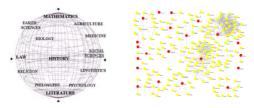
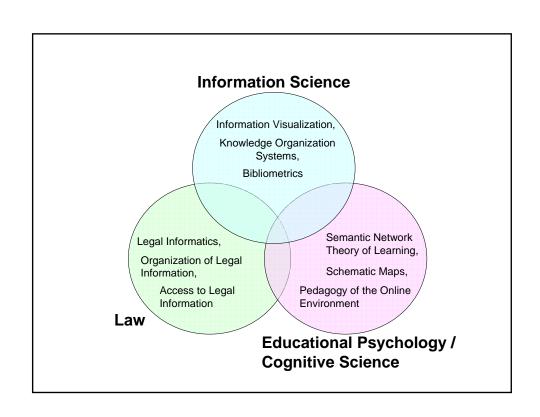
Doctoral Research Agenda

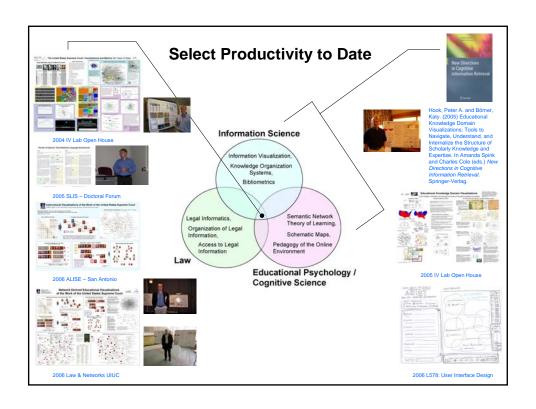




Peter A. Hook Information Visualization Laboratory March 22, 2006



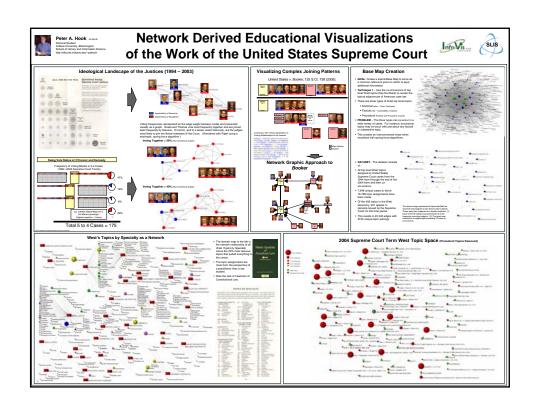


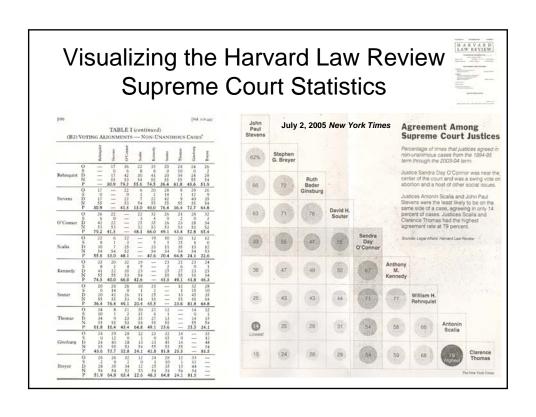


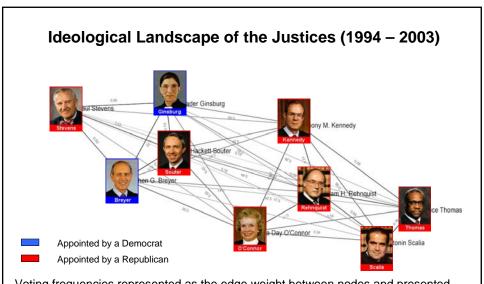
Law / IS / Pedagogy

General Research Question:

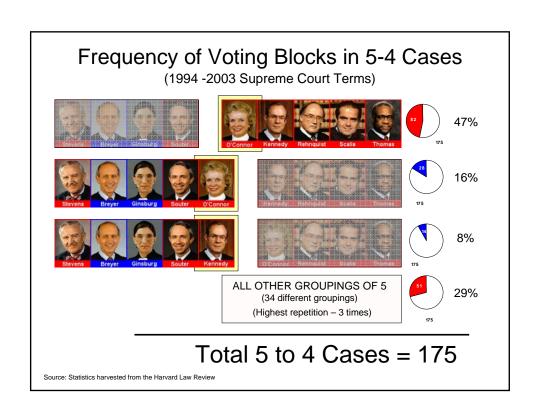
How can network graphing and information visualization techniques improve the understanding of the work of the United States Supreme Court?

