Collocations in context with #LancsBox: Collocation graphs and networks

**Task 1.** Create graphs. Work with the LOB corpus.

a) Build a collocation graph (first-order collocates) around the word *time* using MI score and the default settings.

b) How many collocates does the graph display? Are all of them useful? 316 collocates; no, this is an example of an overpopulated graph.

c) Change the default settings as indicated in the figure below (MI = 5 and above) and search for the node *time* again.

How many results did you get this time? **35**

d) Which of the collocates occur predominantly to the left of the node *time* and which ones to the right?

**Left:**
e.g. *at, long, first, short, same, spare, waste, twenty* etc.

**Right:**
e.g. *ago, speak, saved, arrived, washing, erect, constants, etc.*

e) Some of the collocates of *time* such as *t, kungo* might not be completely transparent. Use the right-click function to obtain concordances (KWIC pop-up) and explain these collocates.

*t* is used as .................................a mathematical term (*time t*).

*kungr* is used as .................................proper name in General fiction.
**Task 2.** Build collocation networks and explore graphs.

a) Go to the graph you have created in Task 1 c). It should be similar to the graph displayed in the figure below:

b) Find the collocate spend in the graph and double click on it. You should get a collocation network similar to the one displayed below:

c) Find the second-order collocate money in the graph and double click on it. Comment on the connection between time and money that you can see in the resulting graph that shows collocates around the node money.

*Time and money are connected via shared collocates (spend, waste and lot). This shows that we often talk about time in a similar way we talk about money: we can spend and waste both time and money, there can be a lot of time and a lot of money. (Compare Lakoff & Johnson’s conceptual metaphor TIME=MONEY)*

d) Repeat steps a) – d) with lemma( spend_verb ) as the unit in the collocation graph. Note that when using lemma as a unit, individual inflectional forms such as (spend, spent) are subsumed under one headword (spend_verb).