

WE1S documentation “cards” communicate project materials, methods, findings, and recommendations clearly in bite-sized chunks.

Inspired by the “cards” model used to explain nutrition, medical, and data science (e.g., “[Model Cards for Model Reporting](#)” and “[Datasheets for Datasets](#)”), WE1S introduces its materials, methods, tools, findings, and recommendations in short, plain-language “cards.” Quick knowledge and conversation-starting “cards” or similar “one-pagers” have also been adopted for humanities advocacy by state Humanities Councils (e.g., Humanities Montana’s “[Gather Round: Cards for Humanities](#)”) and the American Academy of Arts & Science’s Humanities Indicators (“[The Humanities in Our Lives](#)”).

WE1S has cards explaining its

- [Collections](#) (what we collected from public discourse to study)
- [Methods](#) (how we studied our corpora)
- [Tools & Software](#) (platforms, interfaces, and scripts we borrowed or created)
- [Key Findings](#) (discrete, high-impact observations from our research)
- [Calls-to-Action](#) & [Calls-for-Communication](#) (recommendations based for acting on, organizing events around, and advocating for the humanities).

Cards are assembled modularly in different sequences that suggest a pathway from research to action. For example, WE1S clusters them in “research-to-action toolkits” to help different audiences think about and engage with the humanities—e.g., students, parents, journalists, community leaders, politicians, university administrators, and scholars. Cards also support WE1S’s higher-level analyses and white papers.

Each card includes links to further resources.


WE1S Key Finding
KF-5-4

The public likes to take its science with objects, the bigger or stranger the better!

One thing that is clear in comparing the profile of the sciences with that of the humanities in the media is that in the case of science objects are the hook to catch public attention. In the 28,957 articles mentioning the “humanities” or “science(s)” we studied using a topic model, science topics (like #58 on astrophysics) show that science circulates in public discourse as a galaxy of catchy “objects”—especially big or strange ones like new planets, dwarf stars, black holes, spacecraft, or space telescopes. (Harder-to-grasp, unseeable, or more theoretical objects such as particles in particle physics generally sink out of view into the long tail of words in the topics in our model.)

Of course, any animated object (like [animals in topic #101](#)) is just as catchy. The public loves science articles like this associated with topic #101: “[Rats Surprise Scientists by not Living Up to Their Name](#)” (“researchers at the University of Chicago sought to find out whether a rat would release a fellow rat from an unpleasantly restrictive cage if it could. The answer: Yes.”)

By contrast, the humanities seem to be object-poor in the media. Basically, much of the media views the humanities as having just a single kind of object: books! Books come in for a great deal of attention in public discourse related to the humanities. (See KFC-5-TBD) But what other objects can the humanities show off to focus public interest?



A decade of discoveries from the High Accuracy Radial Velocity Planet Searcher (HARPS).
([via Media Commons](#))

Audience for key finding: General, humanities scholars

Document corpus studied for key finding: 28,957 articles mentioning the “humanities” or “science(s)” in top U.S. newspapers, 2000-2018

Topic model of this corpus: [US Humanities and Sciences or Sciences Documents from Top Newspapers, 2000-2018](#) (150 topics)

Sample topics in the model to look at: [#58](#), [#101](#).

Representative articles to look at: [a](#), [b](#).

Documentation for this key finding ([WE1S report based on following project interpretation protocol for studying topic model](#))

Key Finding Card created by Alan Liu, 4 December 2019

Example of a WE1S “Key Finding Card”

Resources

Research works on reporting & documentation standards (including “cards”): [WE1S bibliography](#)

Examples of research articles:

- * Gebru, Timnit, et al. “[Datasheets for Datasets](#)” (2019)
- * Holland, Sarah, et al. “[The Dataset Nutrition Label: A Framework To Drive Higher Data Quality Standards](#)” (2018)
- * Mitchell, Margaret, et al. “[Model Cards for Model Reporting](#)” (2019)

Examples of cards for humanities advocacy :

- * Humanities Montana, “[Gather Round: Cards for Humanities](#)” (2019)
- * Humanities Indicators, “[The Humanities in Our Lives](#)” (2018)