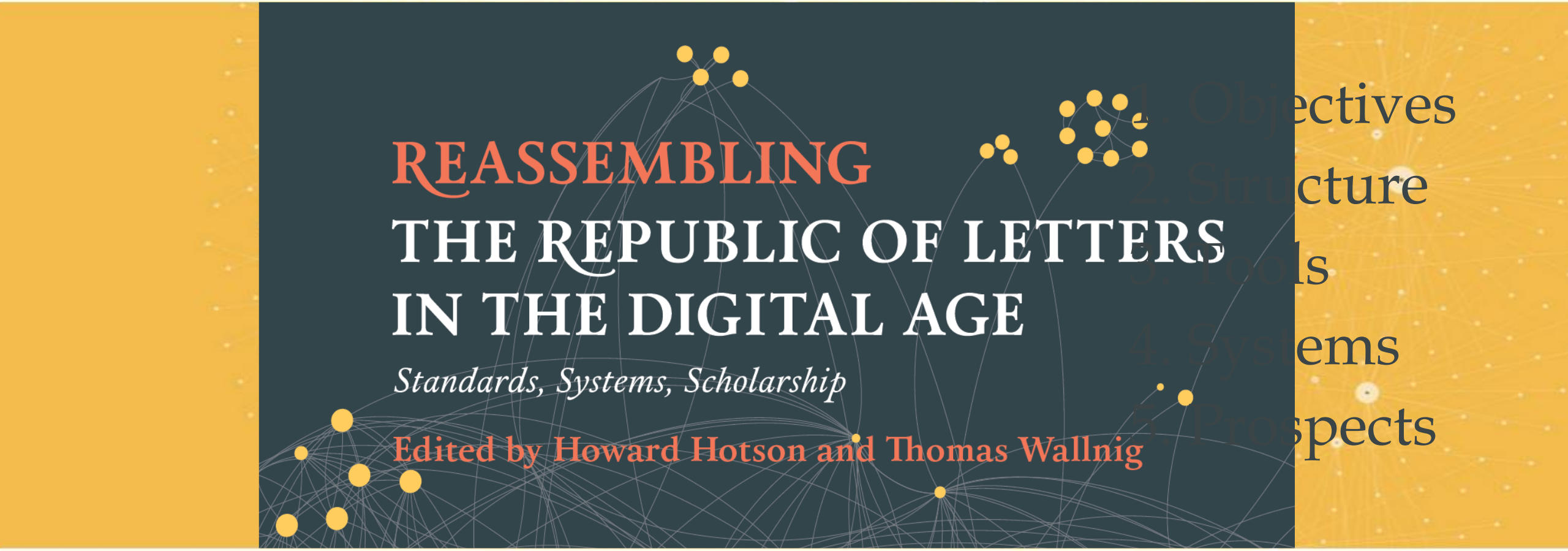
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BOOK: Göttingen Un

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REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Standards, Systems, Scholarship

Edited by Howard Hotson and Thomas Wallnig

1. Objectives
2. Structure
3. Tools
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5. Prospects

1. Objectives

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

Between 1500 and 1800, the evolution of postal communication allowed ordinary men and women to scatter letters across and beyond Europe.



1. Objectives

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

This exchange helped knit together what contemporaries called the *respublica litteraria*, a knowledge-based civil society, crucial to that era's intellectual breakthroughs.



Letters only achieve their communicative function by being **dispersed**. The exchange of letters which created this community also **scattered** the documentation required to study it.



1. Objectives

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

To reassemble the pieces of this puzzle and to realize the full potential of this new technology, we now need **shared standards and infrastructure**.



1. Objectives

For envisaging such infrastructure, COST is ideally adapted.

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European **CO**operation in **S**cience and **T**echnology devoted to providing the **networking** support needed to ensure that nationally funded initiatives add up to greater wholes.

COST does not fund research, systems development, or resource creation: instead it funds **networking activities including**

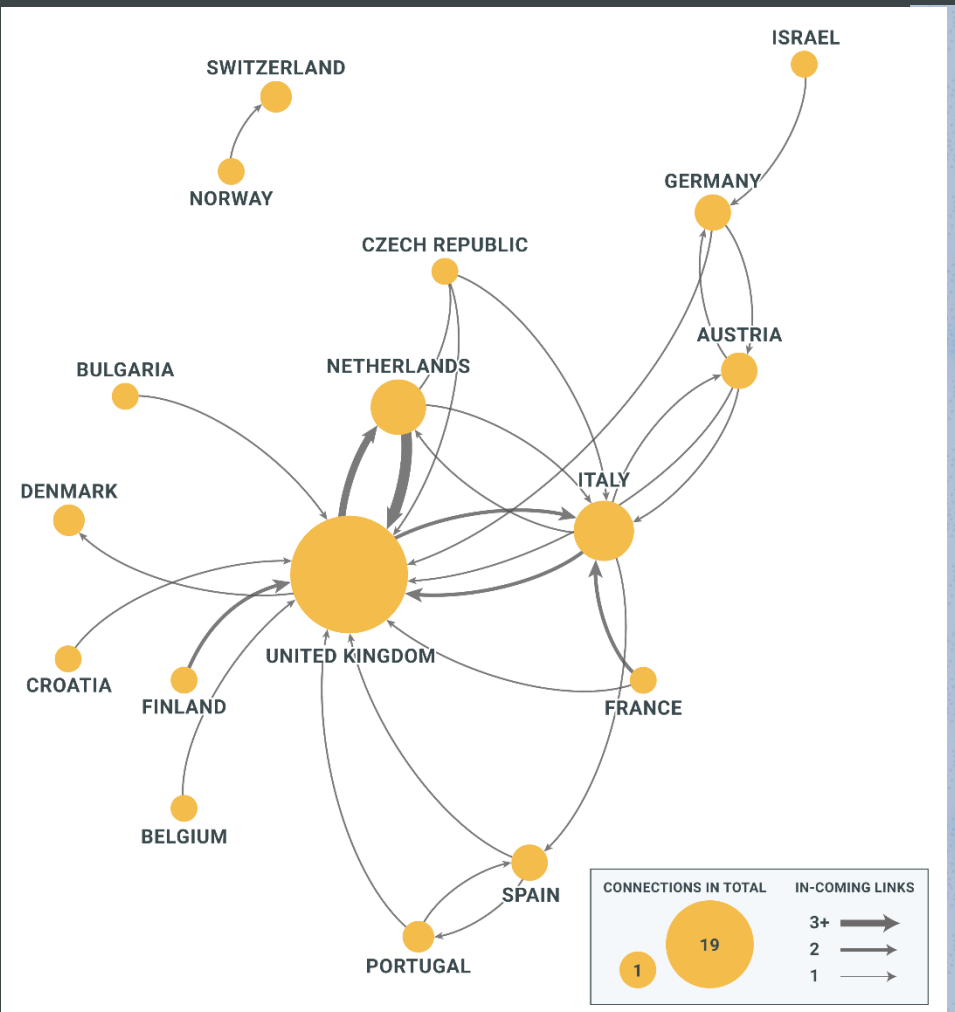
- **Conferences**
- **Training Schools**
- **Workshops**
- **Short-Term Scientific Meeting**
- **Dissemination Activities**

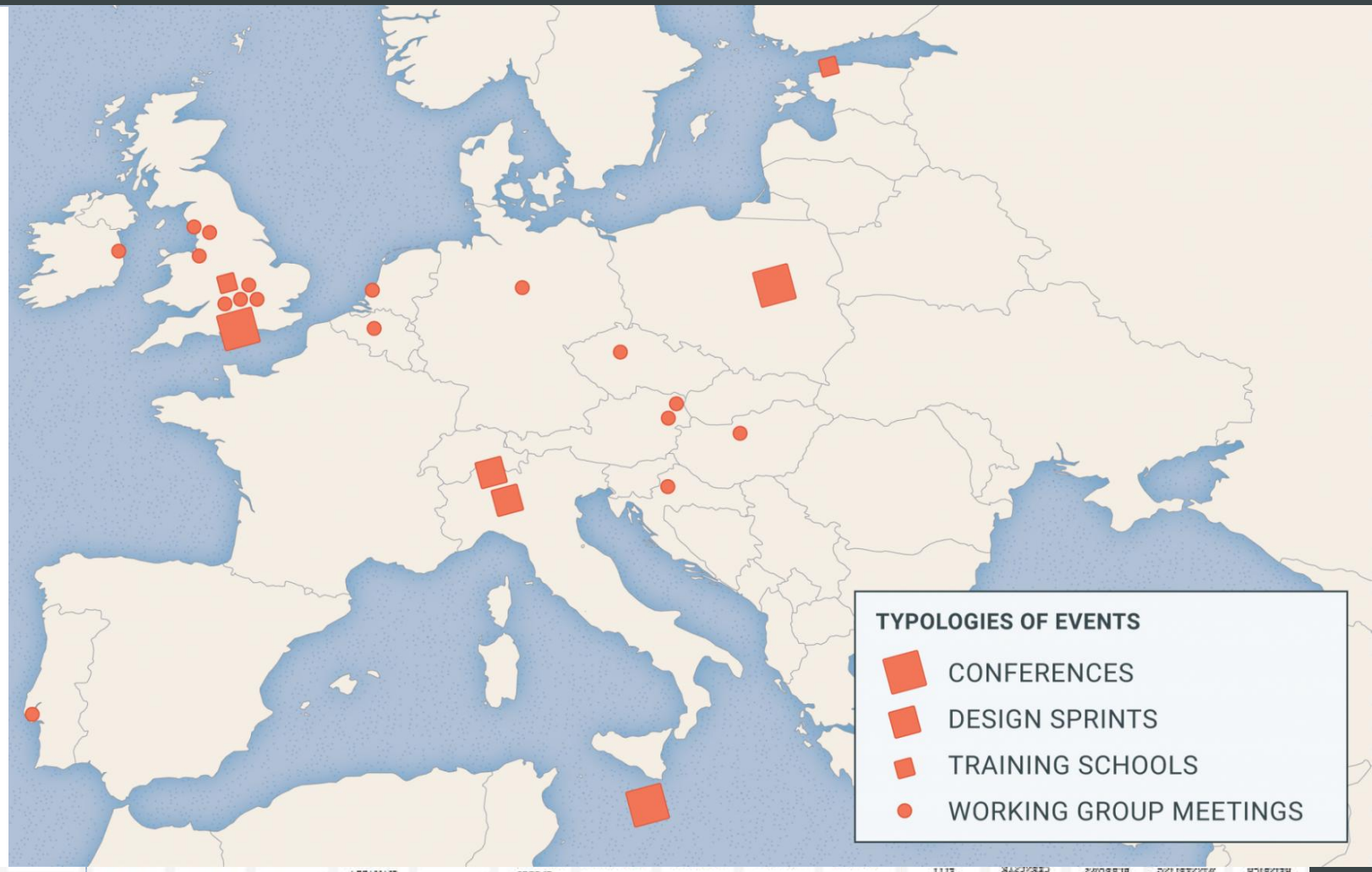
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Horizon 2020

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS

This Action was therefore continental in scope: it involved **33 countries**, expanded to include nearly **200 people**, who networked in **22 events** and c. **50 short-term exchanges.**







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REASSEMBLING
THE REPUBLIC
OF LETTERS

At the centre of this Action were six **Working Groups**, the scope of which is determined by the basic features of letters themselves.



