# Teaching Children the Structure of Science

## Dr. Katy Börner

Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, Director Information Visualization Laboratory, Director School of Library and Information Science Indiana University, Bloomington, IN katy@indiana.edu

## **Co-Authors**

Fileve Palmer, Julie M. Davis, Elisha Hardy, Stephen M. Uzzo, Bryan J. Hook





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Katy Börner, Fileve Palmer, Julie M. Davis, Elisha Hardy katy | ftpalmer | efhardy@indiana.edu, jsmarie@gmail.com Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, School of Library and Information Science Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA

> Stephen M. Uzzo New York Hall of Science Flushing Meadows Corona Park, NY 11368, USA suzzo@nyscience.org

Bryan J. Hook 3400 S. Tulip Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47403, USA bryhook@gmail.com

### Abstract

Maps of the world are common in classroom settings. They are used to teach the juxtaposition of natural and political functions, mineral resources, political, cultural and geographical boundaries; occurrences of processes such as tectonic drift; spreading of epidemics; and weather forecasts, among others. Recent work in scientometrics aims to create a map of science encompassing our collective scholarly knowledge. Maps of science can be used to see disciplinary boundaries; the origin of ideas, expertise, techniques, or tools; the birth, evolution, merging, splitting, and death of scientific disciplines; the spreading of ideas and technology; emerging research frontiers and bursts of activity; etc. Just like the first maps of our planet, the first maps of science are neither perfect nor correct. Today's science maps are predominantly generated based on English scholarly data: Techniques and procedures to achieve local and global accuracy of these maps are still being refined, and a visual language to communicate something as abstract and complex as science is still being developed. Yet, the maps are successfully used by institutions or individuals who can afford them to guide science policy decision making, economic decision making, or as visual interfaces to digital libraries. This paper presents the process and results of creating hands-on science maps for kids that teaches children ages 4-14 about the structure of scientific disciplines. The maps were tested in both formal and informal science education environments. The results show that children can easily transfer their (world) map and concept map reading skills to utilize maps of science in interesting ways.

Börner, Katy, Palmer, Fileve, Davis, Julie M., Hardy, Elisha F., Uzzo, Stephen Miles & Hook, Bryan J.. (2009). Teaching Children the Structure of Science. In SPIE Conference on Visualization and Data Analysis (Vol. 7243, pp. 724307: 1-14), SPIE. <u>http://ivi.slis.indiana.edu/km/pub/2009-borner-uzzo-kids-vda.pdf</u>

## Teaching Children the Structure of Science

- How can children start to understand the complex interplay of the different sciences?
- How can they get an intuitive understanding of the importance of math and how much it is needed to succeed in many if not all of the other sciences?
- What does it mean for teaching, learning, and job opportunities if the biomedical sciences account for 50% of all sciences?
- Can we make them see the central position of computer science and its evolving symbiosis with all other aptly named 'computational X' sciences?
- Can we offer them a means to see the emergence and evolution of new sciences, e.g., nano\* or neuro\*?
- How can we empower them to search for a certain expertise in the correct scientific discipline?
- How can we teach them to appreciate the very diverse cultures, research approaches, and languages that exist in the different sciences and enable them to 'speak' more than one science in order to collaborate across scientific boundaries?
- Last but not least, how can we engage children in the work of real scientists, have them share the excitement of discovery, and allow them to find their own 'place' in science?





