

Acknowledgments

So much has changed in the analysis of language since I published *Analyzing Streams of Language* more than 15 years ago. Blogging was hot; Facebook had just launched. YouTube, Twitter, Instagram were all yet to come. As a result of these and other developments, more and more texts are circulating. And under the umbrella of text analytics, more and more tools have been developed to deal with the onslaught and opportunity such big data affords.

What has not changed is my passion for uncovering the often hidden processes that make up “hand coding” — the use of human coders to interpret and categorize streams of language. While hand coding is not sufficient for dealing with big data sets, it is still a fundamental tool. No analysis that deals with language in its full complexity can ignore the essential role of humans as interpreters of language, what language means and what language does in the world. That is what this book is about.

I have too many people to thank for contributions that have lead to this new and much expanded book, but I must begin by acknowledging my co-author & colleague, Jason Swarts, Professor of Technical Communication at North Carolina State University. It is gratifying to see a former student grow a research program beyond its roots, but it is also a pleasure to be able to still see those roots. Jason is a wonderful collaborator: He has kept me on my toes and has always delivered. Without him, this book would not be.

I also have to acknowledge the confidence and deepening friendship of Christiane Donahue at Dartmouth College. Her invitation to teach language coding as part of the Dartmouth Summer Seminar for Composition Research for almost a decade has provided me with the opportunity to interact with scholars from all over the world, to puzzle through interesting data sets, and to explore and articulate emerging procedures. The Dartmouth Seminar is certainly the world in which this book has come to be. Thanks to Christiane and Dartmouth participants!

The regular and invigorating conversations that I have had over the years with Bill Hart-Davidson of Michigan State & Dave Kaufer of Carnegie Mellon have kept emerging methods for language analysis on my intellectual front

burner. Trying to understand the deep structure of their efforts in a rhetorical approach to machine learning (Bill) and dictionary-based text analysis (Dave) has been crucial to understanding the key role that hand coding should continue to play in emerging methods. I thank them both for not running the other way when they saw me coming!

To Emily Griffiths from Statistics at NC State, I give a special thanks for patience and insight as we worked on statistical analysis for coded verbal data. She went above and beyond what normally gets called consulting, working through the application of logistic regression and then deploying it in an appropriate web-based tool.

Both Jason and I would like to thank Mike Palmquist, founding editor of the WAC Clearinghouse. Mike was the one who got what we wanted for *Coding Streams of Language*, our commitment to making the book available digitally at no cost to scholars around the world and across the fields as well as supporting embedded links to a updated digital resources including our own YouTube channel. Analytic methods are evolving at a rapid rate and the WAC Clearinghouse publishing collaborative with its new section on scholarly and research practices is a perfect environment for this book.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my family. Mark has believed in me and supported my work in innumerable and uncountable ways. Naomi & Bella have taken pleasure in my accomplishments as well as expected me to do more. I love you all.

– Cheryl Geisler, Vancouver, 2019

As little as two years ago, I did not envision myself writing a contribution to the acknowledgments page for this major update and expansion of Cheryl's 2004 book, *Analyzing Streams of Language*. Until that point, it was a book that I used but not one that I thought I would ever contribute to. My scholarship has been shaped by the lessons given in this book because I had the good fortune to work with Cheryl while I was a doctoral student at Rensselaer Polytechnic from 1998-2002, but I am grateful now for the chance to have collaborated with my mentor and friend on this project.

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outlined in this book. A number of excellent projects have arisen from these techniques and each of those classes and projects has helped refine my understanding of how to apply the analytic techniques and how to develop explanations, exercises, and examples that convey the lessons of this analytic method more intuitively. Without a doubt, those years of classroom-based user testing have had a positive impact on the materials in this book.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the input of the participants from the Dartmouth Summer Seminar for Composition Research. Since 2016, I have been a faculty mentor at the summer seminar and as sections of this book have been written, Cheryl and I have tested them out with the seminar participants. The content has only improved as a result of those interactions. Thank you to the many participants and to Christiane Donahue for organizing the seminar.

– Jason Swarts, Raleigh, 2019