2. Structure

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WG1 · Space and Time

WG2 · People and Networks

WG3 · Texts and Topics

WG4 · Documents and Collections

WG5 · Data Exchange and Strategic Planning

WG6 · Visualization and Communication

2. Structure

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2. Structure

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WG3 · Texts and Topics
WG4 · Documents and Collections

Standards

WG5 · Data Exchange and Strategic Planning — Systems

WG6 · Visualization and Communication — Scholarship

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Standards:

- Letters
- Space
- Time
- People
- Topics
- Events
- Letter Model

Systems:

- Assembling metadata
- Reconciling metadata
- Transcribing and editing texts
- Modelling topics
- Exchanging data: systems
- Exchanging data: practices

Scholarship:

- Assembling
- Chronologies of
- Geographies of
- Prosopographies of
- Text-mining
- Networking
- Virtual Research Environment

the Republic of Letters

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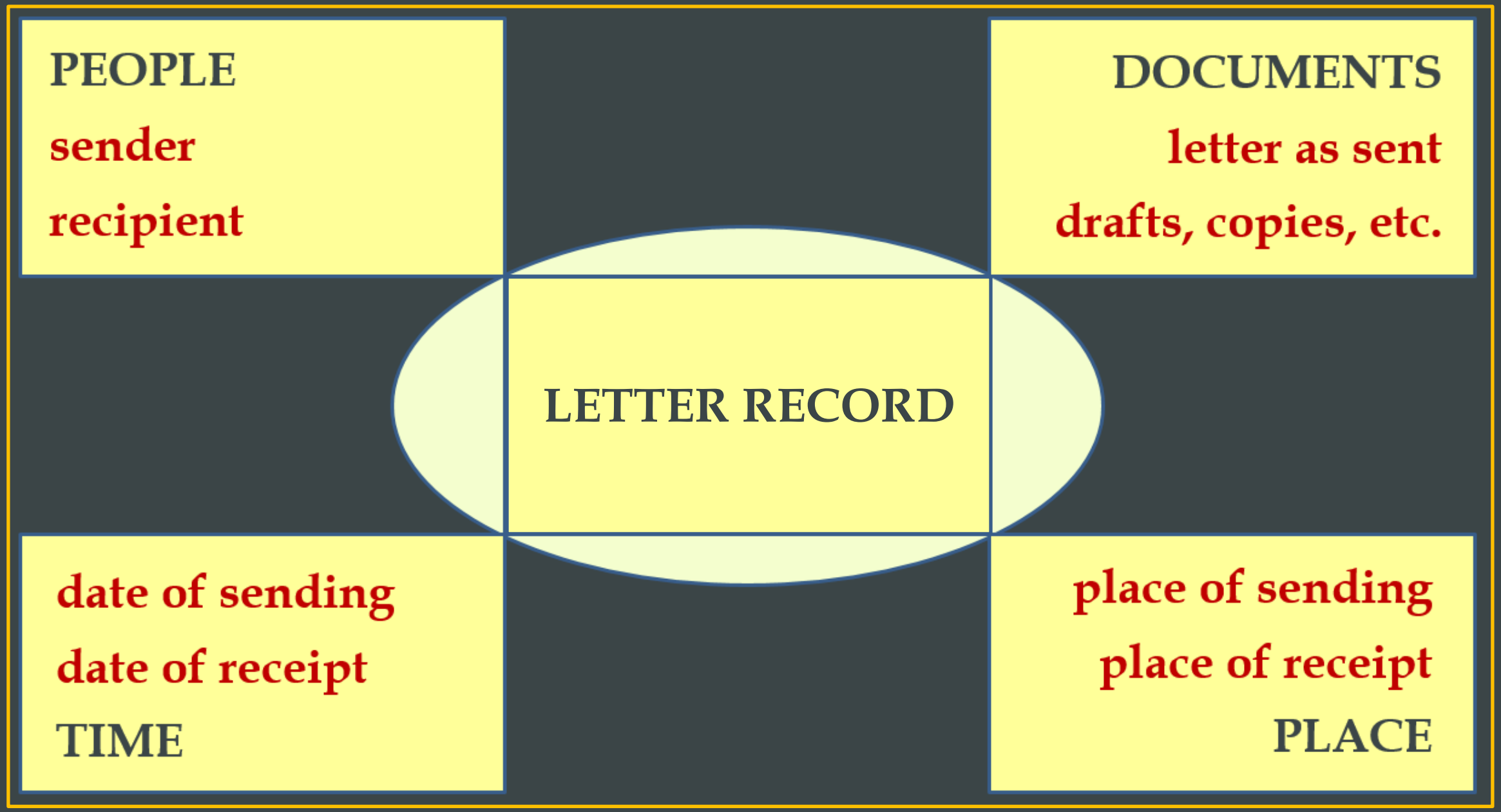
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3. Tools

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PEOPLE
sender
recipient
DOCUMENTS
letter as sent
drafts, copies, etc.
LETTER RECORD
date of sending
date of receipt
TIME
place of sending
place of receipt
PLACE

date of sending

date of receipt

TIME

Problem with dates: Multiple calendars.

- **Julian calendar:** *old style*: year began on Lady Day (25 March)
  new style: year began on 1 January
- **Gregorian calendar**.
  - Eliminated ten days from 1582: the day following Thurs. 4 Oct. became Fri., 15 Oct.
  - Added on extra leap year per century: from 28 February 1700 onwards, the difference between Julian and Gregorian grew to eleven days; and after 28 February 1800 to twelve days.
- **Transition between calendars *varies from place to place***.
  - Most Catholic countries adopted Gregorian calendar in 1582
  - Until 1752, some Protestant countries (including England) continued to use the *old style Julian* calendar while others (including Scotland) used the *new style Julian*.
  - Russia continued to employ the *old style Julian* calendar until 1700, switching from new style Julian to Gregorian only in 1918.
- **Ecclesiastical calendars**: dated with reference to the major feasts in *the Christian year.*
- **Roman and Latin calendars**: dated from the ides or calends of the month.

Solution: **tools to synchronize calendars automatically**, with ref. to data on usage in different regions and times. **Time varies with date and place**.

date of sending

date of receipt

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Opole [Info] [Provenance]

Opolė, Òpòle, Opolí, Oppein, Oppeln, Uopole, Горад Аполе, Ополе, أبولوسكي, اوپول, اوپوله, אופולה, ออปอเล, 오폴레, オポーレ, 奥波莱

Administrative Hierarchy [Info]

+ Poland (Country)
  + Opole Voivodeship (ADM 1)
    + Opole (ADM 2)
      + Opole (ADM 3)
        + Opole (Populated Place)

Location [Info]

Greenwich Meridian: 50.67211, 17.92533 (N 50°40'20" E 17°55'31")

Citation [Info]

Chicago Manual of Style, MLA, BibTeX, RIS

Persistent URI [Info]

https://emplaces.info/ark:/12345/abc67890

Authorities [Info]

GeoNames, Getty TGN, WikiData, GND

Name Attestations [Info] [Provenance]

Name	Language	Date	Source
Opol	(lat)	1222-1431	Dokumenty Śląska
Opolie	(ita, pol)	1228-1483	Dokumenty Śląska
Oppol	(ger, lat)	1226-1487	Liber fundationis episcopatus Vratislaviensis
Oppelen	(ger)	1608	Jan Baptista Vrients

Calendars [Info] [Provenance]

1500 **1584.01.29** (Inferred) 1800

Julian (Jan. 1) Gregorian

Connections [Info] [Provenance]

Name	Type	Relation

Maps [Info] [Provenance]

Current 1561 1608 1740 1794



Description [Info]

Opole is a city located in southern Poland on the Oder River (Odra). With a population of approximately 127,792 (January 2017), it is the capital of the Opole Voivodeship and also the seat of Opole County. With it long history dating back to the ninth century, Opole is considered to be one of the oldest towns in Poland.

Historical Hierarchies [Info] [Provenance]

Administrative Ecclesiastical Military Judicial

1490-1521
1521-1526
1526-1742
1742-1806

Holy Roman Empire
1348-1804
Bohemian Crown
1490-1742

Wrocław

place of sending

place of receipt

PLACE

Problems of nomenclature

A CITY known as **Breslau** (in German); **Brassel** (in Silesian German)
Vratislav (in Czech); **Vratislavia** (in Latin);
Boroszló (in Hungarian); **ורוצלב / Vrotsláv** (in Hebrew);
ברעסלוי / Bresloi (in Yiddish); etc.

IN A DUCHY also known as **Breslau**, etc.

IN A LARGER DUCHY known as **Silesia** (in Latin and English)
Śląsk (in Polish); **Schlesien** (in German);
Schläsing (in Silesian German);
Slezsko (in Czech); etc.

Wrocław

Problems of location

1469: passed from **Poland** into the **Kingdom of Bohemia**.
1490: the **Kingdom of Bohemia,** within the **Holy Roman Empire**.
1526: ruled by the **Austrian Habsburgs, aside from**
1618-1620: during the **Bohemian Revolt**
Saxon and Swedish occupations during the Thirty Years' War
1742: the **kingdom of Prussia** (as part of the Holy Roman Empire)
1806: the **Kingdom of Prussia** (after the demise of the Holy Roman Empire)

place of sending
place of receipt
PLACE

PEOPLE

sender

recipient

CATEGORIES	SUB-CATEGORIES
Institutions	Universities
	Academies and societies
	Synods, congresses, etc.
	Religious orders
	State archives
Media	Personal papers
	Books
	Journals
Ego documents	(Auto)biographies
	Diaries
	Ephemerides
	Travel diaries
	Itineraries
	Alba amicorum
	Occasional poetry

PEOPLE

sender

recipient

Problems with people

Same name, different people.

E.g. the CERL Thesaurus includes 111 different people by the name of ‘Johannes Fabricius’ (the Latin translation of ‘John Smith’), all of them from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

Different names, same person.

E.g. the CERL Thesaurus lists 28 different spellings of ‘Hugo Grotius’, all taken from title pages of books in European libraries.

Letter writers far more numerous than book authors.

Modern authorities for disambiguating learned people derive mostly from national biographies and catalogues of printed books. But far more people wrote surviving letters from far more places than are found in those lists.

Disambiguation requires biographical data.

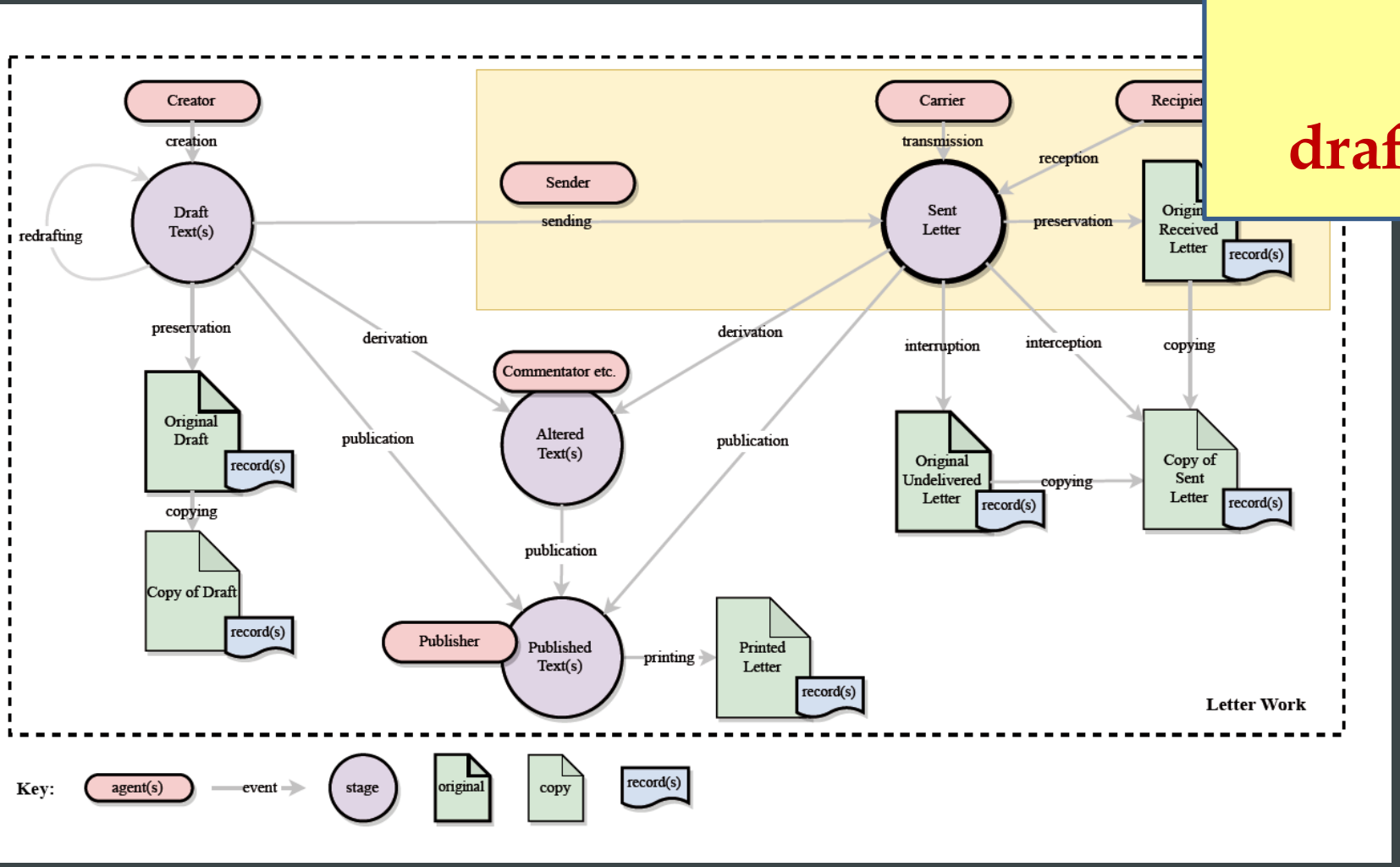
Disambiguation of relatively obscure people requires a resource capable of aggregating all the available scraps of biographical documentation.

Problems with letters

DOCUMENTS

letter as sent

drafts, copies, etc.