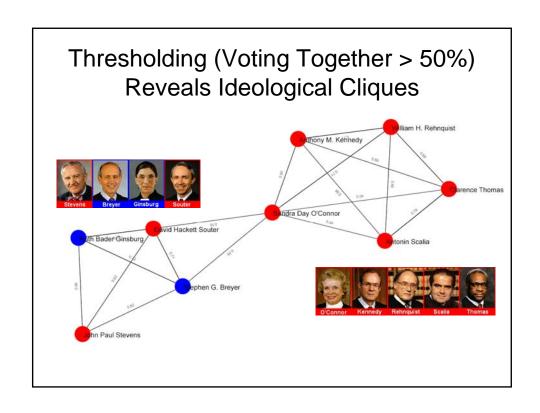


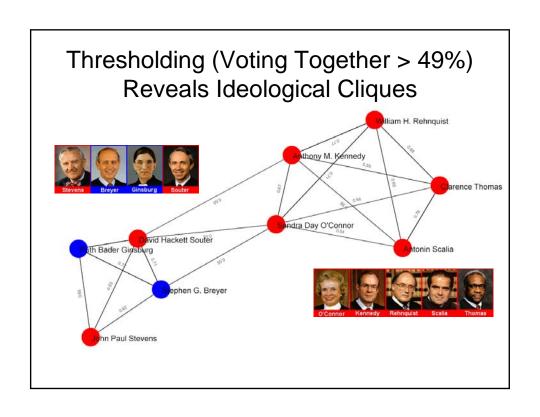


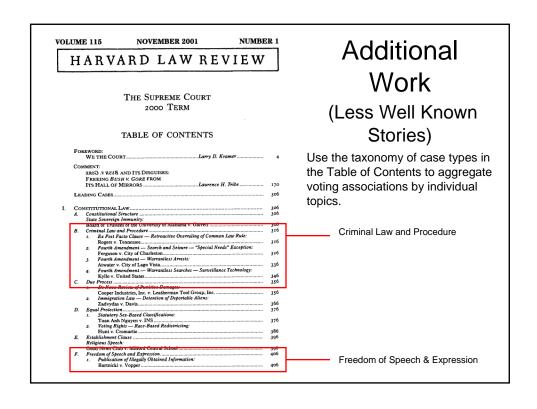


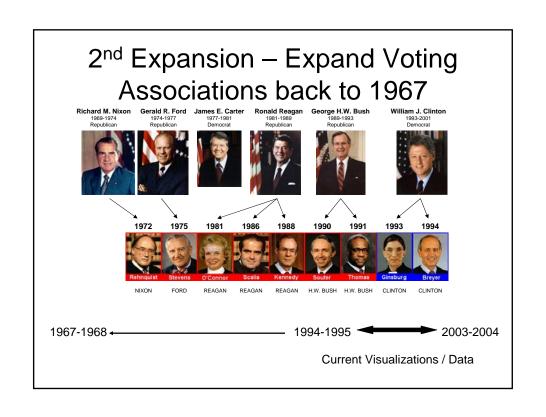
Voting frequencies represented as the edge weight between nodes and presented visually as a graph. Scalia and Thomas vote most frequently together and are joined least frequently by Stevens. O'connor, and to a lesser extent Kennedy, are the judges most likely to join the liberal members of the Court. (Rendered with Pajek using a stochastic, spring force algorithm.)









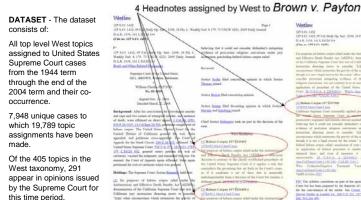


Base Map/Overlay Pedagological Visualizations of the Work of the United States Supreme Court

- Create visualizations of the work of the United States Supreme Court to be used for teaching.
- Create a topical Base Map to serve as a common reference point on which to layer additional information.

Base Map Creation

• Technique 1– Use the co-occurrence of West topics (keynumbers) to render the topical adjacencies of American caselaw.



This results in 22,345 edges with 3743 unique topic pairings.

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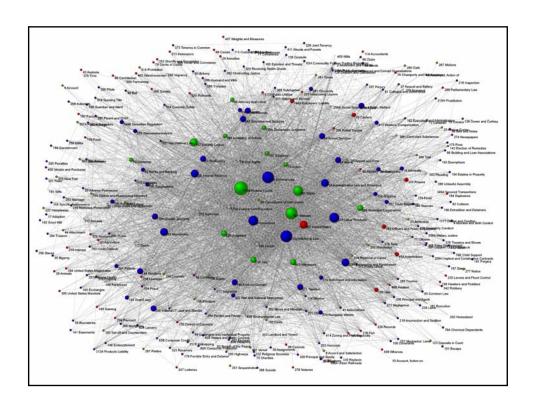
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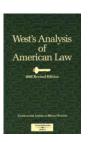
Problem:

- There are three types of West top level topics:
 - Procedural (green)
 - Factual (red)
 - Doctrinal (blue)
- The three types can co-occur in a wide variety of cases.
- For instance, procedural topics may co-occur with just about any factual or substantive topic.

