MESSY DATA? CLEAN IT UP WITH



OpenRefine

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GUIDES.LIBRARY.ILLINOIS.EDU/OPENREFINE

Created by Brinna Michael



OpenRefine A free, open source, power tool for working with messy data.

- About OpenRefine
- Hands-on:
 - Importing your data
 - Manipulating and cleaning your data
 - Exporting your data
- Resources
- Questions?



- OpenRefine can *normalize* and *visualize* your data!
- OpenRefine looks like a spreadsheet, but it acts like a database.
- Use OpenRefine to explore, clean, and link your data.
 - Pull out greater granular details when there's a lot of information
 - Pinpoint very specific criteria using a combination of facets

Strengths:

- Free and Open Source
- Much more powerful than Excel
- Platform independent
- Great history tracking
- Can export commonly used functions for reuse

Weaknesses:

- Can be a little unstable (some queries will run slowly)
- Some methods require light programming*
- Some tasks that are easy in Excel are more difficult/impossible in OpenRefine
 - Adding new rows / New Data
 - Editing individual cells

Hands-On



OpenRefine

- Creating a New Project
- Records vs. Rows
- Reordering Columns
- Basic Normalization
- Tracking Operation Histories
- Faceting and Clustering
- Exporting your work

To get started:

- Download and install OpenRefine
 - http://openrefine.org/download.html

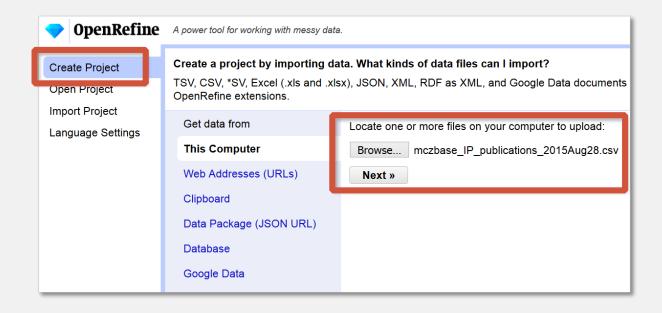
■ PLEASE NOTE: OpenRefine runs in a browser, like a web app (though it does not require an internet connection). It works best with Chrome, Firefox, or Safari, and will automatically run on your default browser. OpenRefine is unstable when run on Internet Explorer and does not run at all on Edge, so it is best to choose another default browser.

SAMPLE DATA

goo.gl/CBqj2n

Creating a project

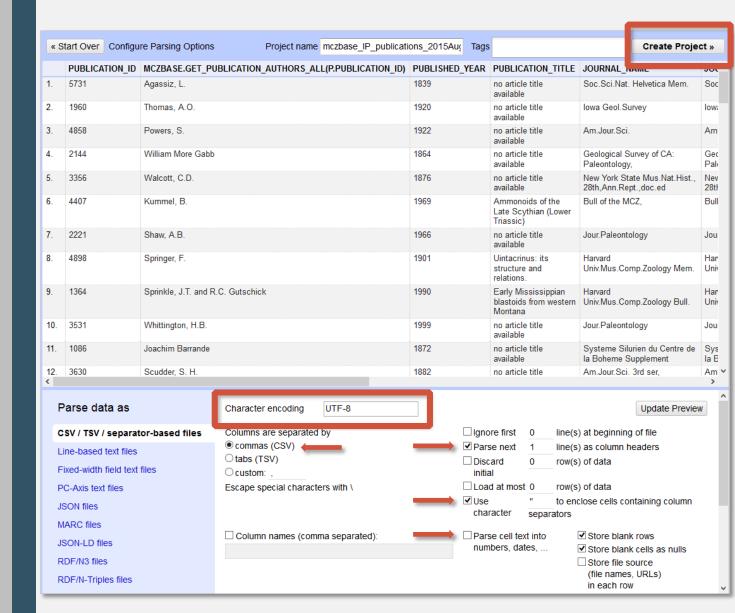
- TSV, CSV, other separated values
- Line-based; Fixed-width text files
- Spreadsheets
 - Excel files (.xls, .xlsx)
 - Open document format spreadsheets (.ods)
 - Google Sheets
- XML
- JSON



Creating a project

Project Settings

- Check your encoding!
- Choose the correct separators!
- Parse your column headers!
- Don't parse text into numbers, dates, etc.! (Unless you are VERY confident about your data)



OpenRefine Layout

- OpenRefine displays data in a tabular format (like a spreadsheet):
 - Each line will represent a 'record' or 'row' in the data
 - Each column represents a type of information
- OpenRefine only displays a limited number of lines of data at a time.
 - You can adjust the number to 5, 10 (default), 25, or 50.
 - When you manipulate your data, you are manipulating the whole set, not just the first 50!

