

DESIGNOBSERVER

(with running commentary on usability issues impeding navigation of the information space)

ARCHIVE

a.k.a. "search"

KEYWORD SEARCH

channel entire site

long search results should be broken up into multiple pages

BROWSE

OBSERVATORY
- author
- topic
- department
- month

CHANGE OBSERVER
- author
- department
- topic

OBSERVER MEDIA
- media
- show

PLACES
- topic
- department

BOOKS + STORE

SEARCH BY CATEGORY

- main
- recommended books
- books received
- books by contributors
- store products

SEARCH BY CHANNEL

- Observatory
- Change Observer
- Places

cluttered, disorganized landing page

JOB BOARD

ABOUT

COMMENTS

CONTACT

OBSERVATORY

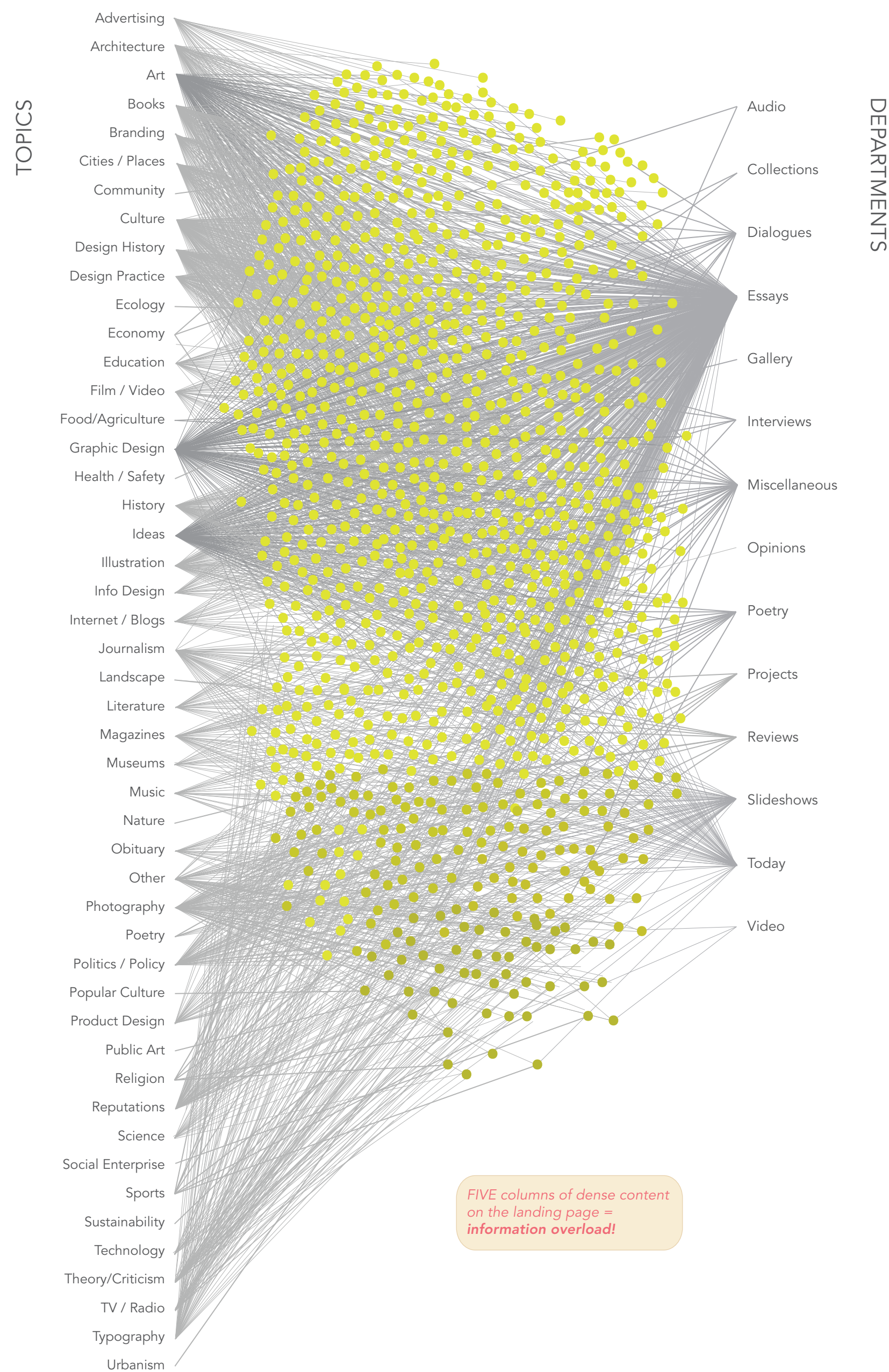
ABOUT + MASTHEAD
(author bios)

SUBMISSIONS
CONTACT

RESOURCES
- recommended sites
- resources
- greatest hits
(popular articles)

incomplete search DB: author and department lists are not up-to-date

no way to navigate your results while browsing: no breadcrumbs, list of search terms, number of results, or any identifying information



