A "computer reading" of the fin-de-siècle French physiology

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Some humanists are suspicious of computing as it might interfere in their job. And yet, it is apparent that there is no more serious task for an intellectual than reading and interpreting a text. Hence, they would judge as scandalous a *computer reading* of scientific texts of paramount importance in 19th-century-France physiology. Nonetheless, that is what we have accomplished as for the present work: we selected three voluminous works on the physiology of the nervous system, authored by Pierre Flourence, Claude Bernard, and C.E. Francois-Franck, to be "plunged" in a high sophisticated text-o-scopy software. Initially, the historian of science has been put apart and left to computational linguistics to find *corpora's* thematic kernels, similarities as well as paramount differences. Thereafter, we managed to exercise a historical and scientific approach. Be as it may, which are the advantages of such a methodology? Computers can manage in the best way the elaboration of a huge amount of textual data, thereby allowing the researcher to focus on the most prominent facets of an author's production as well as on any conceptual point which is central for the research, in our case it'll be the state of physiology in the closing decades of XIX century.