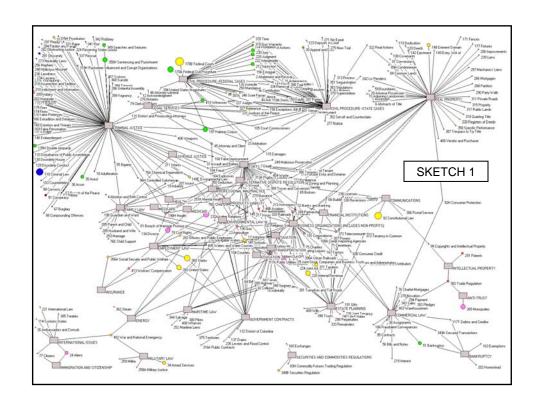


Technique 2

- Use the "Topics By Specialty" assignments in West's Analysis of American Law to create a topic map.
- Problem: Some topics are still assigned to too many top level substantive categories.
- This creates more unmanageable spaghetti.

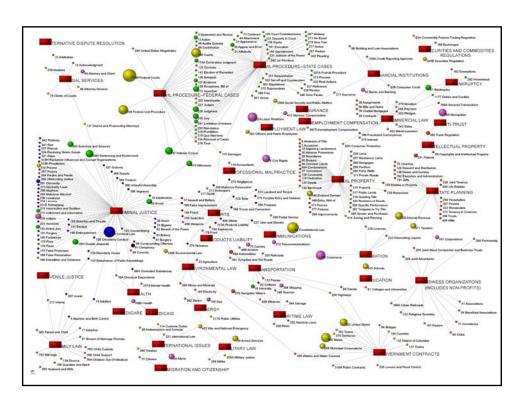


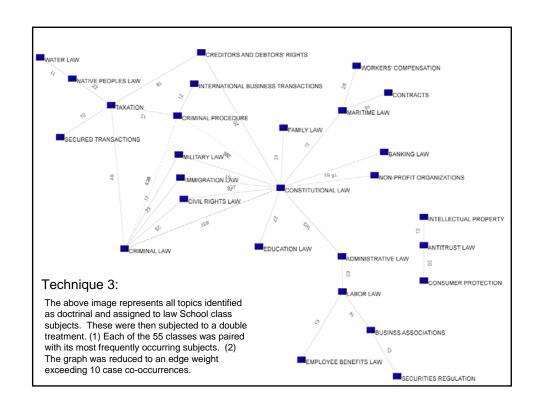


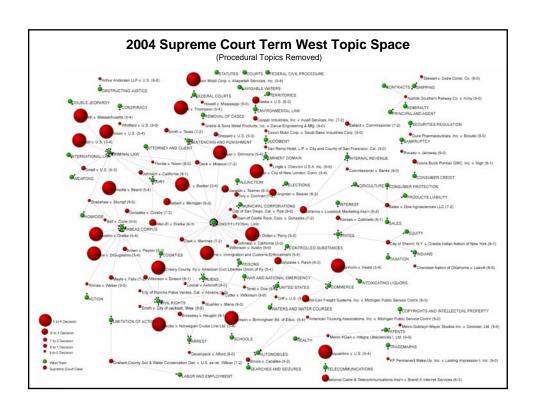


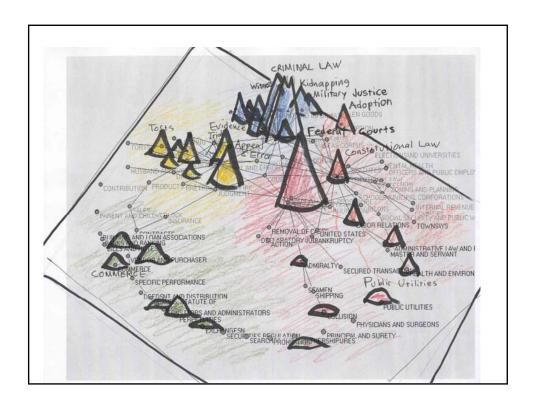
Remedy

 Remove the most tenuous, multiple, subject assignments that pull everything to the center:



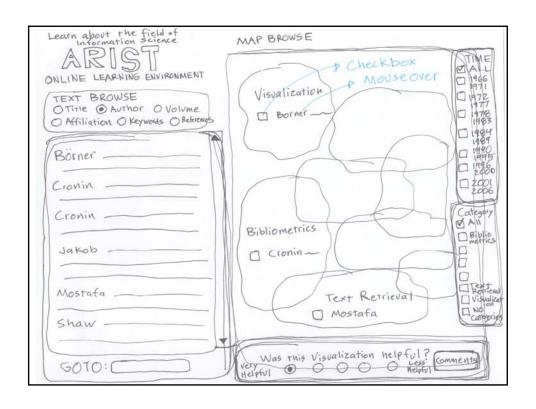






Research Goal

Spatial navigation / visualization of bibliographic data in which the underlying structural organization of the domain is conveyed to the user.



The End