CHANGE OBSERVER

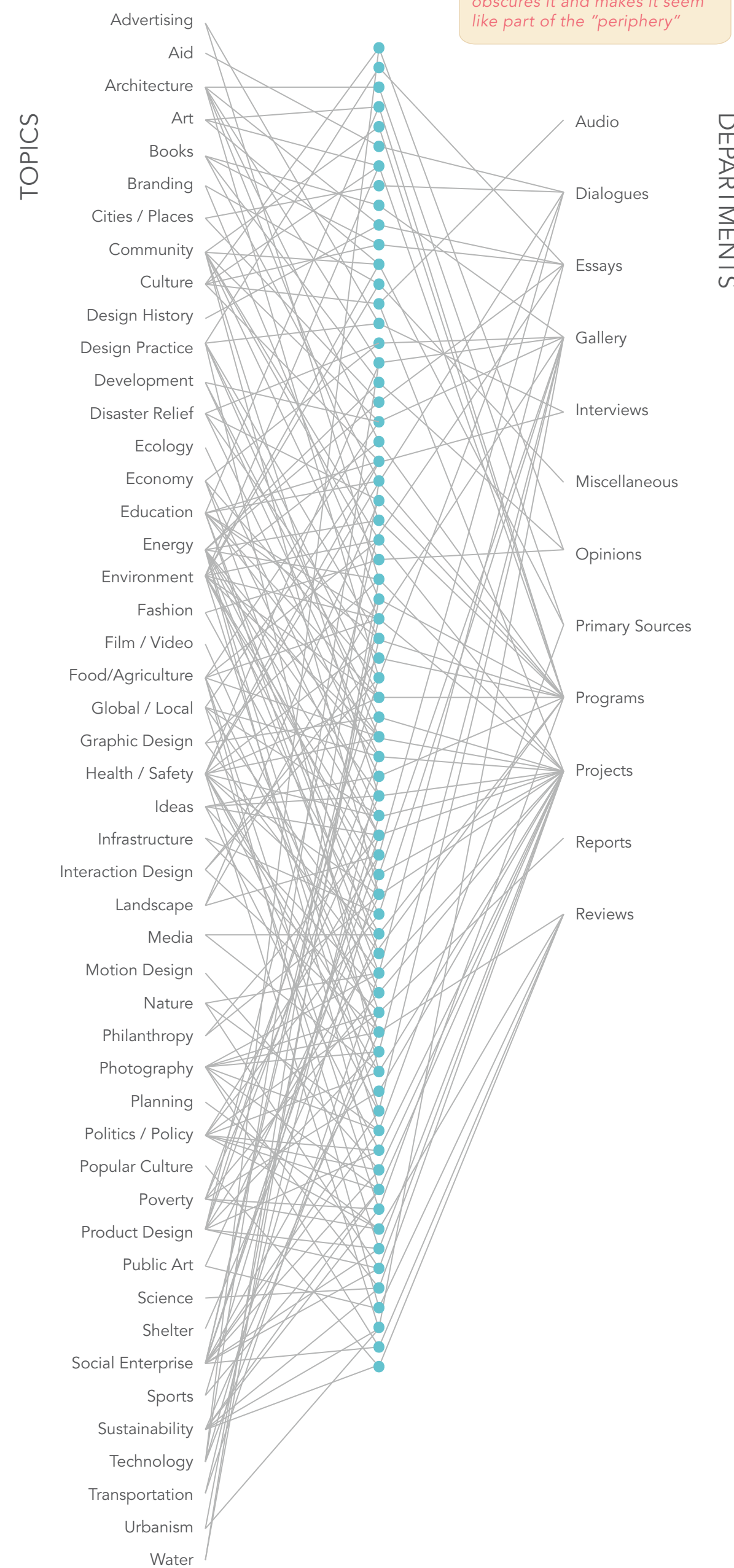
ABOUT + MASTHEAD
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SUBMISSIONS
RESOURCES

CONTACT

"resources" page is cluttered and bulky: uneven column lengths

"resources" navigation's location obscures it and makes it seem like part of the "periphery"

