Tomas Vancisin

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Education

2018–2024 **PhD Computer Science**, *University of St Andrews*,
Scholarship: Alfred Dunhill Links Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship.
Thesis: *Rethinking Historical University Records: Provenance in Visualization and Digital Humanities*
- Digitized (XML.TEI) historical student/staff biographical records from St Andrews for the period 1579–1747 using XSLT, geocoding, and manual tagging.
- Orchestrated the development of MongoDB database for storing the information and enabling effective data retrieval using Python.
- Developed a large variety of interactive visualizations using D3.js and Leaflet.js as a means to provide new perspectives on the historical dataset.
- Conducted multiple studies with participants from various backgrounds (History, Computer Science, Data Visualization, and General Public) to evaluate the novel visualization approaches.

2016–2017 **MSc Computing and Information Technology**, *University of St Andrews*.
Modules included: Information Visualization and Visual Analytics, Database Management Systems, Programming Principles and Practice, Masters Programming Projects, Information Security.
Dissertation: *Mapping the Biographical Register of the University of St Andrews, 1747 – 1897. (1st class)*
- Architected a MySQL database for storing biographical information about students at the University of St Andrews during the period 1747–1897 using Python.
- Developed multiple interactive visualizations using Tableau and D3.js as a means to explore the possibilities of applying visualization techniques to historical university records.
Grade: Distinction in the Dissertation

2012–2016 **MA(Hons) Comparative Literature and Russian**, *University of St Andrews*.
Modules included: Issues in Comparative Literature, The Literary Canon, Russian Émigré Writing, Found in Translation, Contemporary Russian Literature, Advanced Russian Language.
Dissertations:
- *Digitization, Visualization, and Textual Analysis of Sergei Alexandrovich Yesenin's Correspondence.*
  - Dynamic Palladio visualizations of the poet's correspondence combined with the textual analysis of his work using AntConc explored influences (people, geography, historical events) that shaped Yesenin's poetry. (1st class)
- *A Digital and Visual Comparison of Grammar School Curricula for the Subject 'Czech/Slovak Language and Literature' in 1985, 1991 and 1997/9.*
  - Analyzing and visualizing the data gathered from grammar school curricula using Palladio to explore the transformation of the literary canon in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. (1st class)
Grade: 2:1

Work Experience

2023–Present **Research Associate in Interactive Data Visualisation**, *School of Law*, Edinburgh.
I work at the *Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform* (PeaceRep), focusing on visualization of transition trajectories, and the mediation space of peace and transition processes.

Summer 2023 **Postgraduate Research Assistant**, *School of History*, St Andrews.
I worked as a part-time visualization researcher for the Legacies of the Empire project, which explores how the University of St Andrews has been connected to and benefited from British colonial past.

2019–2021	**Research Assistant/Web Developer**, *School of Modern Languages*, St Andrews.
	For two years I worked as a research assistant/web developer for the Lost Detectives project which focused on bringing works of nineteenth-century Russian crime fiction to greater public prominence.
2018–2023	**Tutor/Marker/Supervisor**, *School of Computer Science*, St Andrews.
	During my PhD I worked as a tutor and marker for the Information Visualization and Visual Analytics module and co-supervised three Master's dissertations.
2017–2020	**Intern**, *University Library Research Computing Department*, St Andrews.
	I digitized (XML.TEI) 168 years' worth of historical university records (1579–1747) using XSLT, Python, geocoding, and manual tagging to expand the existing 1747-1897 database and include it into my PhD research.
2013–2023	**Housekeeper/Waiter/Duty Manager**, *Hazelbank Hotel*, St Andrews.
	In order to support myself financially during my studies in St Andrews, I worked as a housekeeper, waiter, and duty manager in a small family hotel.

Languages

Slovak	**Native**
Czech	**Near-native**
English	**Near-native**
Russian	**University level**
Polish	**Elementary**

Computer skills

Front-end	**D3, Leaflet, Mapbox, JQuery, React**.
Back-end	**MongoDB, MySQL, Node, Express**.
Data Analysis	**Python, XML.TEI**.
Visualization Software	**Tableau, Power BI, Palladio**.
Document Preparation	**LaTeX, Microsoft Office, LibreOffice**.

Publications

Journals	Vancisin, T., Clarke, L., Orr, M., Hinrichs, U. (2023). Provenance Visualization: Tracing People, Processes and Practices Through a Data-Driven Approach to Provenance. In 2023 Digital Scholarship in the Humanities. Oxford University Press.
Conferences	Vancisin, T., Orr, M., Hinrichs, U. (2020, October). Externalizing Transformations of Historical Documents: Opportunities for Provenance-Driven Visualization. In 2020 IEEE 5th Workshop on Visualization for the Digital Humanities (VIS4DH) (pp. 36-42). IEEE.
Conferences	Vancisin, T., Orr, M., Hinrichs, U. (2020). Illuminating Past Labor: Making Transformation Processes of Historical Documents Visible. In Proceedings of Digital Humanities 2020 (DH'20).
Conferences	Vancisin, T., Crawford, A., Orr, M., Hinrichs, U. (2018). From People to Pixels: Visualizing Historical University Records. In: Proceedings of the 5th Biennial Research Transdisciplinary Imaging Conference, TI2018, 18-20 April 2018, Edinburgh.

Interests

Tennis	I started playing tennis when I was 13 and progressed to the National Tennis League.
Accordion	I attended music school for 5 years and I enjoy playing classical as well as folk music.
Violin	During the pandemic I taught myself to play the violin and I have been playing ever since.
Skiing	Coming from a mountainous region in Slovakia, winters have always been spent on skis.

References

Available upon request.