REASSEMBLING
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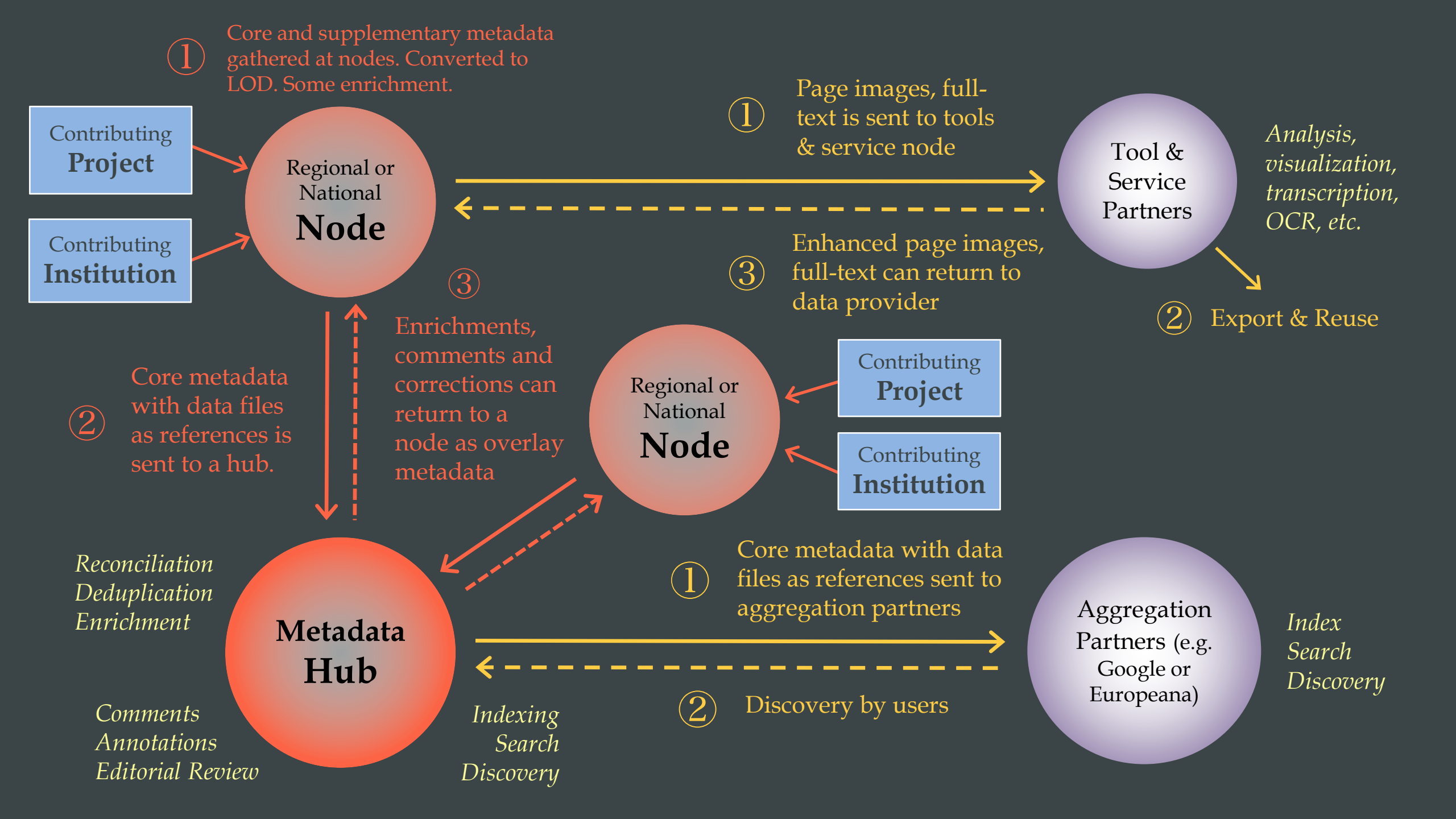
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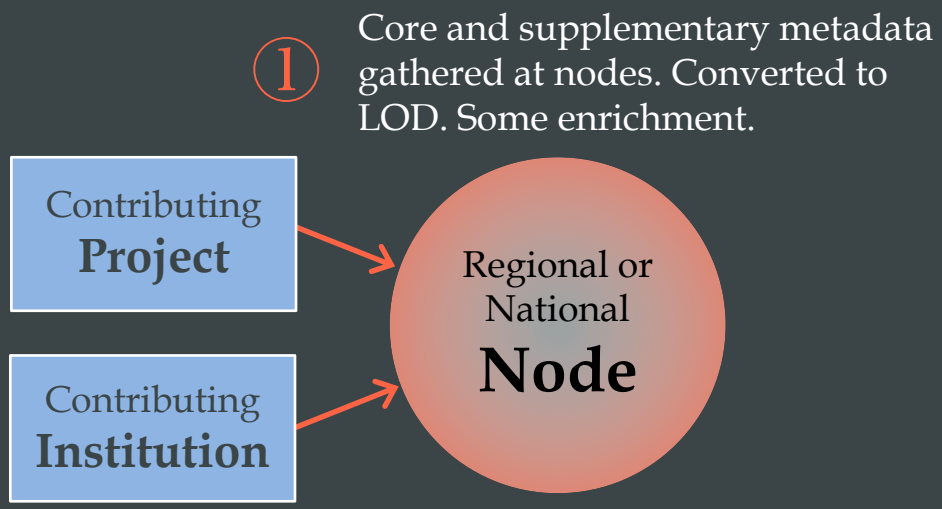
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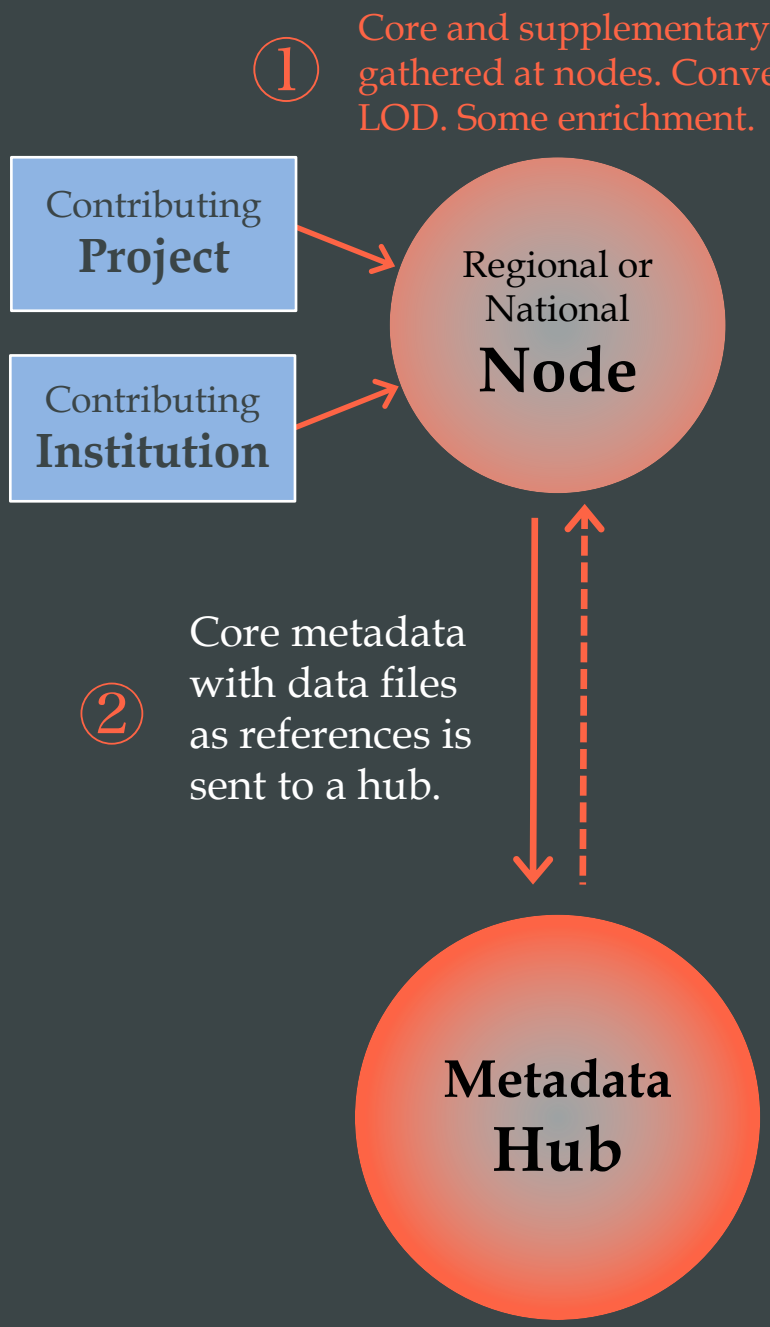
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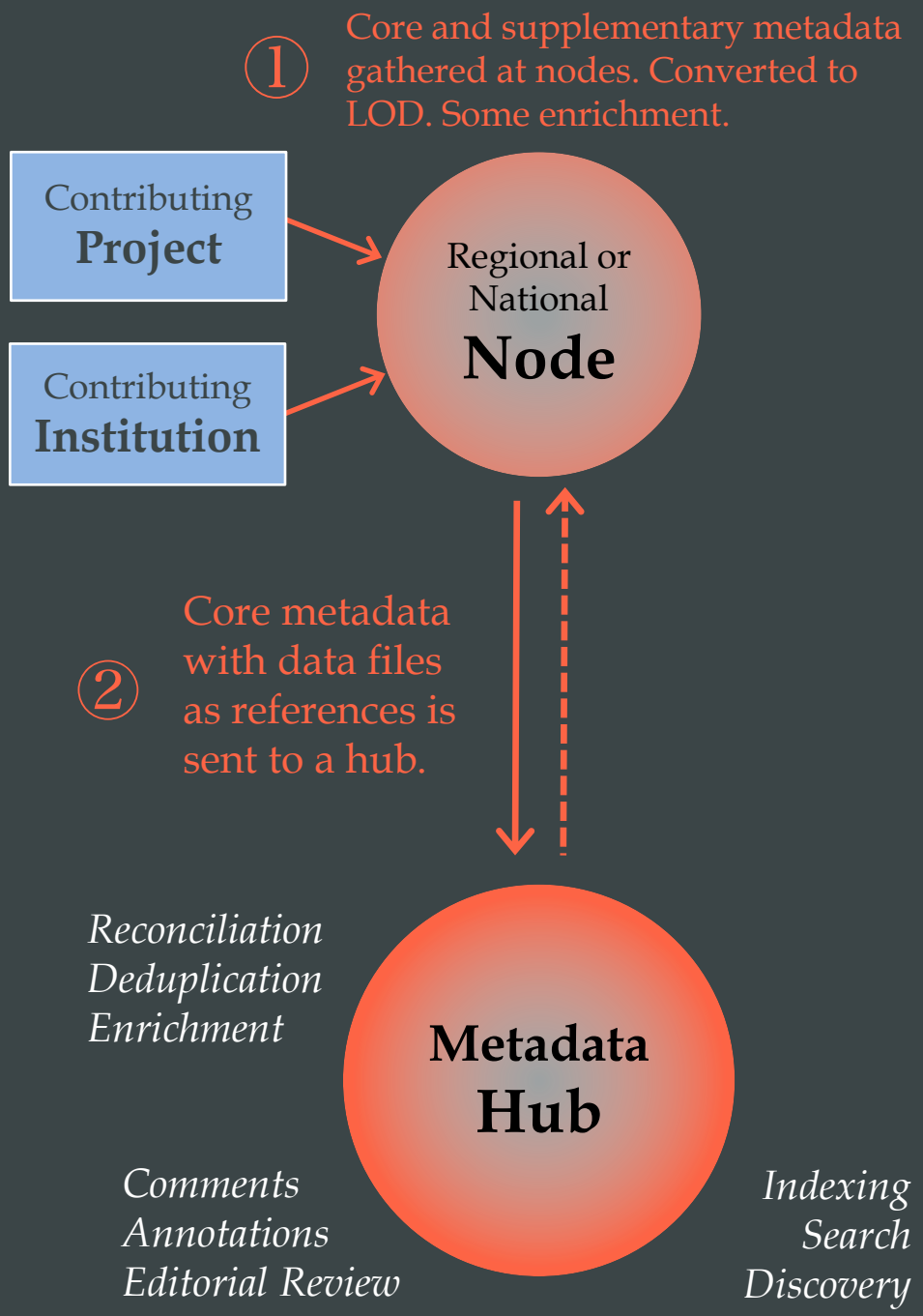
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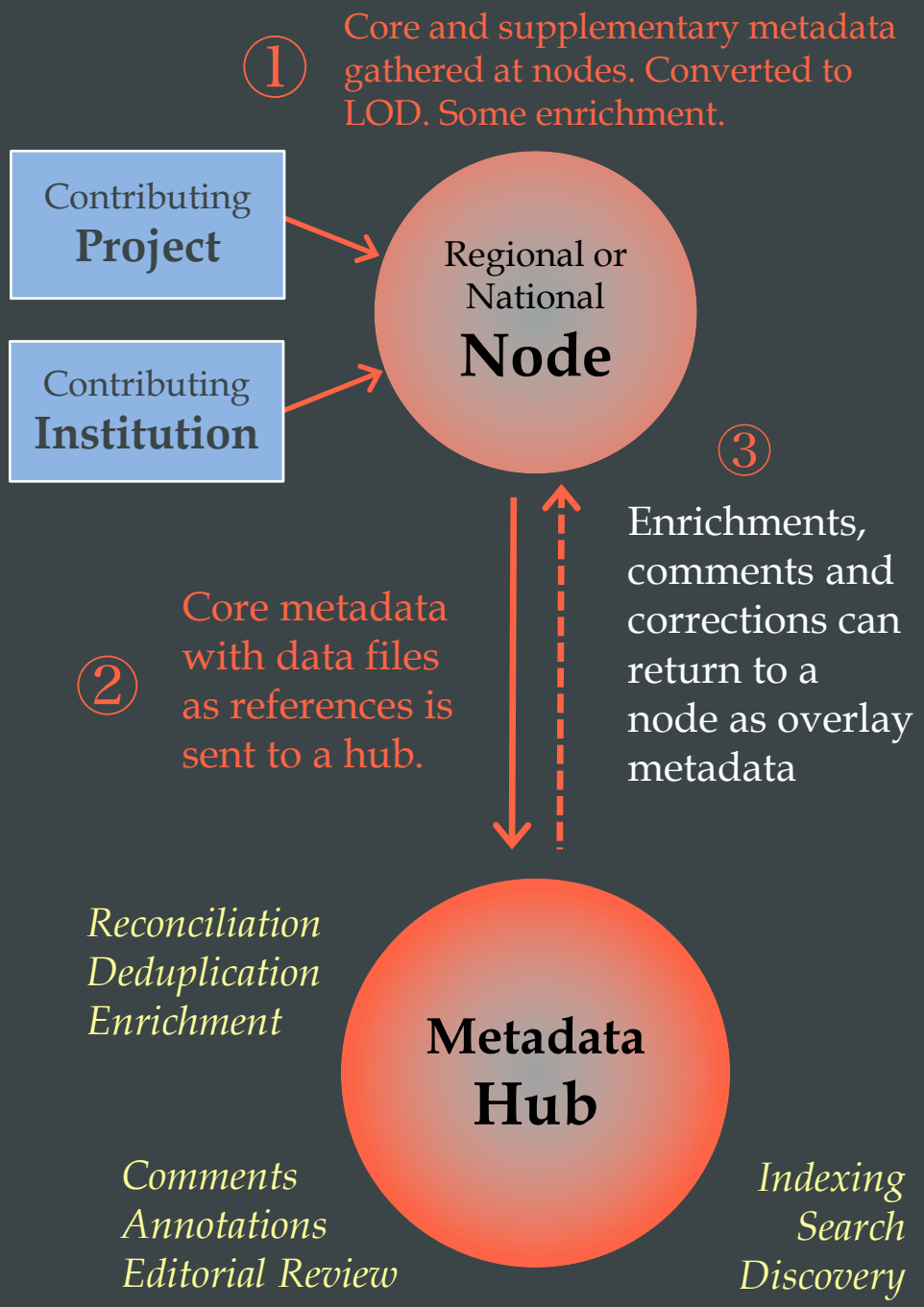
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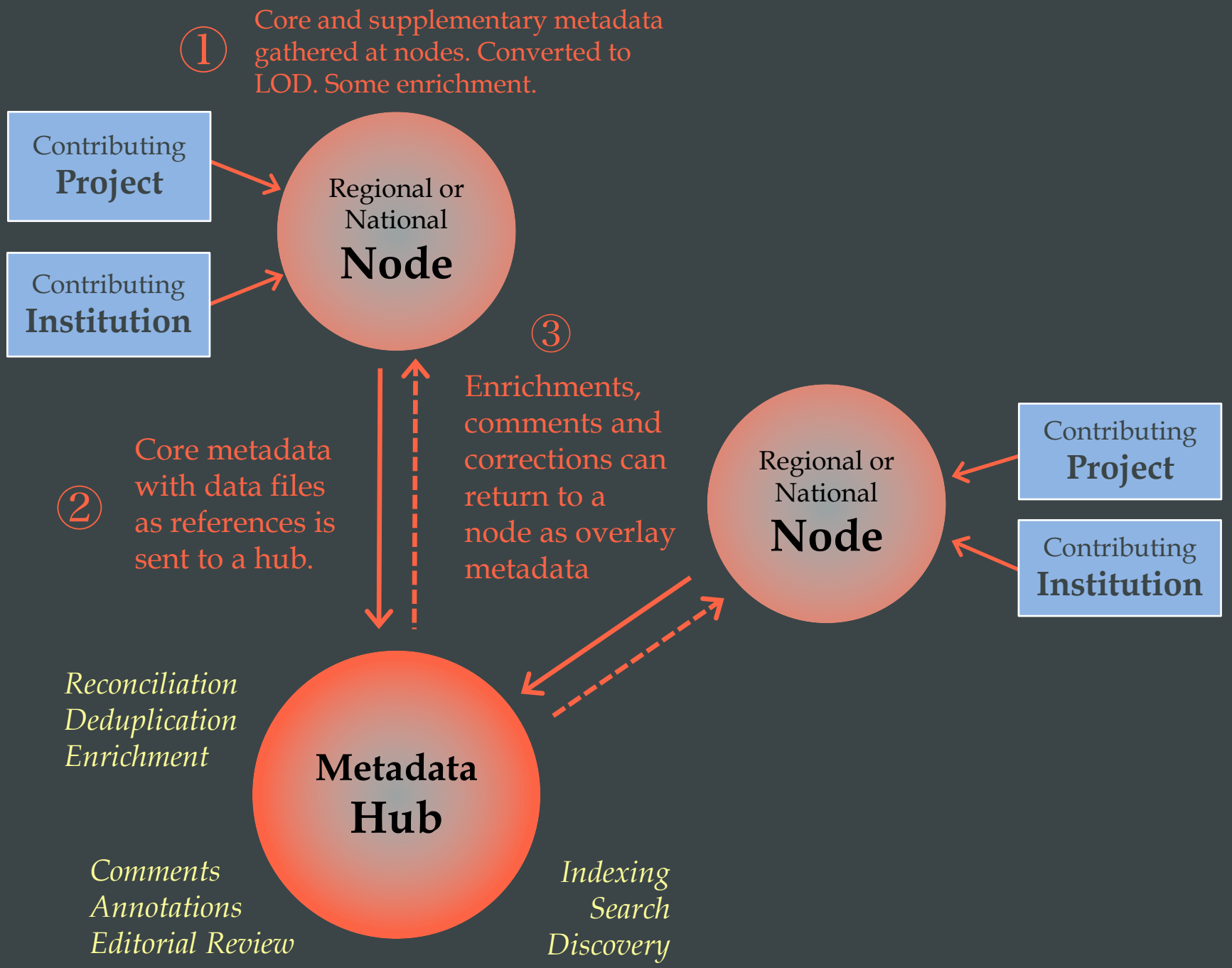