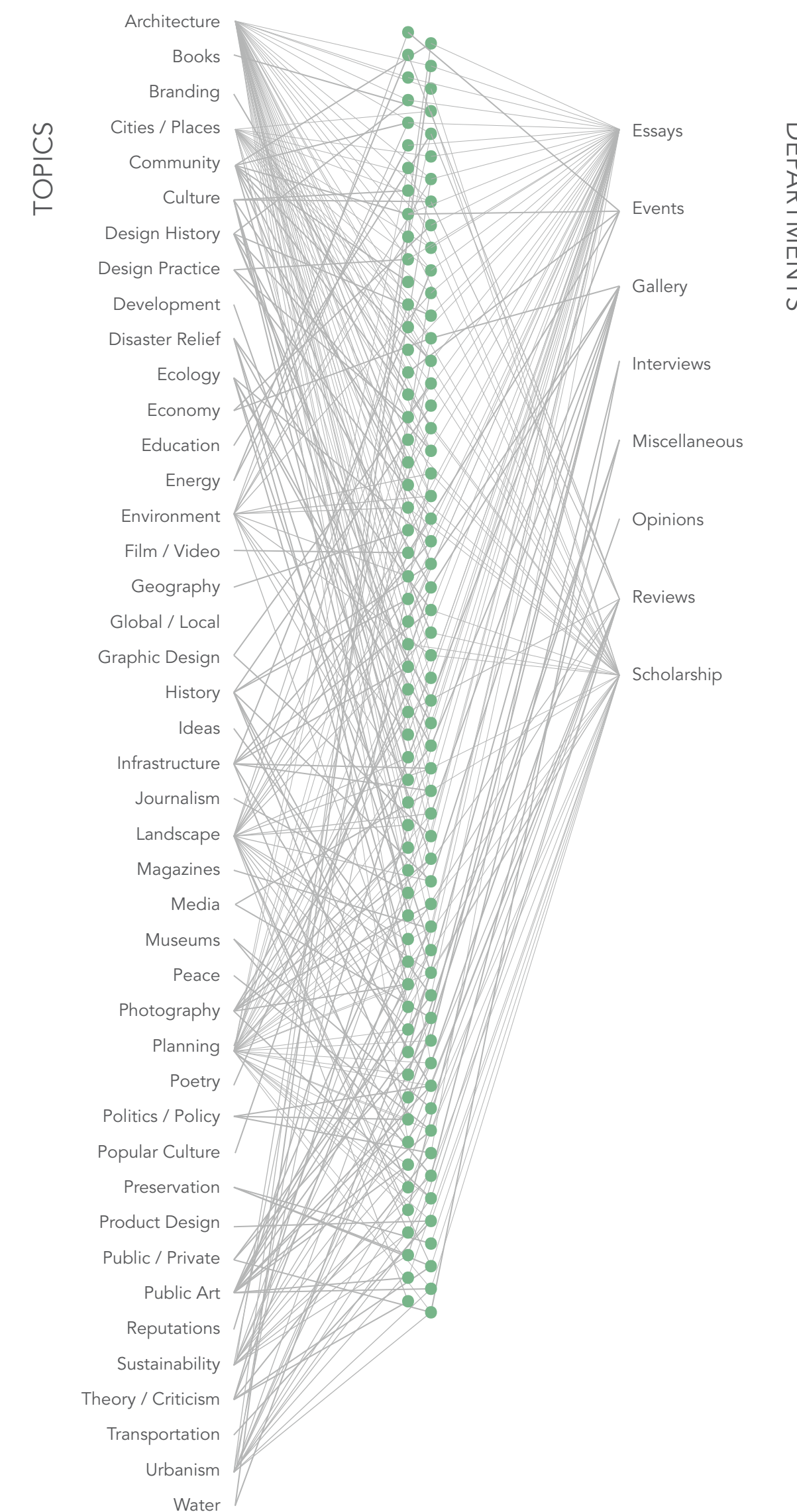


PLACES

ABOUT
CONTACT

JOURNAL ARCHIVE
PARTNER SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

SUBMISSIONS
CALL FOR ARTICLES

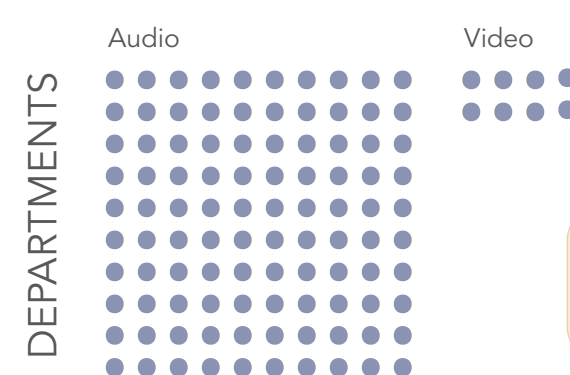


OBSERVER MEDIA

ABOUT + MASTHEAD
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SUBMISSIONS

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no topic/tag/keyword organization to tie this section more concretely to the rest of the site

the site design reflects that each section is part of a whole, but the subsections are not interlinked at all: there's no way to browse topics/departments across the site, despite there being heavy subject matter overlap

individual entries: no breadcrumbs or navigation hierarchy, and no listing of the topics (tags/categories) and departments associated with them

no list of authors: lists of individual authors' articles are only on profile pages linked from the articles themselves

no numbers anywhere: no breakdown of how many articles are in a section/topic/department

recent / featured articles on each landing page (with title, image, and blurb): can only click the title to access the article, and not the image

can't access the landing pages from the side nav

disabling CSS reveals that the site was not designed with accessibility in mind: lots of clutter above the fold, before the actual content

index page: featured articles in the upper-left should be delineated more explicitly; they look like they're part of the main site navigation

no "title" attributes in the image tags (web standards)

XHTML and CSS do not validate

no sitemap