

# NETWORKING IN THE PAST: THE NAVEZ PROJECT

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## Introduction

The Navez Project aims to explore the extensive network of François-Joseph Navez (1787-1869), a prominent Belgian painter in the Neoclassicist style. This research investigates how Navez's social connections influenced his career and position in the 19th-century art world, both in Brussels and beyond.

**Research Objectives:** 1. Investigate Navez's social networks. 2. Understand how these networks influenced his success. 3. Gain broader insights into 19th-century Belgian art history

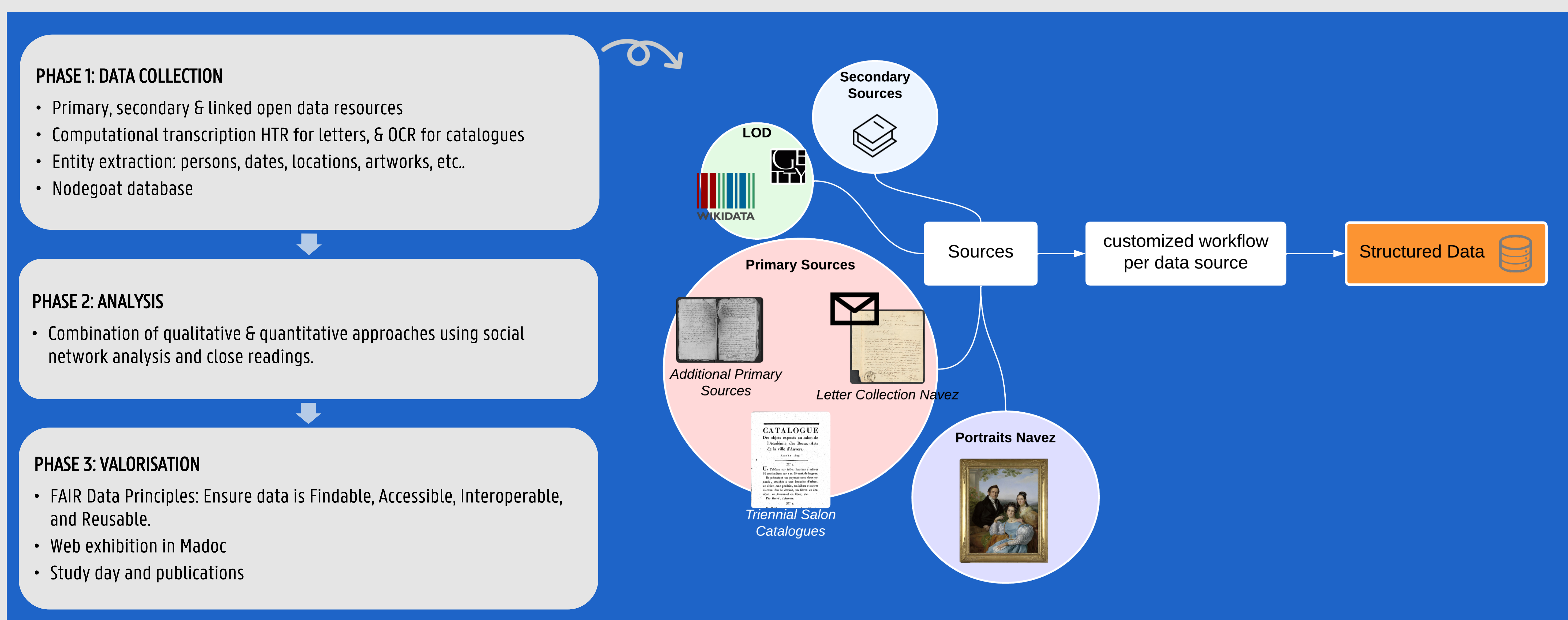
## Innovations and contributions

**Digital Humanities Tools:** HTR & OCR, NLP tools to extract data from historical letters and documents & Madoc (IIIF platform)

**Data Management:** Nodegoat relational database

**Network Analysis:** Combination of close & distant reading techniques, network generation, and visualizations in Gephi for historical social network analysis.

**FAIR Data Principles:** Commitment to making historical data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).



## François-Joseph Navez (1787-1869)

**Born** in Charleroi. **Died:** at age 81 in Brussels

**Career:** History painter (& portraits)

**Artistic Style:** Neoclassicism & influences from French Neoclassical painting and early Romanticism

**Education and Training:**

- Studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Brussels
- Trained in Paris at the atelier of Jacques-Louis David
- Took trips to Rome for further artistic exposure

**Professional Activities:** Ran a private atelier in Brussels for both men & women. Teacher & director of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels

**Legacy:**

- Known for his meticulous technique and classical compositions
- Contributed significantly to Belgian art
- His works are displayed in major national and international museums



## Take home message

**Significance of Social Networks:** The research underscores the crucial role of social networks in the career development and success of 19th-century artists like François-Joseph Navez.

**Methodologies:** Employing Digital Humanities tools and techniques offers new perspectives and methods for conducting art historical research.

“Car grâce à vos bons conseils et vos soins, je me sens éduqué et capable d'apprécier les grands maîtres [...]” – Joseph Stallaert, pupil of Navez

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