① Core and supplementary metadata gathered at nodes. Converted to LOD. Some enrichment.
Contributing Project
Contributing Institution
Regional or National Node
① Page images, full-text is sent to tools & service node
Tool & Service Partners
Analysis, visualization, transcription, OCR, etc.
② Export & Reuse
③ Enhanced page images, full-text can return to data provider
③ Enrichments, comments and corrections can return to a node as overlay metadata
② Core metadata with data files as references is sent to a hub.
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Search
Discovery
Aggregation Partners (e.g. Google or Europeana)
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Search
Discovery

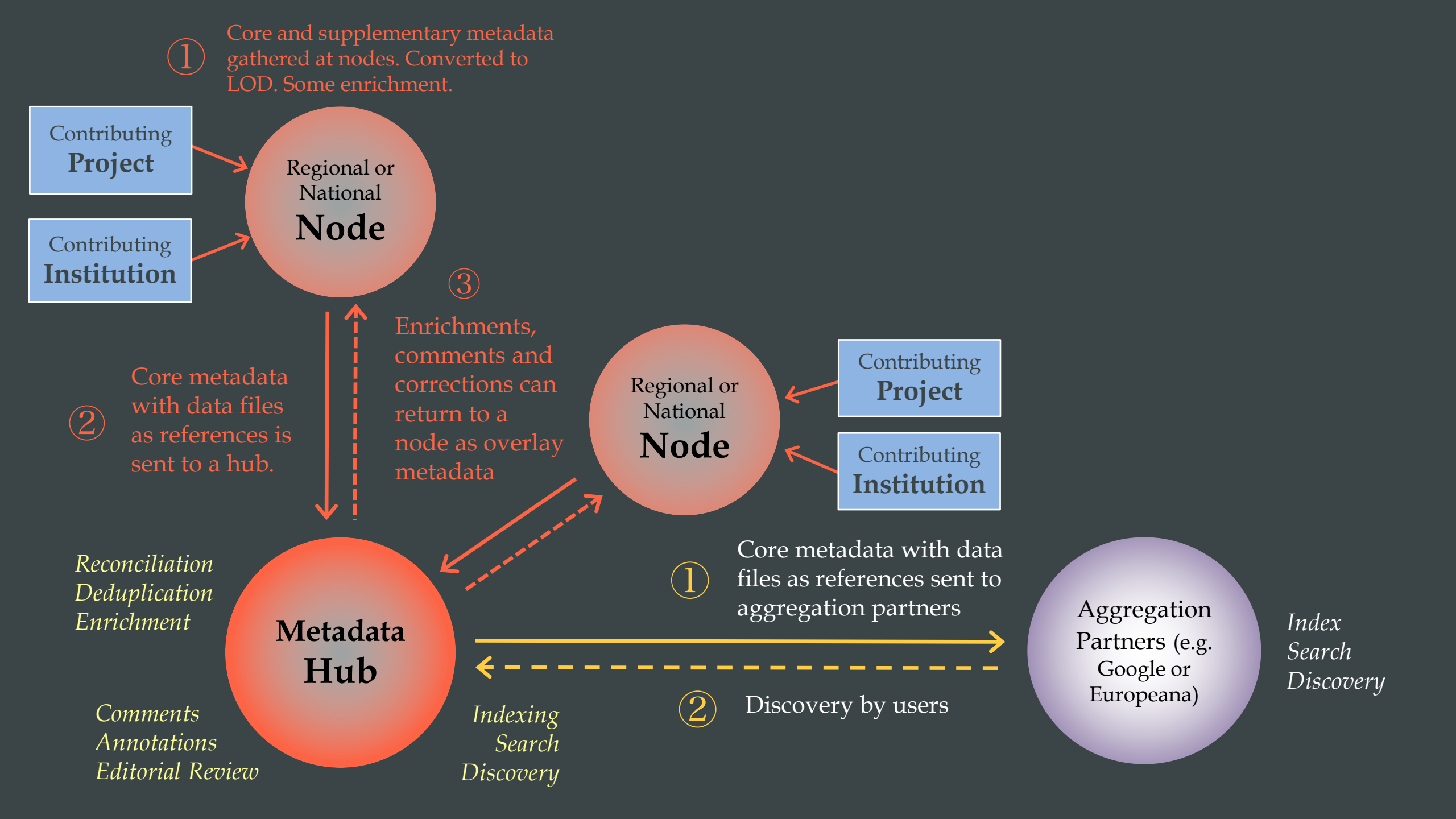

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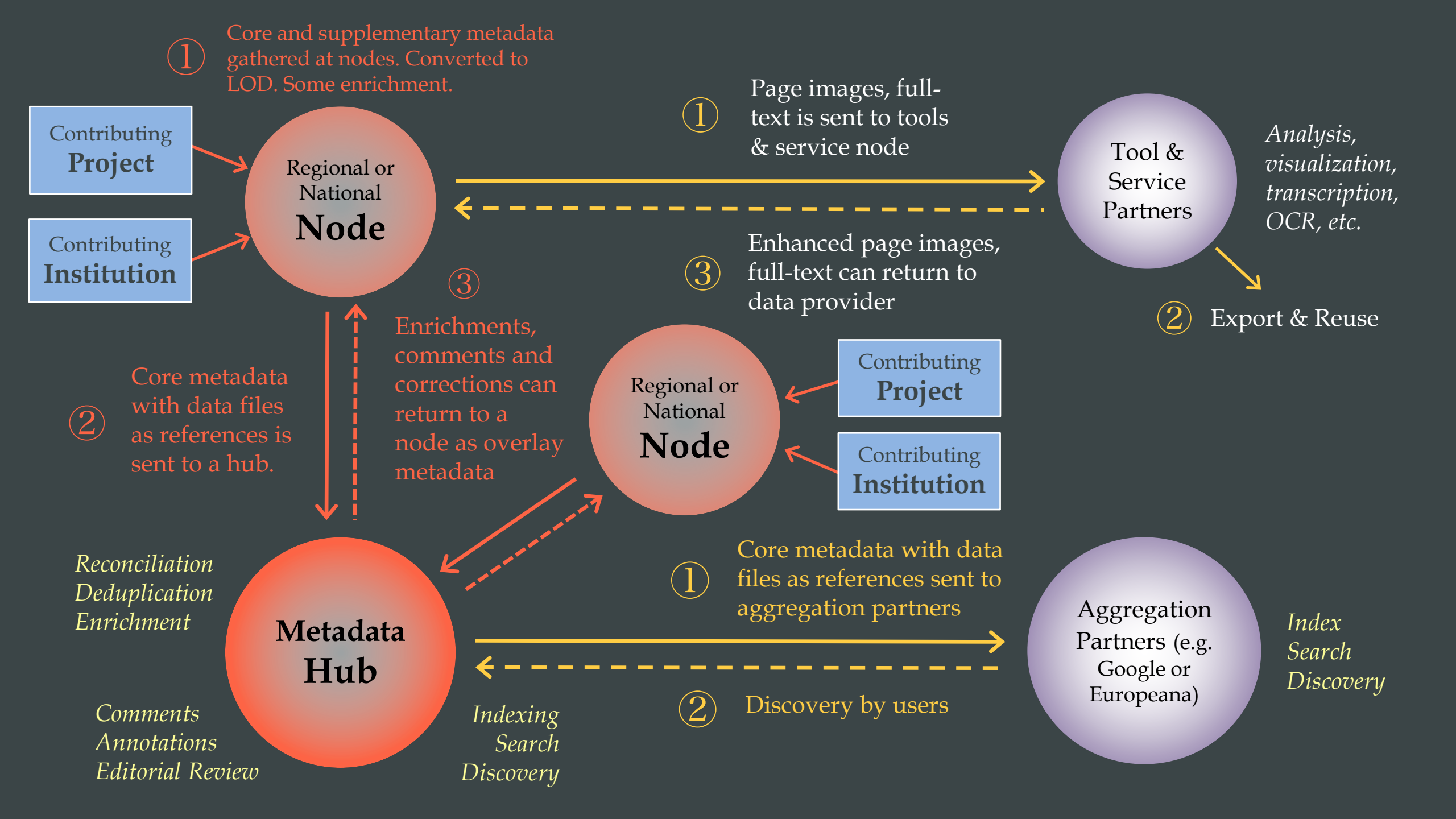

