

Practical 2. *Shakespeare*

These are some suggestions of how you can explore the Shakespeare material. Two versions of Shakespeare texts are loaded on the machines (for other versions, look online or use the subscription resources available via 'OxLip'). You can use WordSmith Tools for all these suggestions (see the User Guide from Practical 1 or the WsT help files/manual for instructions). If you prefer another tool that you have access to, feel free to use that.

Investigate particular words through concordances.

Examples might be:

- words that have shifted meaning (e.g. fast, meat),
- colour terms
- interjections (e.g. o, oh, fie, tush).

Frequencies

Do a word-frequency list of a Shakespeare text or genres (e.g. comedy, history, tragedy). What can you tell from that?

Clusters

Look for 'bundles' of different number of words (3-words bundles presented in the talk, try out 2, 4, 5, etc.). Use WordSmith Tools 'cluster' function or think of other tools/ways.

Key words

Select two texts (or two sets of texts) from different genres and compare these. Alternatively, compare an early work with a late one.

Compare two versions of a text

Try one or all of the suggestions above on two versions of the same text (for example the modernised and original spelling ones).