

# Newsletter March 2019

Edited by Viola Wiegand

We have been busy in the last few months and have quite a few changes to announce: most importantly, we are releasing a **new version of CLiC!** For those of you working in schools, check out our **Digital Reading Competition** that has launched and runs until June. For further reading on case studies using CLiC, see the final section on recent **CLiC publications and blog posts.**

## CLiC 2.0 release!

We are releasing the brand-new CLiC version 2.0 in the first week of March. This version of CLiC comes with a refreshed look, many new features and additional texts! (And a new logo!)

As part of the upgrade, **the CLiC server will be down on Thursday 7 March.** Please save important results to CSV files and note that changes to the underlying database and tokenisation mean that search results will change. If you have any questions about the changes or if you are teaching with CLiC on 7 March, please get in touch so we can provide you with temporary access to a different server.



Welcome to CLiC. The CLiC web app has been developed as part of the [CLiC Dickens project](#), which demonstrates through corpus stylistics how computer-assisted methods can be used to study literary texts and lead to new insights into how readers perceive fictional characters.

For more information on how to use CLiC, please read the [CLiC user-guide](#). For the latest information on the CLiC project, look at the [CLiC blog](#) or the [CLiC twitter feed](#).

### Some of the new features of CLiC 2.0 include:

- We replaced the table of contents on the landing page with a carousel of summary images for the corpora. You will find an interactive overview of the corpora in the new **Counts tab** to check the compositions of the corpora.
- You can now easily **select all books from an author** to create your own specialized corpus on the go!

- We have created a **new distribution plot view** to the Concordance tab!

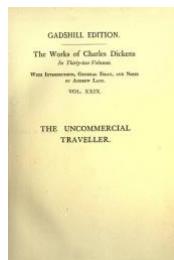
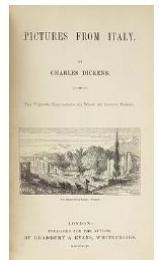
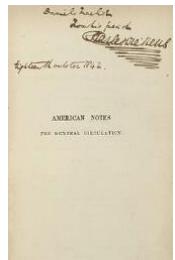
When you run a concordance, you'll have the option to display the results as a plot showing the matches throughout the books in the corpus. For example, the following screenshot shows the distribution plot for *fire* in Dickens's novels: each row represents the results for one book and the plot itself visualizes the matches from the beginning to the end of the book. Ordinary matches are shown in white and those instances that co-occur with terms added to the KWICGrouper are highlighted. This is just another way of displaying the (KWICGrouped) concordance lines but provides you with quite another perspective on the data!



- The **text tab** shows the full text of individual books and allows you to navigate to particular chapters.

Most importantly, the text can now be **easily copied and pasted** into Microsoft Word documents! You can also **select the levels of annotation you want to display**, such as "Sentences", and the "Quote" and "Non-quote" subsets, etc.

- And ... we have added 7 new, requested texts to the ARTs corpus: **Charlotte Brontë's Villette and Shirley, H. G. Wells's Time Machine** and some of Dickens's nonfiction (**American Notes, Pictures from Italy, The Uncommercial Traveller** and **Sketches by Boz**)!



# The CLiC Digital Reading Competition

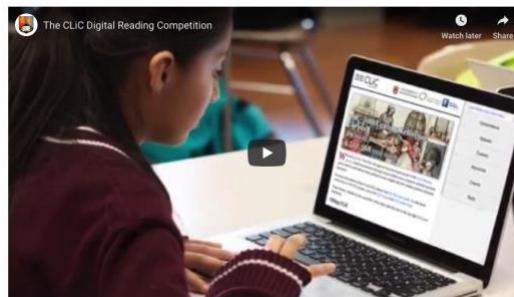
We have launched the Digital Reading Competition for Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, offering pupils a range of opportunities:

- Using CLiC to support their revision work for GCSE
- Developing new skills for looking at literary texts from a linguistic perspective
- Fostering new interest in old classics with the help of digital technology
- Planning and carrying out independent research
- Working together as a team



The competition closes on **Friday, 7 June 2019**.

Check out our competition video for an overview of the submission procedure:



WATCH ON YOUTUBE

You can find all details, including a guidance booklet and the competition video on the competition website at <http://birmingham.ac.uk/clic-competition>

## CLiC publications & blog posts

- Download a copy of our chapter "Corpus stylistics, norms and comparisons: Studying speech in *Great Expectations*" [[PDF, 1024KB](#)]
- Read Pablo Ruano's open access article "A corpus-based approach to Charles Dickens's use of direct thought presentation", published in [Corpora 13\(3\)](#)

## Highlights from the CLiC Blog:

- Enacting silence through punctuation in *Heart of Darkness* (Maristella Gatto)
- Liminality in *David Copperfield* (Sophie Phelps)
- Inspiration for corpus linguistics and stylistics: #dhmasterclass (Viola Wiegand)



We're always happy to consider guest posts on relevant topics! If you would like to write a post, please have a look at our simple [guest post guidelines](#) and get in touch.

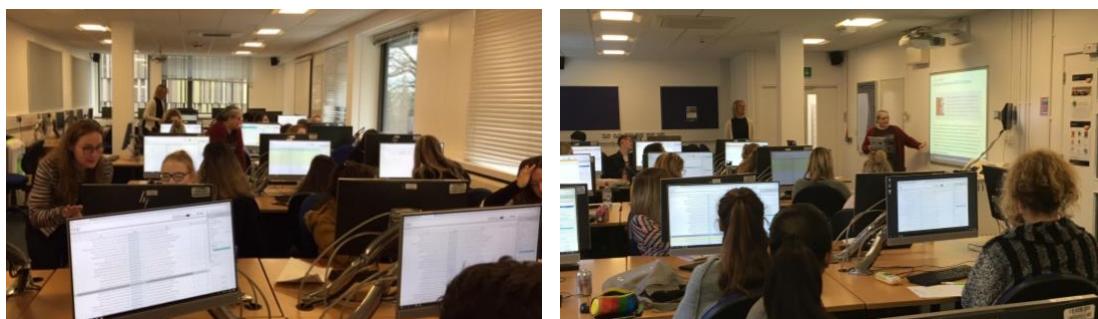
**Project website:** [www.birmingham.ac.uk/clic](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/clic)  
**Email:** [clic@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:clic@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Twitter: @CLiC\_fiction

## Engagement activities

Apart from working on the new CLiC 2.0 release, much of our work in the past few months has focused on working with secondary schools:

- In collaboration with the **University of Birmingham Department of Teacher Education** we have introduced their PGDipEd student teachers and mentors to CLiC. Many thanks to Lorraine Adriano (English teacher and examiner) and Beth Kemp (English teacher, teacher trainer & textbook author), who came along to the teacher training to share their own experiences of using CLiC in the classroom!



- We were also excited to give a talk at the **researchED Birmingham** conference on 2 March. If you're a teacher, **researchED** is definitely worth checking out; upcoming venues for their events (in the UK and worldwide!) include Blackpool, Dubai, Durrington, Geneva, Rugby, London, Northampton among others.
- We look forward to visiting **Brockington College**, Leicester/Enderby to give a workshop for GCSE pupils on 11 March! If you are interested in a CLiC workshop for teachers or pupils please get in touch and we will try to make that happen.

We hope you enjoyed the news update – we'd love to hear how you use CLiC, and especially what you think about CLiC 2.0!

## Your CLiC Team



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**Twitter:** [@CLiC\\_fiction](https://twitter.com/CLiC_fiction)