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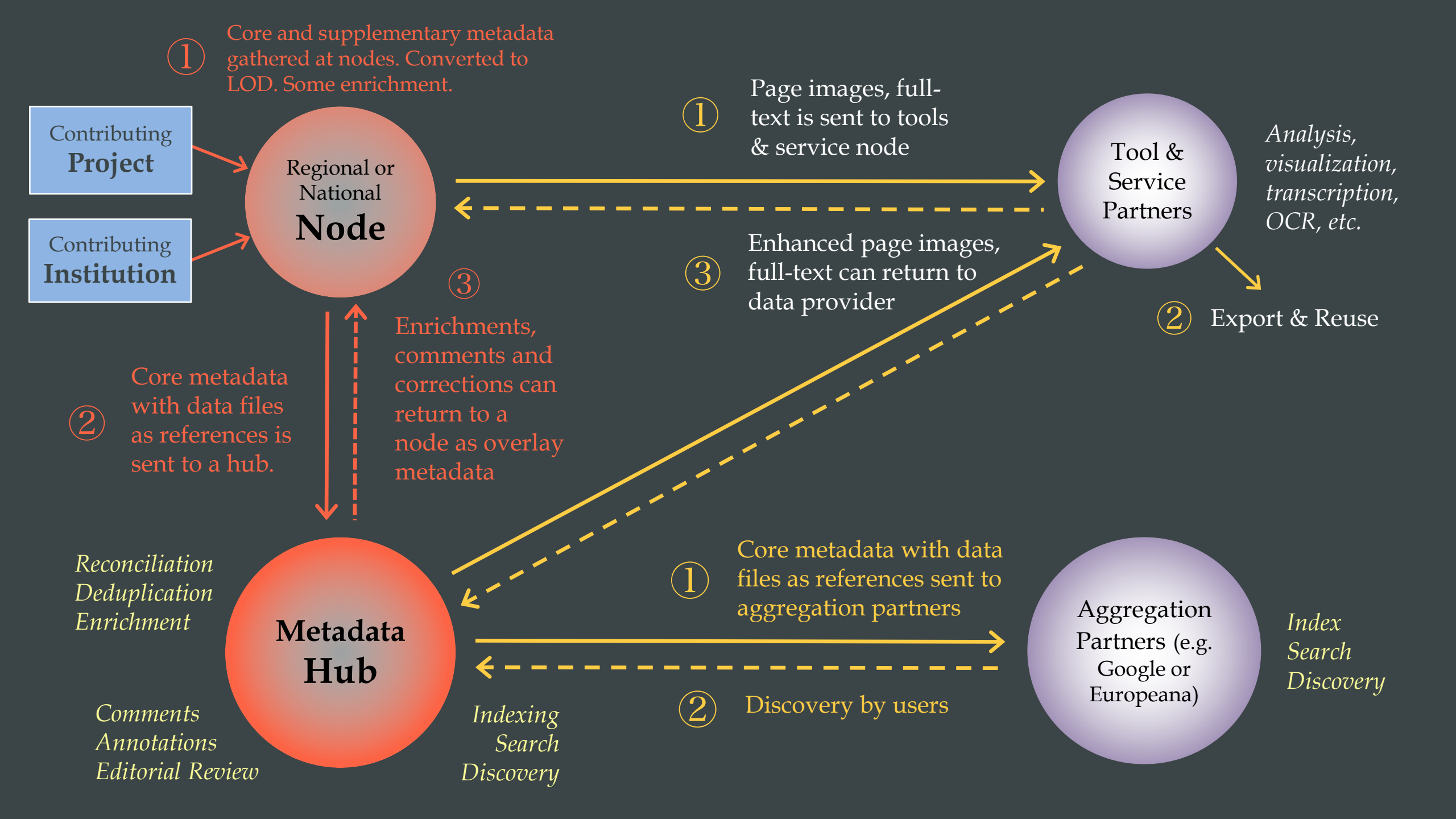

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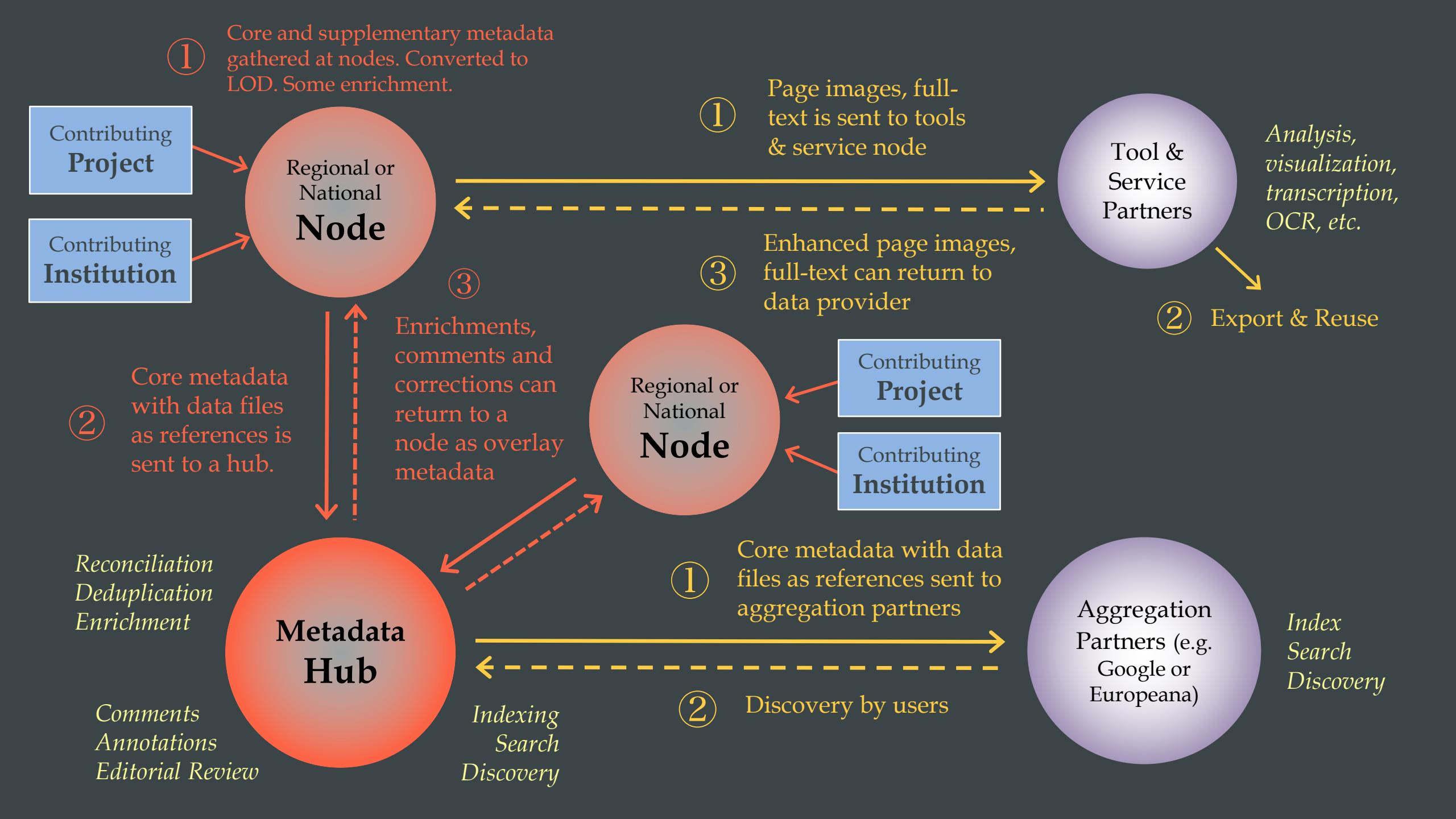

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Annotations
Editorial Review
① Core metadata with data files as references sent to aggregation partners
② Discovery by users
Indexing
Search
Discovery
Aggregation Partners (e.g. Google or Europeana)
Index
Search
Discovery


① Core and supplementary metadata gathered at nodes. Converted to LOD. Some enrichment.
Contributing Project
Contributing Institution
Regional or National Node
① Page images, full-text is sent to tools & service node
Tool & Service Partners
Analysis, visualization, transcription, OCR, etc.
② Export & Reuse
③ Enhanced page images, full-text can return to data provider
③ Enrichments, comments and corrections can return to a node as overlay metadata
② Core metadata with data files as references is sent to a hub.
Regional or National Node
Contributing Project
Contributing Institution
Reconciliation
Deduplication
Enrichment
Metadata Hub
① Core metadata with data files as references sent to aggregation partners
Aggregation Partners (e.g. Google or Europeana)
Index
Search
Discovery
② Discovery by users
Comments
Annotations
Editorial Review
Indexing
Search
Discovery

REASSEMBLING
THE REPUBLIC
OF LETTERS

HOME ABOUT PEOPLE WORKING GROUPS NEWS EVENTS CONTACTS MEMBERS ONLY

REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Standards, Systems, Scholarship

Edited by Howard Hotson and Thomas Wallnig

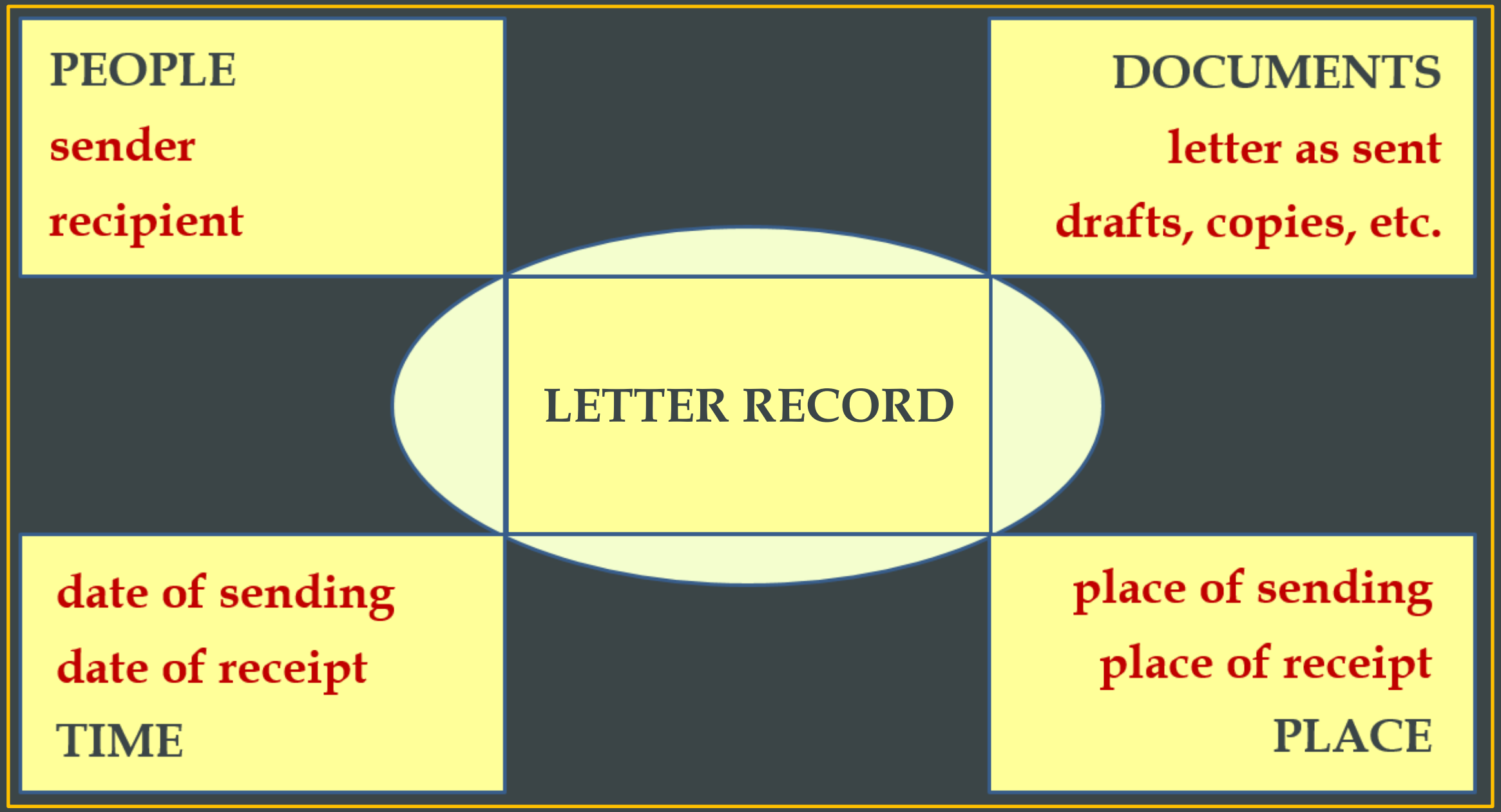
1. Objectives
2. Structure
3. Tools
4. **Systems**
5. Prospects