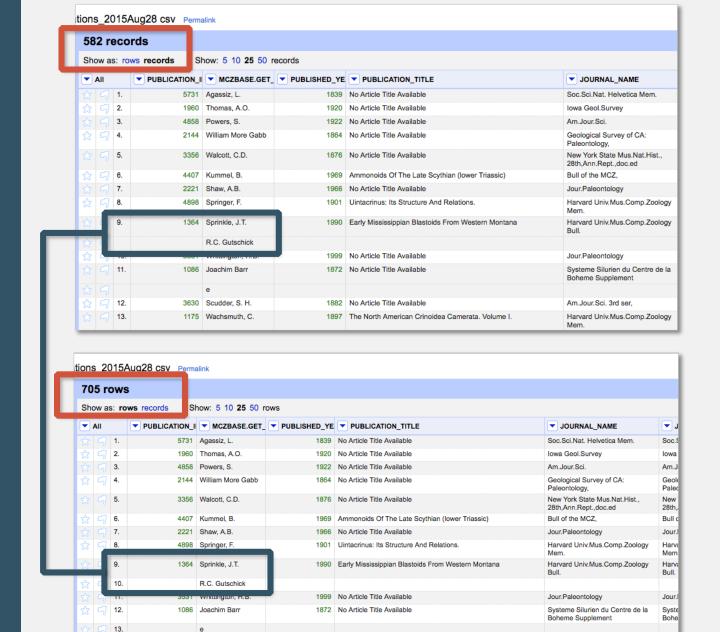
Records vs. Rows

ROWS

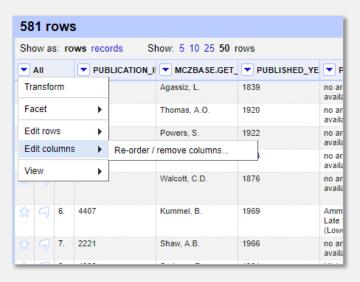
 Individual lines of data, not linked by relationships between the data in neighboring lines

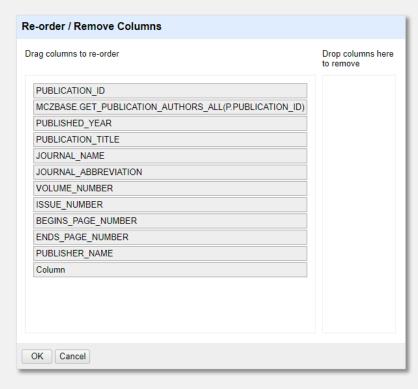
RECORDS

 Multi-line groupings of data, linked by relationships between data in those lines



Reordering columns

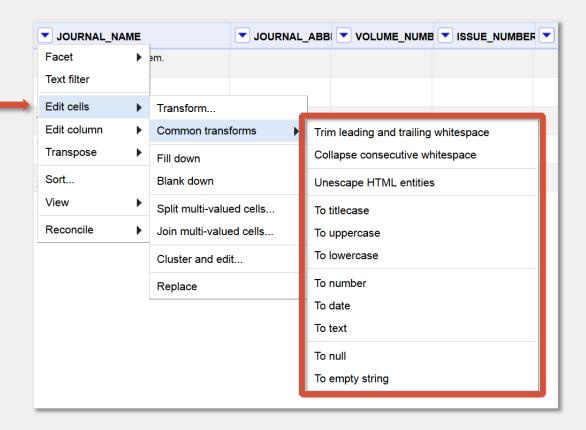




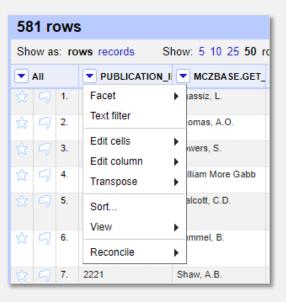
Basic normalization

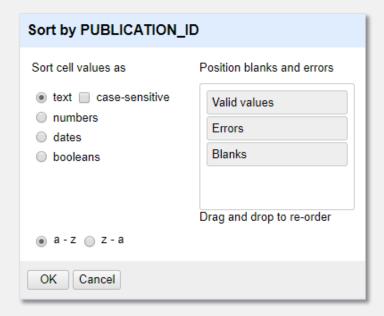
- Trim leading and trailing whitespace
- Collapse consecutive whitespace
- Unescape HTML entities

