Mapping scholarly networks to enhance collaborative research opportunities

Examining BOBCATSSS conference participation with network analysis

Using coded network analysis, we propose mapping participation in previous BOBCATSSS conferences in order to highlight certain identifiers and create a visual representation of BOBCATSSS involvement and contributions. Distinguishing and analyzing network structures can concretely show past connections and help predict future associations, while allowing viewers to understand the strength, directionality, and origins of these initial linkages.

Additionally, creating and examining the BOBCATSSS participation network within the context of BOBCATSSS history will provide valuable insights pertaining to not only subject matter but also authorship developments. Both presenters and attendees can reveal much about tie strength and the ways in which bonds are forged by multiplicities in research and participation. This could also lend itself to new collaborations based in research, geographical proximity, or previous authorship, and we believe that mapping and analyzing the nodes and edges of our uniquely coded network will reveal beneficial insights about participation in the BOBCATSSS conference from its inception to present.

Our methodology will consist of constructing a dataset with identifiers for each conference as well as each participant, which will be unique that participant and repeating if he or she has
multiple presentations, in addition to each presentation and each session in order to match people who presented at the same session. Through a thorough examination of past programming, bibliographies, and research, we will code for betweenness centrality, degree centrality, eigenvector centrality, and closeness centrality in order to determine the structure of the network and its dynamic or static characteristics. Our network will be accompanied by a corresponding legend that demarcates each term and its embedded components.

In our research, we encountered the content analysis of conferences in several disciplines, which supports the interconnectedness of meaningful relationships among both presenters and content. This will help us examine not only what the network of BOBCATSSS participants looks like, and how, if it all it has changed over time, and how these can be used to inform future collaborations but also how past research and collaborations may have contributed to later connections among presenters and attendees.

References