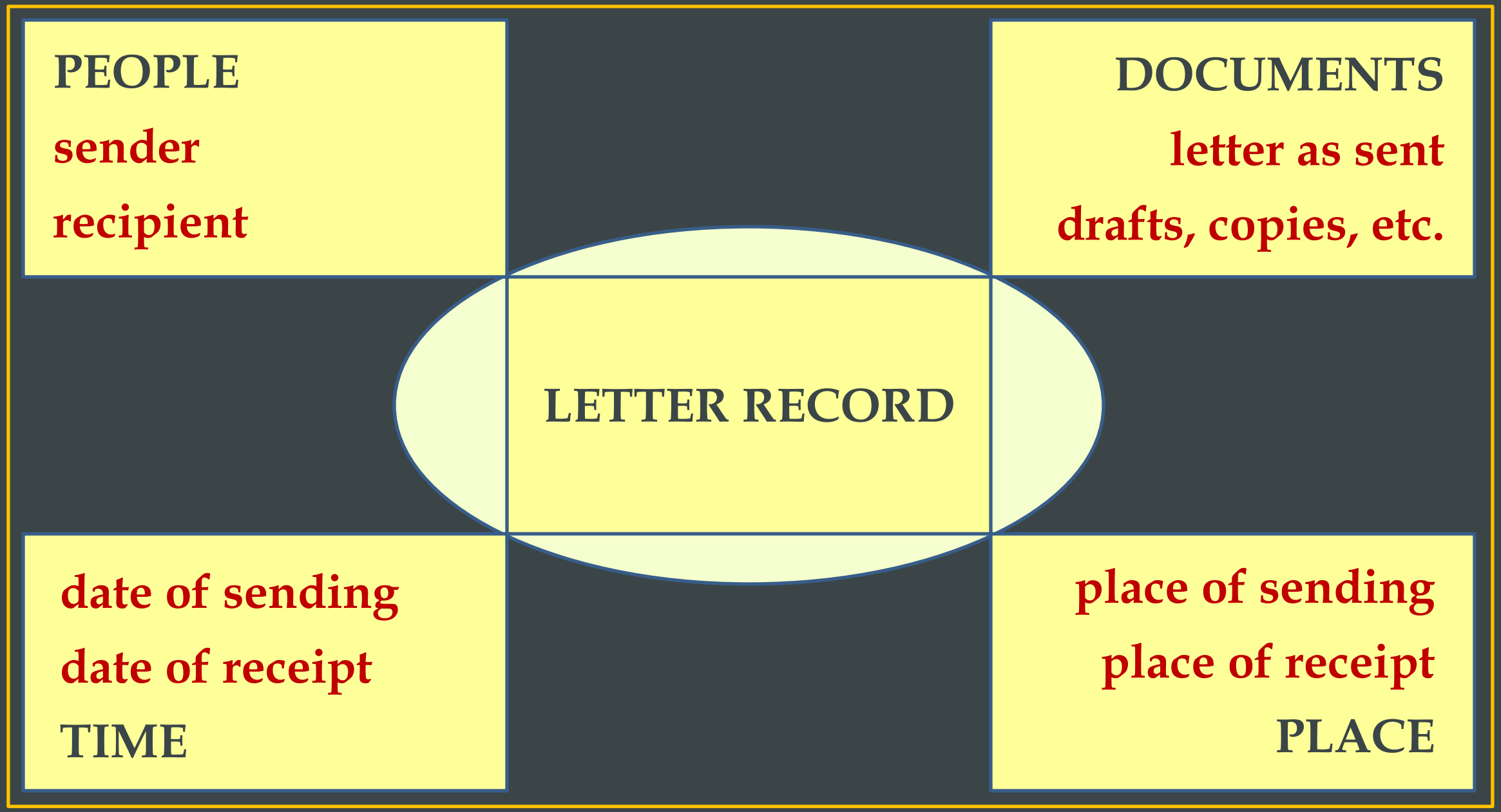
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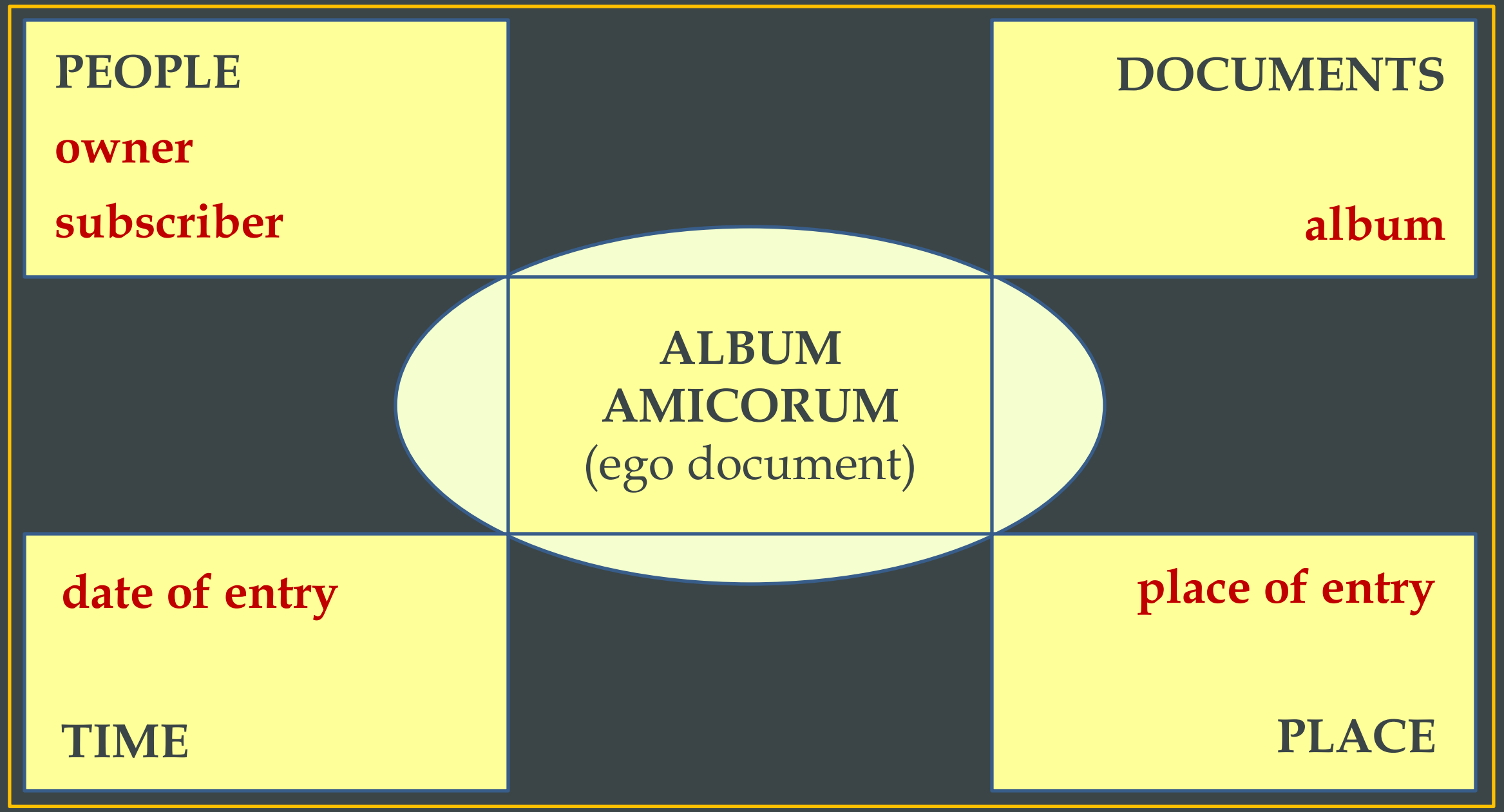
Standards, Systems, Scholarship

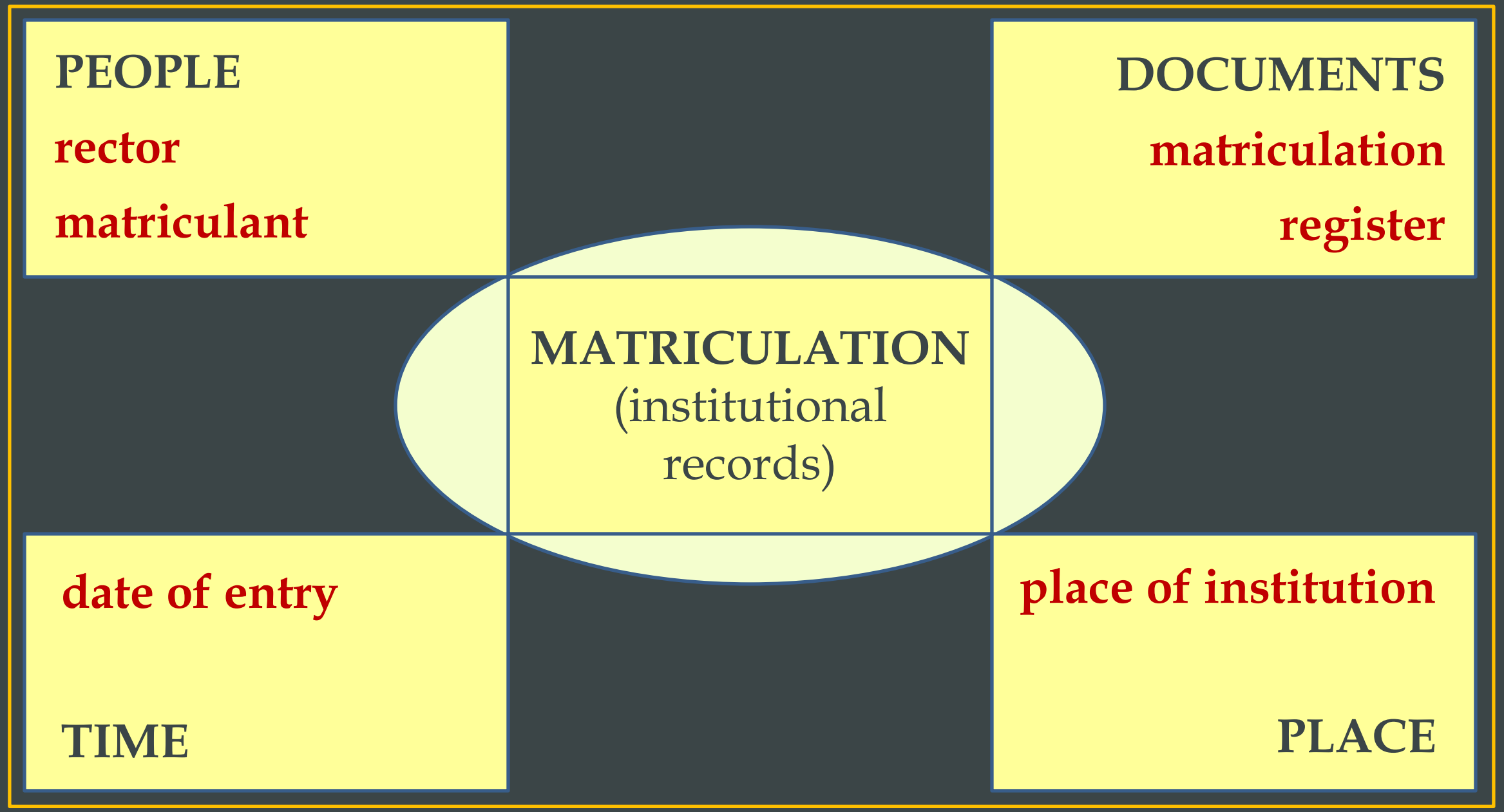
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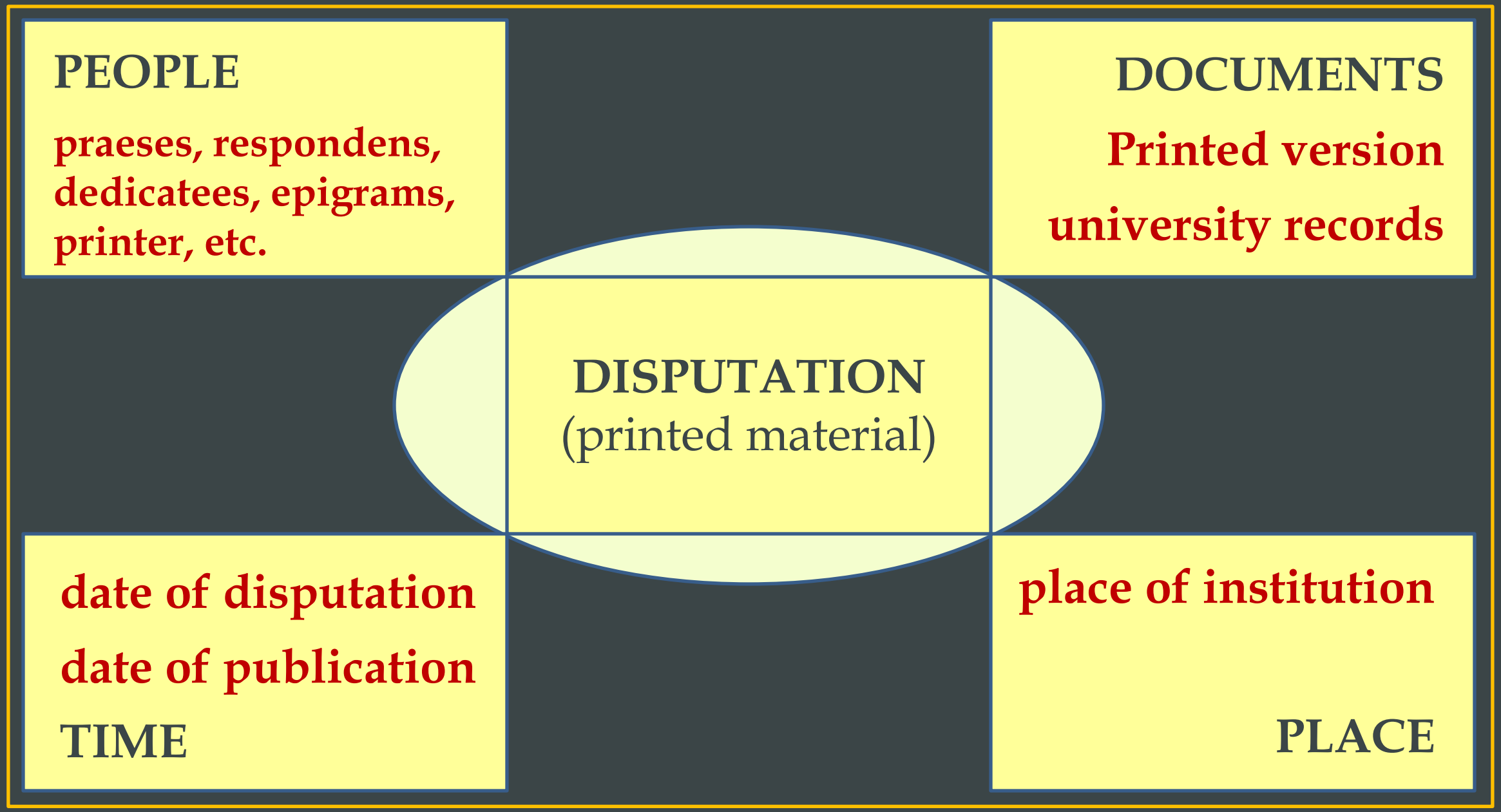
1. Objectives
2. Structure
3. Tools
4. Systems
5. **Prospects**