 - &
- titlecase, uppercase, lowercase
- number, date, text
- null, empty string



Sorting Data



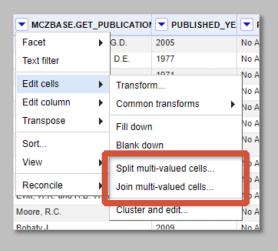


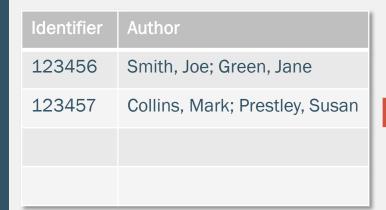
Sorting Data

- Reverse sort
- Remove sort



Splitting multiple values





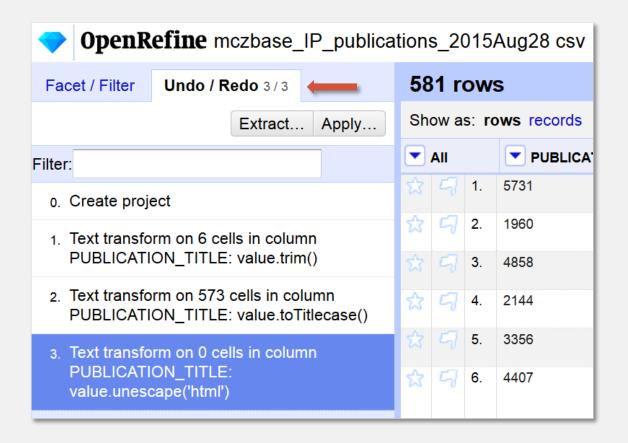


-	multi-valued cells	
(a)	y separator Geparator regular expression	
0	y field lengths	
	ist of integers separated by commas, e.g., 5, 7, 15	.::
0	Cancel	

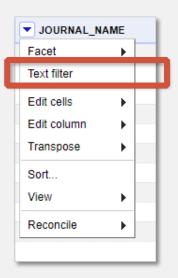
A note on tracking project history

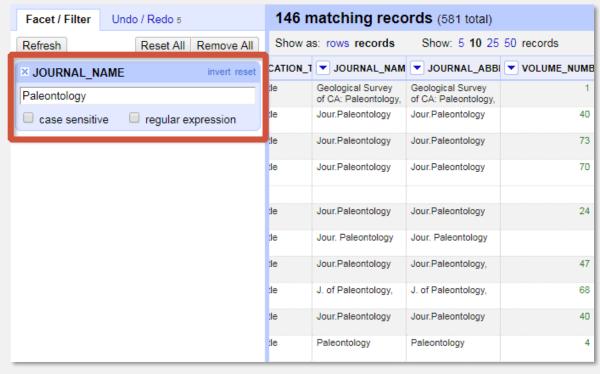
Don't be afraid to make mistakes!

...you can always use the Undo/Redo tab to navigate to earlier stages in your project.



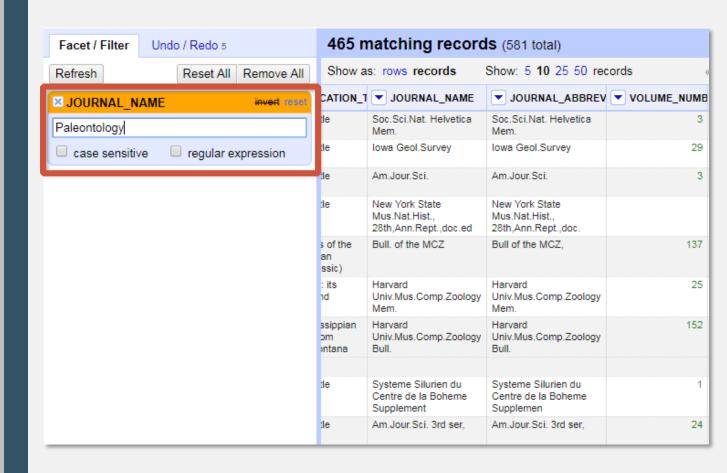
Text filtering





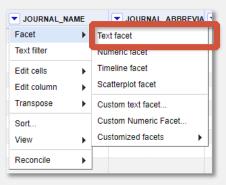
*You can also use regular expressions in the filter!