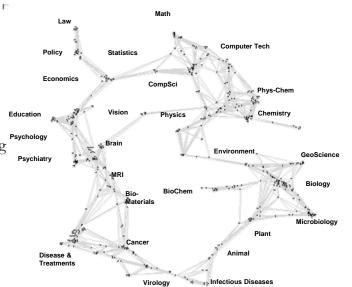
- Börner, Katy, Chen, Chaomei, and Boyack, Kevin. (2003). Visualizing Knowledge Domains. In Blaise Cronin (Ed.), Annual Review of Information Science & Technology, Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc./American Society for Information Science and Technology, Volume 37, Chapter 5, pp. 179-255. <u>http://ivl.slis.indiana.edu/km/pub/2003-borner-arist.pdf</u>
- Shiffrin, Richard M. and Börner, Katy (Eds.) (2004). Mapping Knowledge Domains. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 101(Suppl\_1). http://www.pnas.org/content/vol101/suppl\_1/
- Börner, Katy, Sanyal, Soma and Vespignani, Alessandro (2007). Network Science. In Blaise Cronin (Ed.), Annual Review of Information Science & Technology, Information Today, Inc./American Society for Information Science and Technology, Medford, NJ, Volume 41, Chapter 12, pp. 537-607. <u>http://ivl.slis.indiana.edu/km/pub/2007-borner-arist.pdf</u>

Places & Spaces: Mapping Science exhibit, see also <u>http://scimaps.org</u>.

## Latest 'Base Map' of Science

Kevin W. Boyack, Katy Börner, & Richard Klavans (2007). Mapping the Structure and Evolution of Chemistry Research. 11th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics. pp. 112-123.

- Uses combined SCI/SSCI from 2002
  - 1.07M papers, 24.5M references, 7,300 journals
  - Bibliographic coupling of papers, aggregated to journals
- Initial ordination and clustering of journals gave 671 clusters
- Coupling counts were reaggregated at the journal cluster level to calculate the
  - (x,y) positions for each journal cluster
  - by association, (x,y) positions for each journal

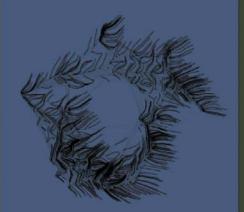


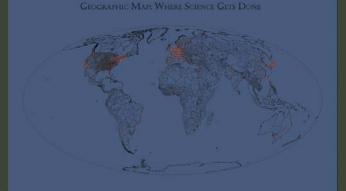


## Illuminated Diagram Display

W. Bradford Paley, Kevin W. Boyack, Richard Kalvans, and Katy Börner (2007) Mapping, Illuminating, and Interacting with Science. SIGGRAPH 2007, San Diego, CA.





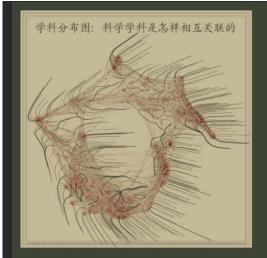


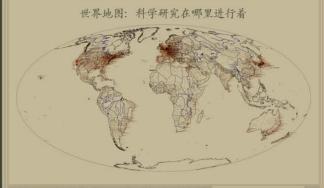
You may run your finger over each of these maps to control the lighting on the other: touching a place on the world map will light up topics studied in that place; touching a paradigm on the topic map will light up the places that study that topic.

## Nanotechnology

This overlay shows the distribution of nanotechnology within the paradigms of science. The majority of current work in nanotechnology takes places in physics, chemistry, and materials science, at the upper right portion of the map. However, an increasing amount of nanotechnology is being applied in the bio-logical and medical sciences, at the lower right.

All Topics	zh all 776	Nanotechnology Science on the tiny scale of molecules	Francis H. C. CRICK Co-discovered DNA's double helix	Albert EINSTEIN Revitalized physics with Relativity theories	Michael E. FISHER Models critical phase transitions of matter	Susan T. FISKE Connects perception and storeotypes
Sustainal	bility	Biology & Chemistry	Joshua LEDERBERG	Derek J. de Solla PRICE	Richard N. ZARE	About this display
The science b		The interface between these two vital fields	Pioneer in bacterial genetic mechanisms	Known as the "Father of Scientometrics"	Uses laser chemistry in molecular dynamics	People & organizations that helped create it