PEOPLE
sender
recipient
DOCUMENTS
letter as sent
drafts, copies, etc.
LETTER RECORD
date of sending
date of receipt
TIME
place of sending
place of receipt
PLACE


PEOPLE
sender
recipient
DOCUMENTS
letter as sent
drafts, copies, etc.
LETTER RECORD
date of sending
date of receipt
TIME
place of sending
place of receipt
PLACE


PEOPLE
owner
subscriber
DOCUMENTS
album
ALBUM
AMICORUM
(ego document)
date of entry
TIME
place of entry
PLACE


PEOPLE
rector
matriculant
DOCUMENTS
matriculation
register
MATRICULATION
(institutional
records)
date of entry
TIME
place of institution
PLACE


PEOPLE
praeses, respondens, dedicatees, epigrams, printer, etc.
DOCUMENTS
Printed version
university records
DISPUTATION
(printed material)
date of disputation
date of publication
TIME
place of institution
PLACE

‘There is more to the republic of letters . . . than letters’

CATEGORIES	SUB-CATEGORIES	DOCUMENTATION
Media		
	Personal papers	
		correspondence
		personal archives
	Books	
		Production / printing
		Distribution / market
		Collection / libraries
		marginalia
		collected works
	Journals	
		production
		content

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REASSEMBLING
THE REPUBLIC
OF LETTERS

Action www.republicofletters.net
Book doi.org/10.17875/gup2019-1146

REASSEMBLING
THE REPUBLIC
OF LETTERS

At the centre of this Action are six **Working Groups**, the scope of which is determined by the basic features of letters themselves.

Letters are written documents sent by a one or more person(s) at a specific time and place to one or more other person(s) in another place.

WG1 · Space and Time

WG2 · People and Networks

WG3 · Texts and Topics

WG4 · Documents and Collections

WG5 · Data Exchange and Strategic Planning

WG6 · Visualization and Communication

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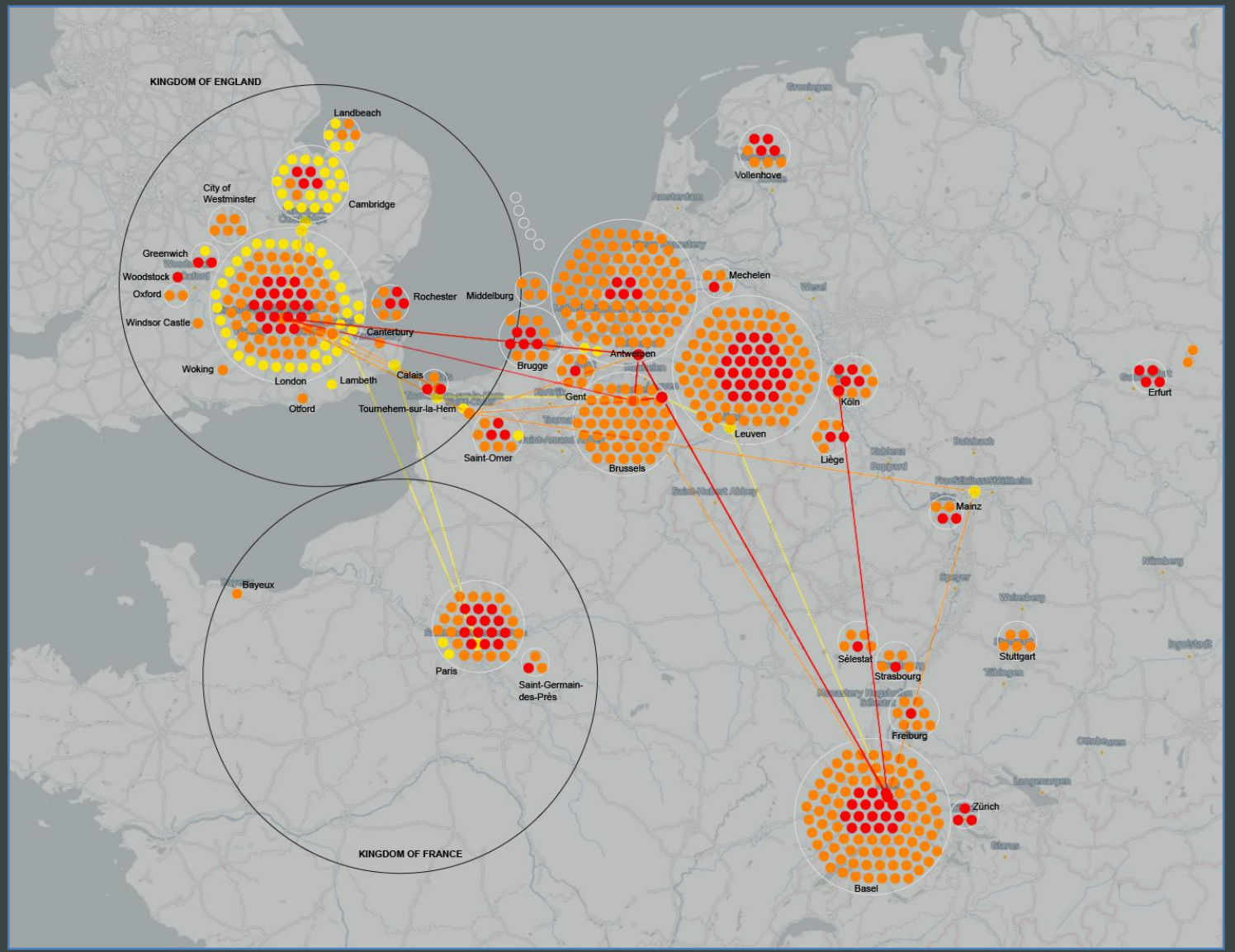
WG6 · Visualization and Communication
Individual correspondences



REASSEMBLING
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WG6 · Visualization and Communication

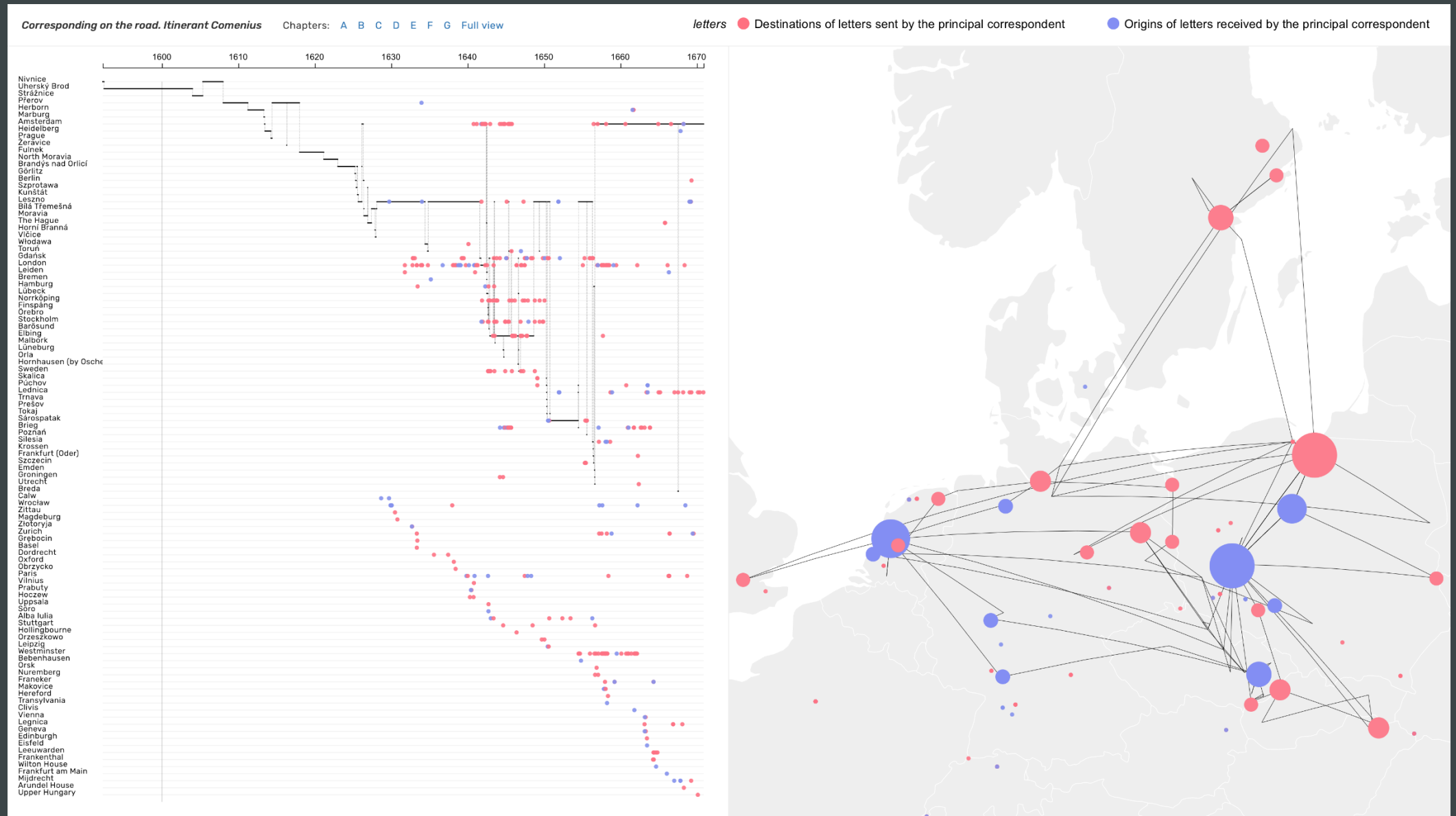
Individual correspondences



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WG6 · Visualization and Communication