Text filtering



Faceting

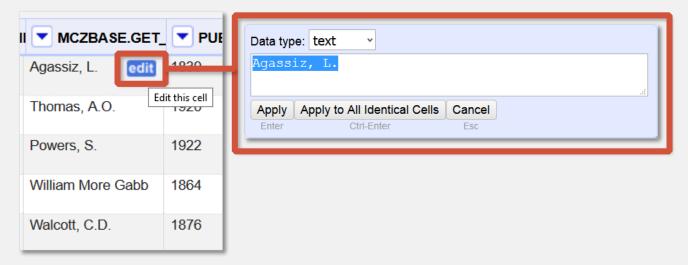
- View unique values
- Select set of data based on unique values
- Edit all cells with the same value
- Extract values and counts



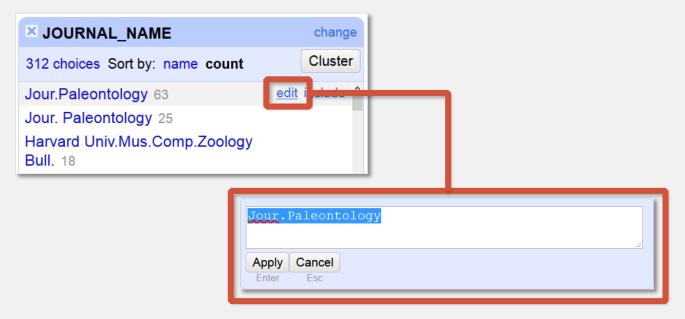


Editing Values

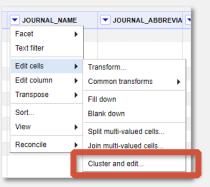
In a Cell



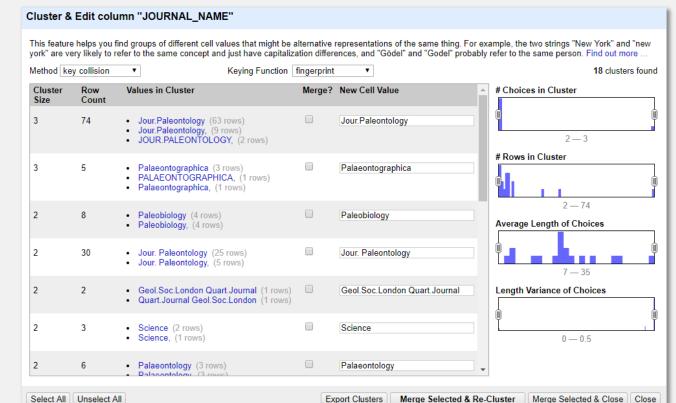
In a Facet



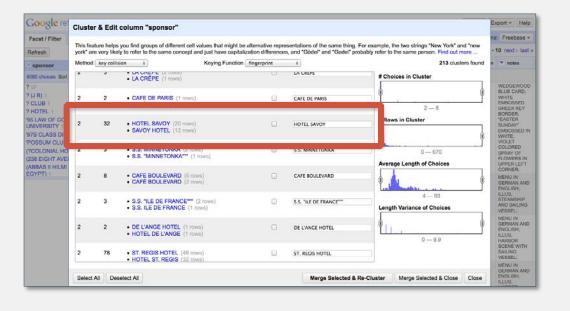
Clustering







Clustering Caveat



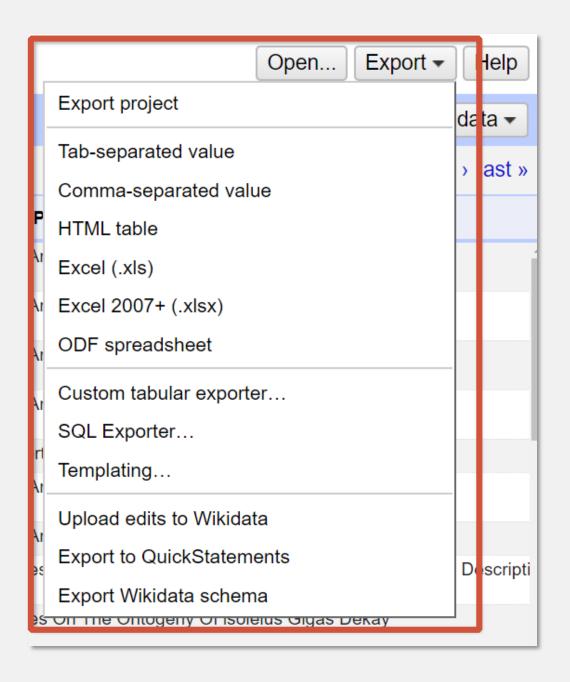


Hotel Savoy 59th St. & 5th Ave. New York, New York

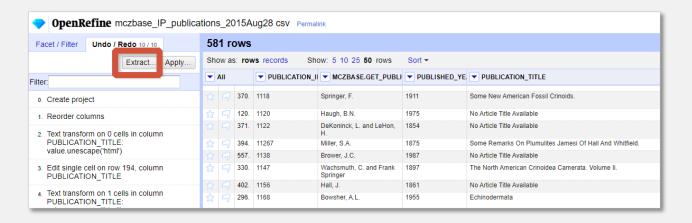


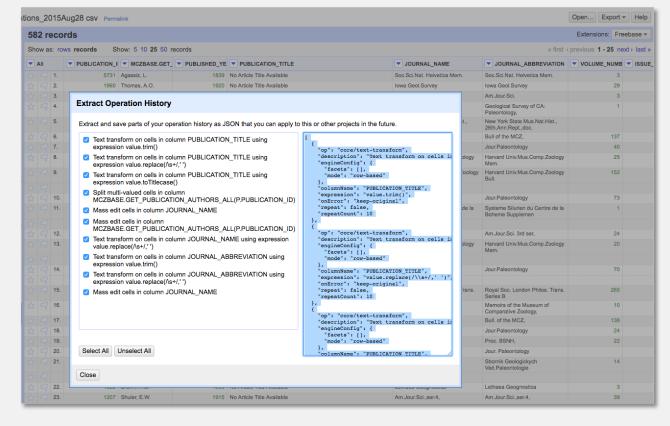
Savoy Hotel Strand London WC2R 0EU United Kingdom

Exporting your data



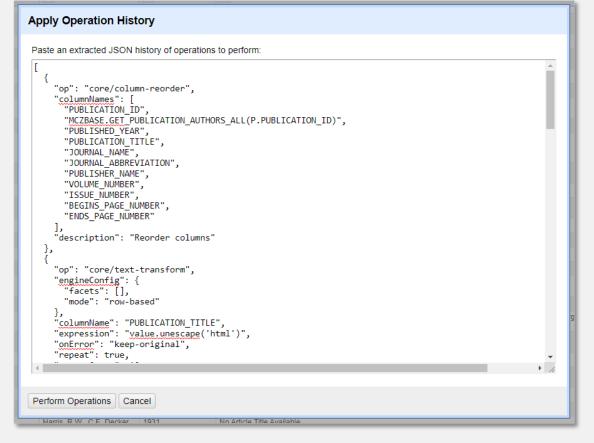
Extracting history (JSON)





Applying previous history (JSON) to new project





Resources guides.library.lllinois.edu/openrefine

- OpenRefine page: http://openrefine.org/
- Github repository: https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine
- Open Refine Documentation: https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/Documentation-For-Users
- Free Online Course:
 https://bigdatauniversity.com/courses/introduction-to-openrefine/
- Additional Reconciliation Services: https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/Reconcilable-Data-Sources
- More on Google Regular Expression Language: https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/GREL-String-Functions
- Understanding Expressions:
 https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/Understanding-Expressions
- GREL Cheat Sheet:
 http://arcadiafalcone.net/GoogleRefineCheatSheets.pdf

Slides created and/or updated by: Qian Zhang, Kelly Applegate, Brinna Michael, and Tricia Lampron Data set provided by Qian Zhang

QUESTIONS?

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