
DataARC Scope Notes Writing Workshop

— By Brooke Mundy —

Introductions

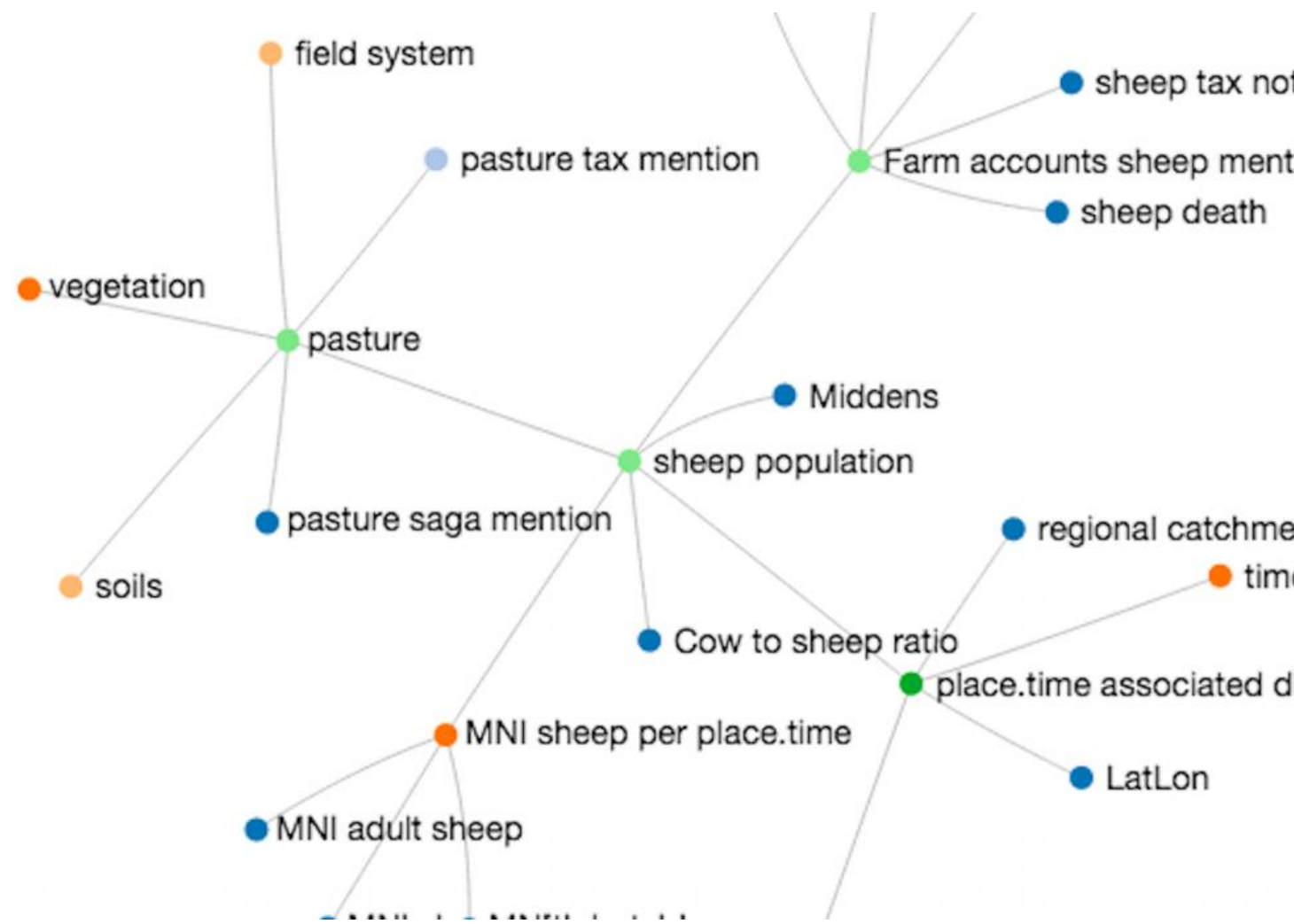
Workshop Goals

- To introduce you to DataARC and ScopeNotes
- To guide you through the ScopeNote writing process
- To practice writing ScopeNotes
- To get you thinking about the ScopeNotes you want to contribute to

Key Terms

- **DataARC:** an international group that is working to produce online tools that will enable researchers from a broad range of disciplines to study long-term human-environment interactions in the North Atlantic landscape
- **Concept:** a specific term in the concept map (ontology) that revolves around the central concept of 'the changing landscape'
- **Scope Notes:** descriptions of concepts, which include definitions, examples, and references to scholarly works

Concept Mapping Example



DataARC Search Tool

The Scope Note Collection

Scope Note Examples

- **Good Example:**

<https://github.com/ropitz/experiments/blob/master/docs/dataarc-concepts/gathering.md>

- **Bad Example:**

<https://github.com/ropitz/experiments/blob/master/docs/dataarc-concepts/animals.md>

How to Write a Good Scope Note

- Avoid jargon
- Be direct and to the point
- Assume that the user is not an expert in your topic
- Tip: write your Scope Note like a scholarly Wikipedia article

DataArc Scope Notes and Concept map

You are encouraged to contribute new scope notes or to propose edits to existing scope notes

Scope notes should be written in the following format:

[your concept]

Scope note:

[describe what you mean by your concept if it's something abstract like 'ecclesiastical power' and/or contextualize its importance in the bigger picture if its something concrete like 'sheep']

Examples:

- example
- example
- example

References to discussions of [your concept]:

- reference
- reference
- reference

Examples and References

- Examples will help users understand what you are talking about
- Use highly cited sources that establish the data you are mapping
- The more recent the source, the better
- Do not use Wikipedia as a reference

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Writing Scope Notes

Possible Writing Topics

- [Animals](#)
- [Garden Plot](#)
- [Woodland Decline](#)
- [Wind](#)
- [Tenant Farm](#)

Scope Note Writing Exercise: Step 1

On the [Google Doc](#):

1. Write 2-3 sentences about your knowledge on the specific concept.
2. Include an example of the information you are providing.
3. Include one significant reference related to your contribution.
4. Let me know when you are finished!

Make sure to connect your description to landscape

Remember that the regional emphasis is the North Atlantic

Scope Note Writing Exercise: Step 2

1. Let's talk about these descriptions!
2. Combine descriptions into one Scope Note.
3. What has been done well? What could we improve?

You can return to the Doc and add things later

Final Notes

- Feel free to add to other Scope Notes as you would like.
- Thoughts on workshop/Scope Note writing process?
- If you know of anyone else who might be interested in taking part in this project, please send me their info or get them to send me an email
- Plan next workshop (3-4 hours)
 - Each choose 2-3 concepts from GitHub to fill out/complete (send them in chat)
 - At the next meeting, everyone will work on **every** concept.
 - I will assign each person 2 concepts to edit at the very end.
 - You are more than welcome to work on Notes before meeting!

Questions?

Contact:

Brooke Mundy lbmundy1@catamount.wcu.edu

Rachel Opitz rachel.opitz@glasgow.ac.uk

Thank you for participating in this workshop!