这里显示所有和纳来技术相关的科学学科, 纳朱 技术和科学研究人类在无形的空间里改造世界的 能力, 这些空间存在于极其很小以至单个质于的 始想, 11 我不会有关始本的研究主要集中在 物理, 化学和材料科学领域, 它们主要位于学科 分布图上半部分的右面, 不过, 的来技术在生学和 多和医药等对完里的应用之他来越多, 生物学和 医药学位于学科分布图下半部分的右面,



所有科学学科 星示所有776种科学 学科

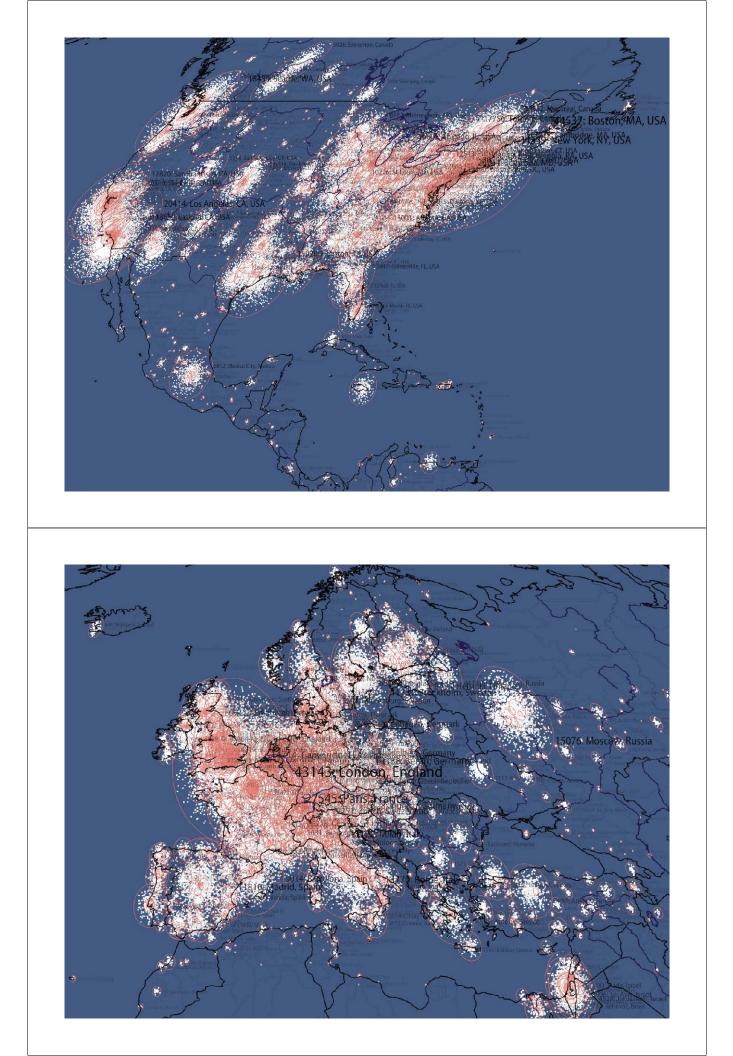
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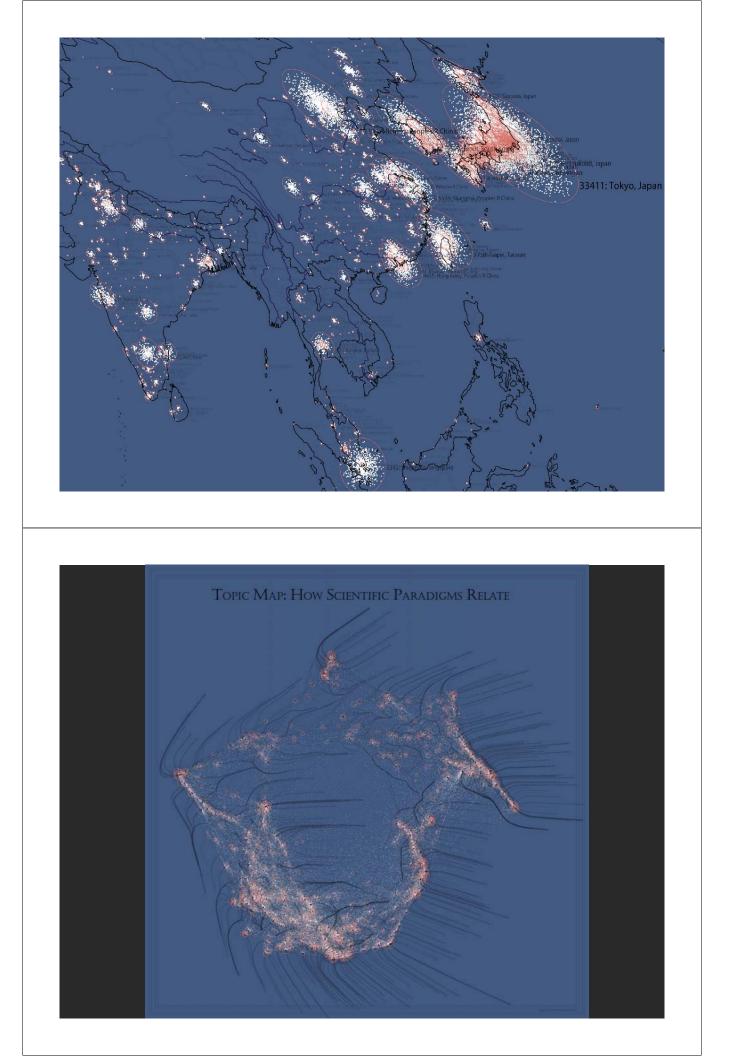
一些与人奥寄予长期 希望相关的科学