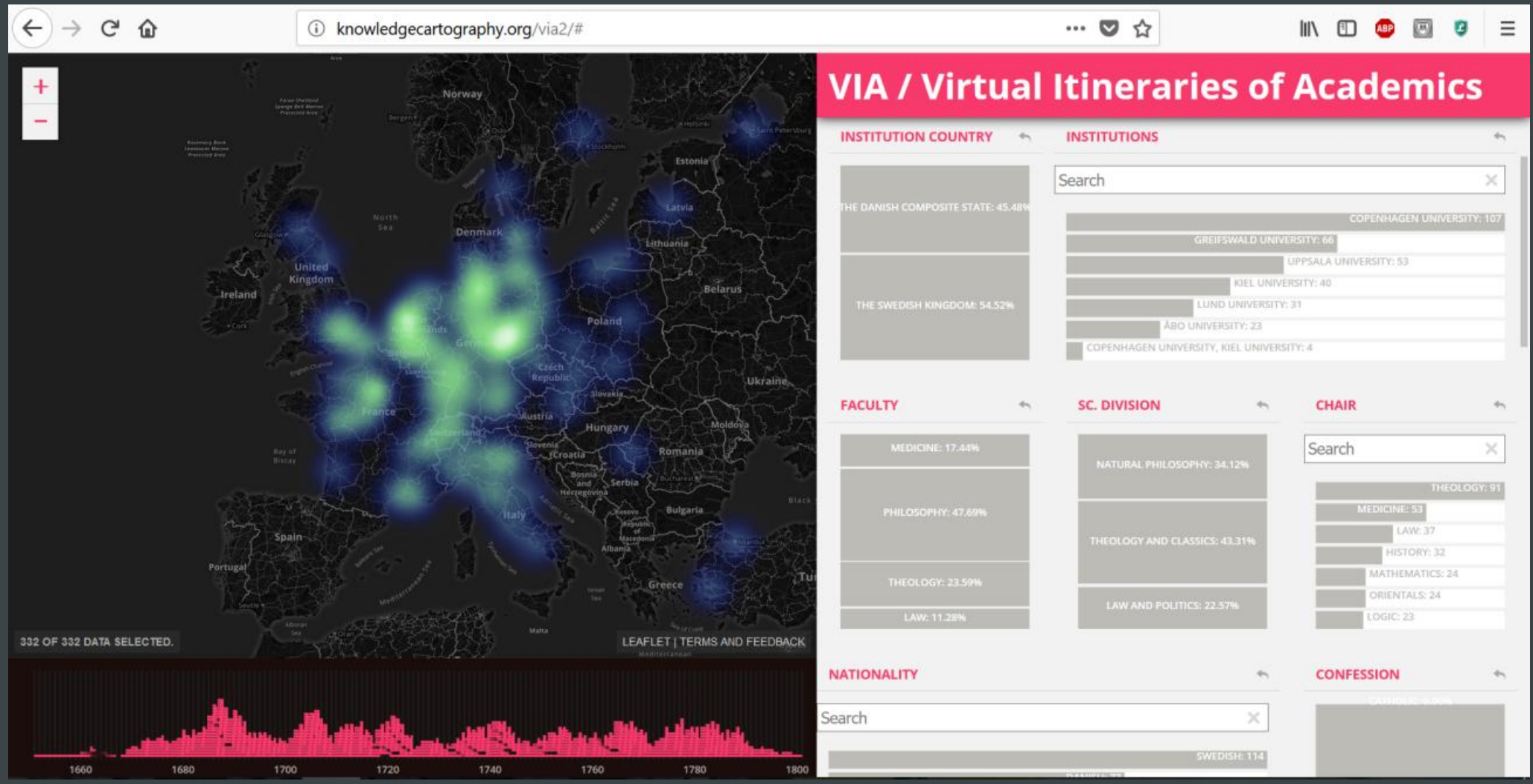
Individual itineraries



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WG6 · Visualization and Communication

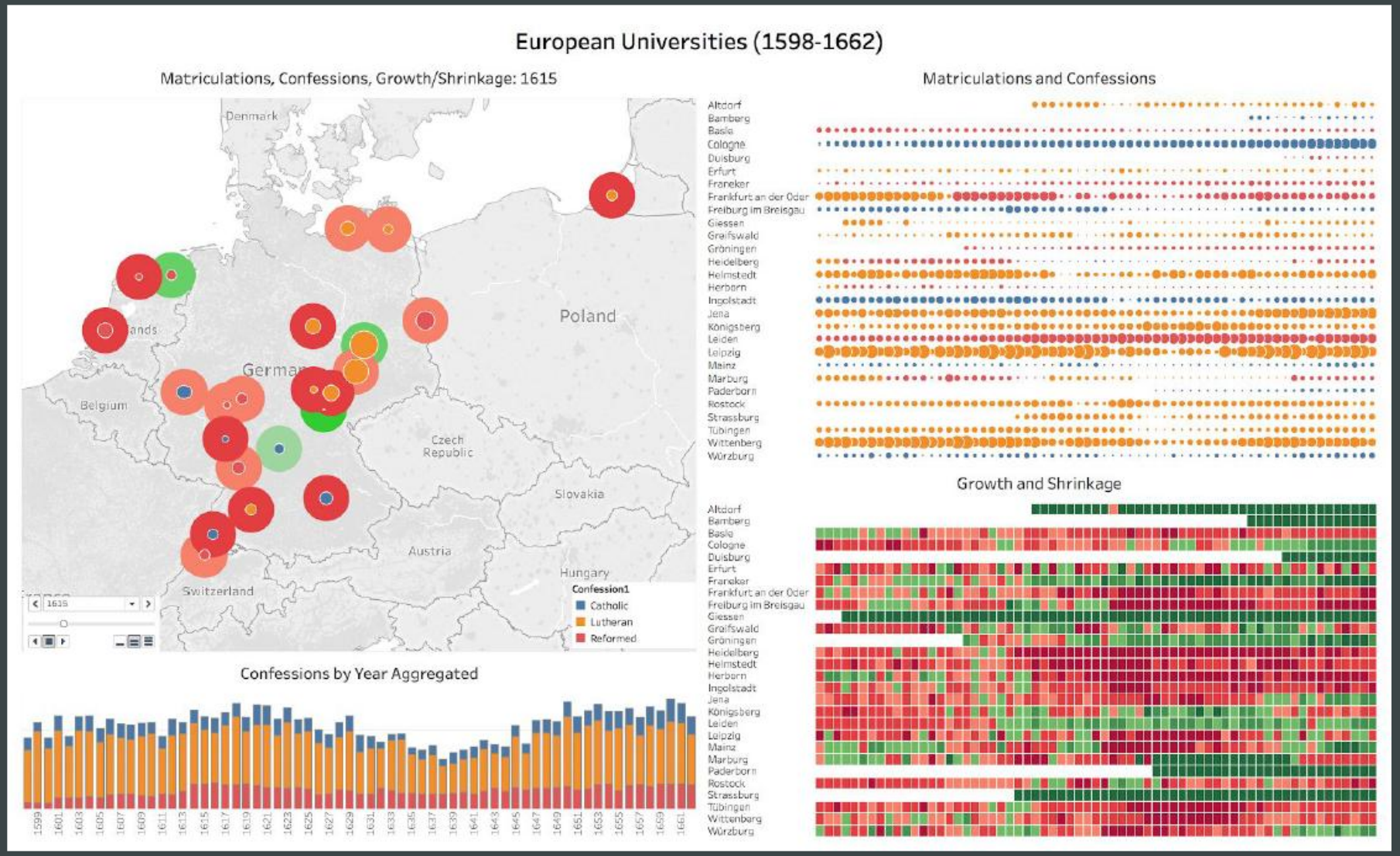
Shifting patterns of academic mobility



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WG6 · Visualization and Communication

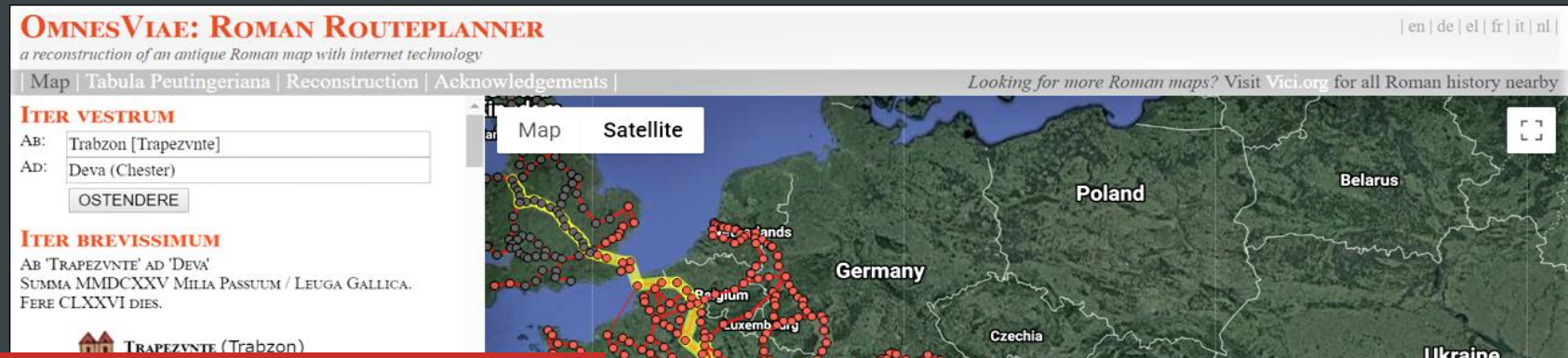
Shifting patterns of academic mobility

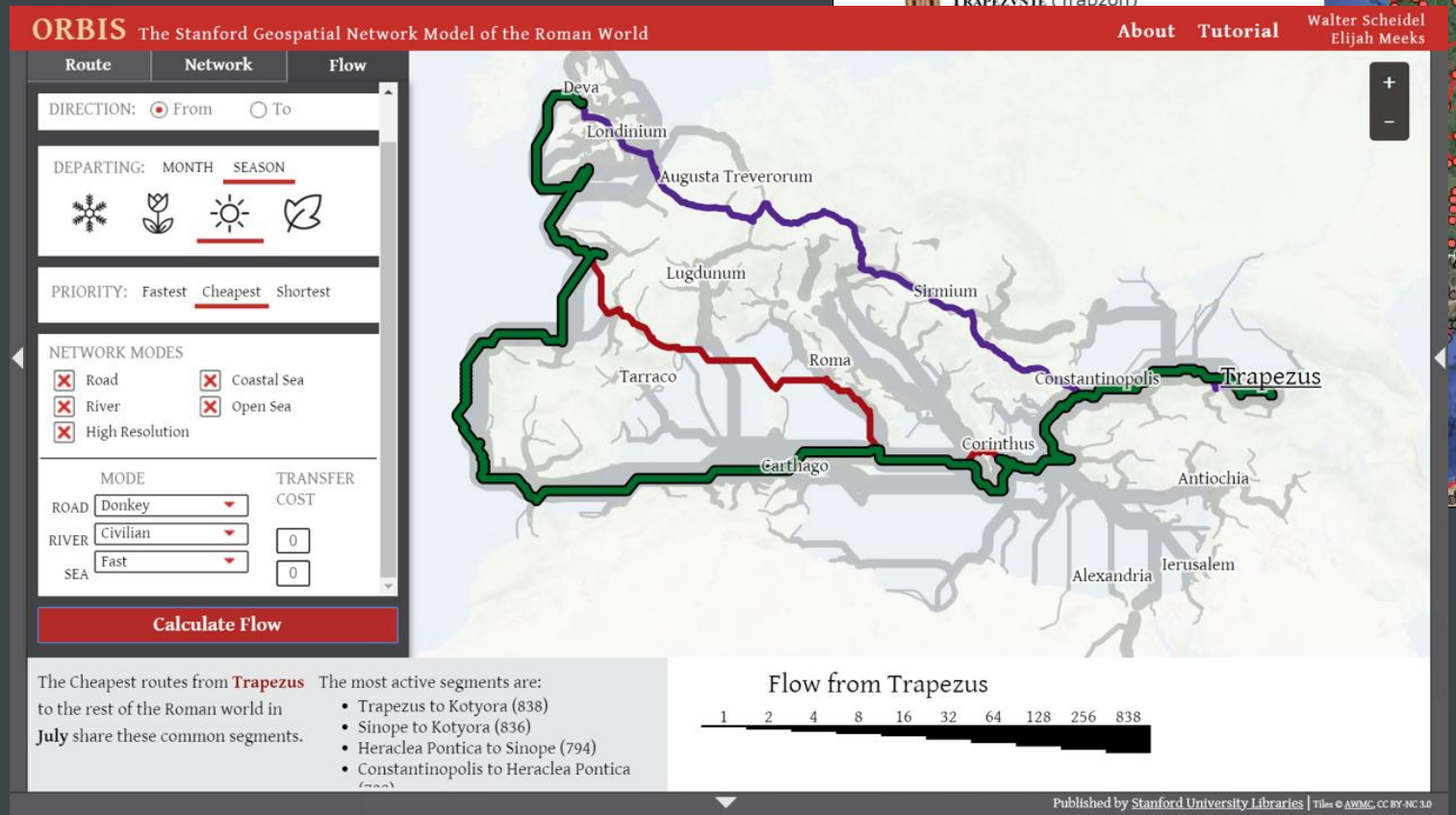


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WG6 · Visualization and Communication

Postal networks





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Text mining

