Chromatic Index for Bnf Ms Fr 640

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What is our project?

- A “chromatic index” - the idea is to map/trace color throughout the text and allow a user to navigate it through that mapping
- GIven the complexities of actually parsing out what constitutes color in the text, we chose to focus on red and its derivatives
- We have:
  - A design mockup of what the project implemented through a GUI might look like
  - A Python program that demos how the index might work

What challenges did we face?

- The main problem was categorization: What constitutes a color? How do we differentiate between materials, pigments, dyes, etc, that might be a certain color, as opposed to evocations of the color itself?
  - Solutions: Looked at materials present in the M&K lab and worked backwards from that; extracted list of tagged materials and manually parsed it to determine what we might categorize as “red”
- Technical issues: Lack of knowledge on how to create an actual GUI; a lack of certain functions in the NLTK library
  - Solutions: Providing visual mockup and building a command-line/IPYNB based program to demo functionality

What were our aims?

- As described in the first slide; the hope was to make the text approachable and fun to explore in a novel way
- A “public outreach” type of project with a didactic purpose
- Pie in the sky: fully realized, it would help navigate the vocabulary of colors in a wider variety of corpora
- Economic model for a digital humanities project: Let people navigate the text via colors, and then if they are interested in purchasing dyes/pigments/paints/etc provide a link to such resources and generate revenue with a percentage or ads