化学和生物 化学和生物科学的; 义部分

斯坦 用相对论重新激活了 物理学	迈克尔,费舍尔 发现了物质转变模 式的关键步骤	苏珊,费斯克 研究人的认知是如何产生偏见的
 德里克·德索拉. 背里斯 著名的 "科学计量学 之父"	理查德.扎尔 采用激光化学技术研 充分子动态分布	关于本次展览 与此展览相关人员和 机构
机螺旋状的发现 - 亚、雷德伯 素传机制研究的 通过四步来展示。		

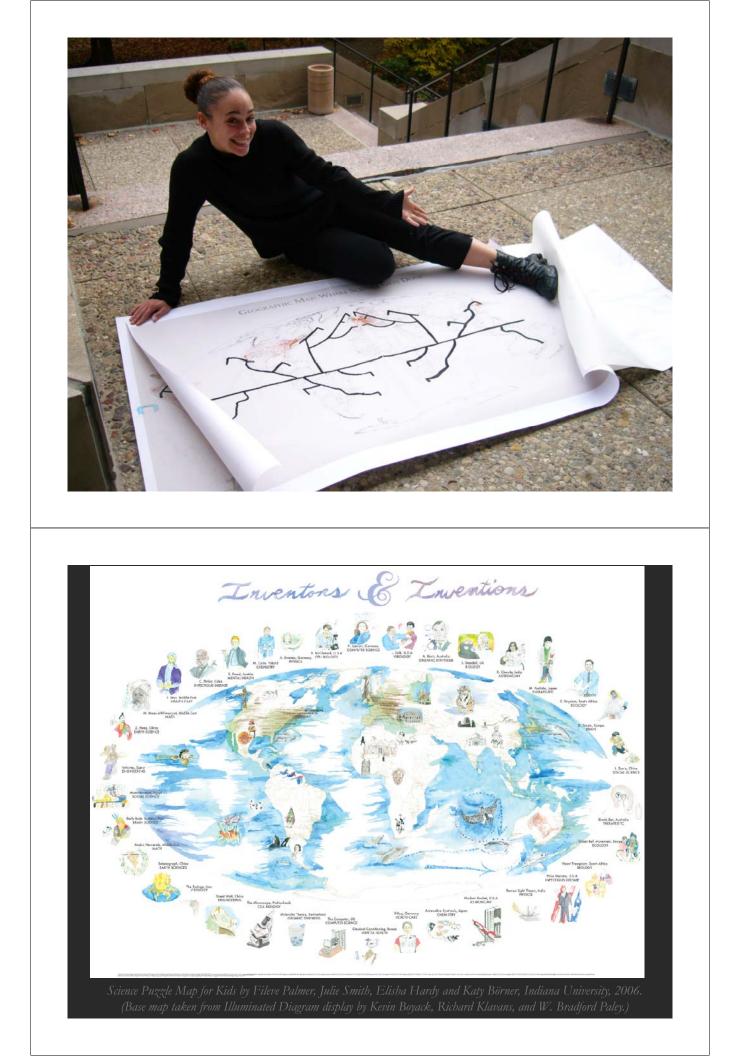


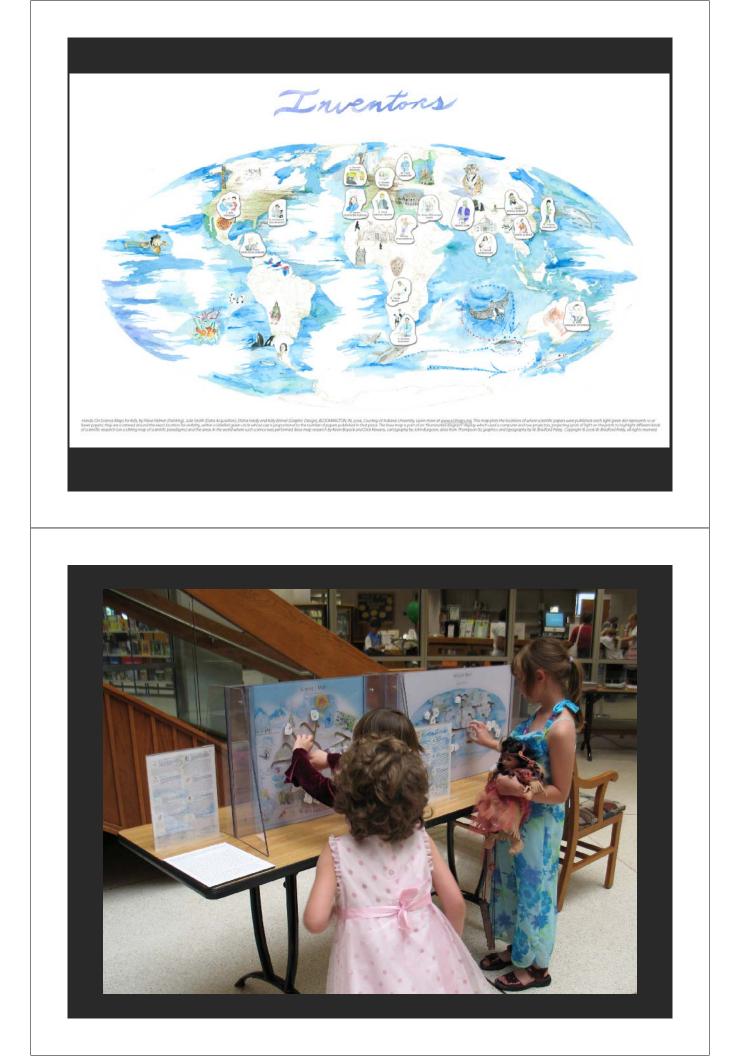




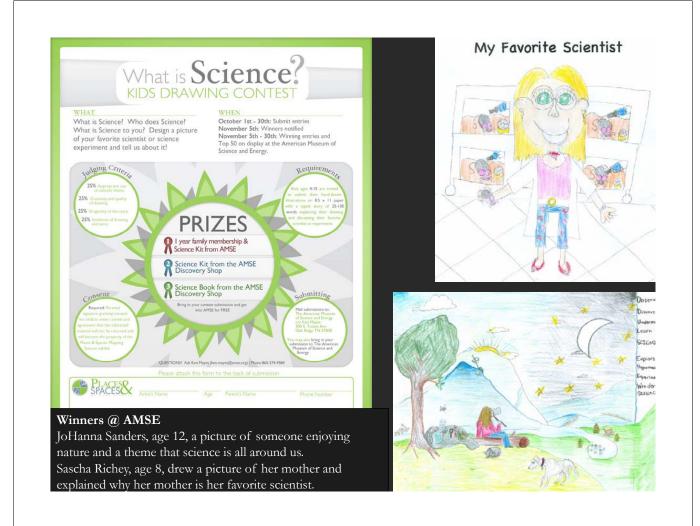


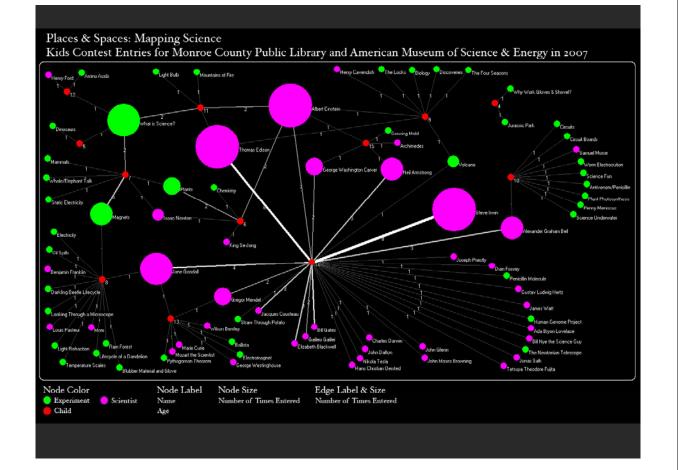


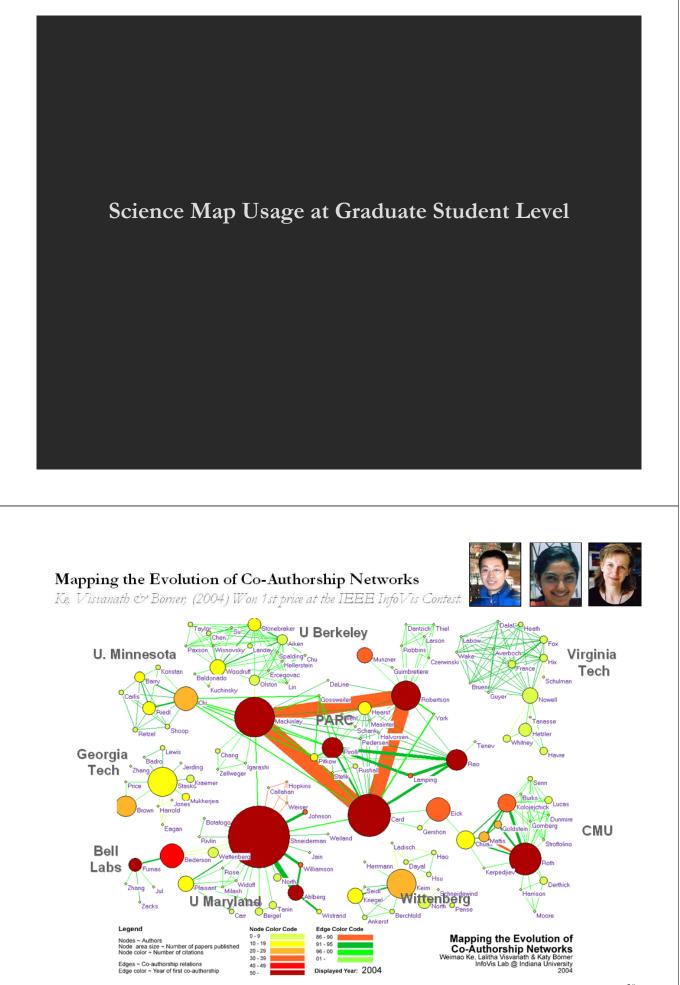


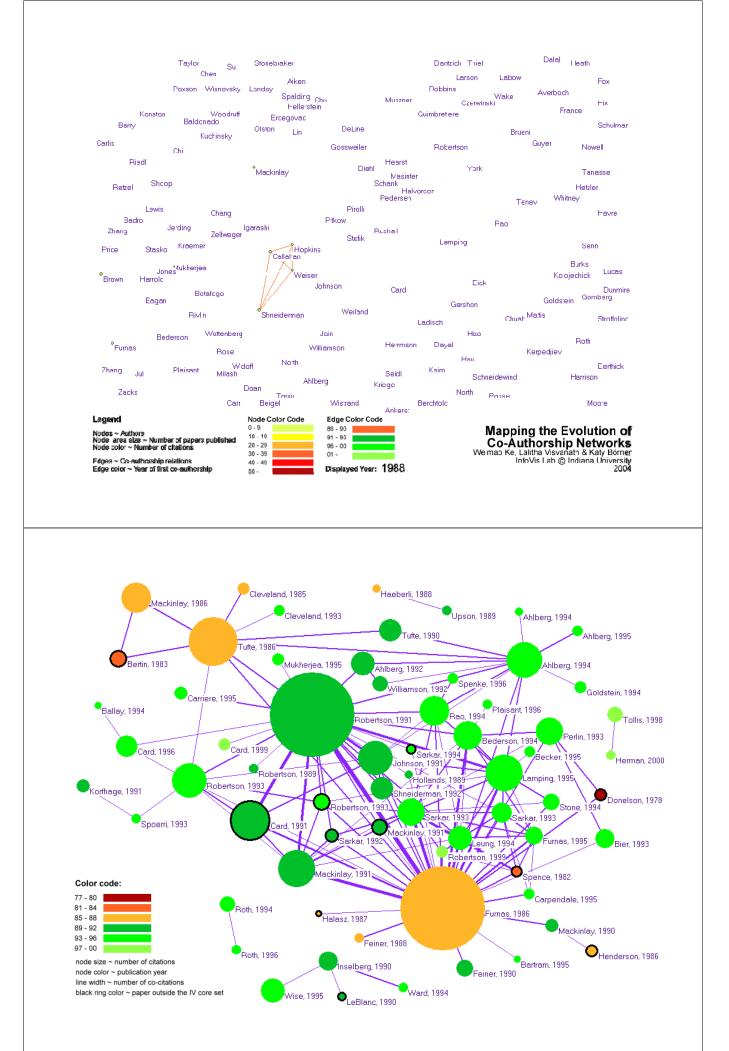


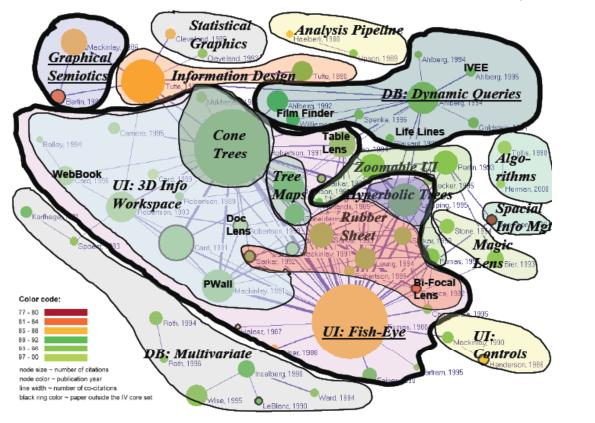














http://cns.slis.indiana.edu

## Stuart Card, IEEE InfoVis Keynote, 2004.