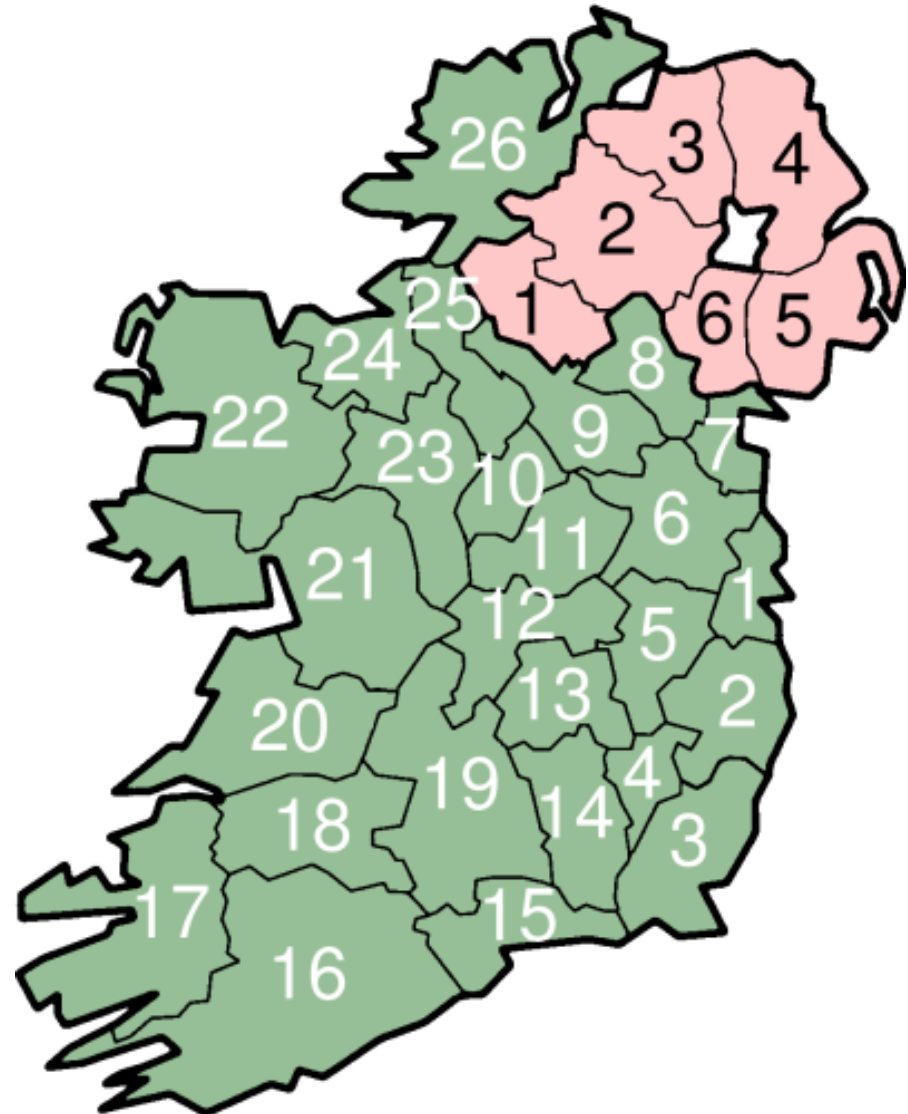


Understanding cross-border religion in the Irish web

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One island, two nations



Counties of Ireland, north and south
(Wikimedia Commons)
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A unique mix of faith and politics?



Ian Paisley and Edward Carson, Stormont (1985)
(Burns Library, Boston College, CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0 via Flickr)

Cross-border religion?

- **Historic Christian denominations: RC, Presbyterian (PCI), Church of Ireland, Methodist, Baptist**
- **all three organised on an all-Ireland basis**
- **... spanning two political jurisdictions**
- **.... and two ccTLDs - .uk and .ie**

All-Ireland religion



Church of Ireland dioceses
(Col, via Wikimedia Commons)
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Research questions

Using link graph data, to ask:

- how does web estate of each church interact across the border (& between ccTLDs)?
- are there distinct web spheres for each in NI and the RoI?

JISC UK Web Domain Dataset (1996-2013)

- **copy of Internet Archive holdings for .uk**
- **bought by JISC, held by British Library**
- **60TB of data**
- **no direct access to content**
- **prototype search at webarchive.org.uk/shine**
- **derived datasets in public domain**
- **no equivalent for .ie**

UK Host Link Graph (1996-2010)

2008 | *catholic_church.co.uk* | *catholic_church.ie* | 4

2001 | *belfast_anglican.co.uk* | *derry_anglican.co.uk* | 1

2002 | *derry_anglican.org.uk* | *derry_catholic.co.uk* | 1

Data in public domain: data.webarchive.org.uk

But UK not just .uk

British Library Legal Deposit archiving

2013: 3.9 million seeds with .uk domain names

2014: non-.uk but geolocated in UK: 2.5 million hosts

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/webarchive/2015/07/geo-location-in-the-2014-uk-domain-crawl.html>

So where are the domains ?

<i>Domains</i>	<i>Coverage</i>	<i>.uk</i>	<i>.com</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>.ie</i>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
<i>RC</i>	100	< 40	12	64	21	3

Where are the domains? (2)

	Domains	Coverage	.uk	.com	.ie	Other
		%	%	%	%	%
RC	100	< 40	12	64	3	21
PCI	203	< 50	43	17	-	40
Baptist	101	> 80	40	24	-	36

Other denominations

- **Church of Ireland: c.75% in .uk**
... but many more are: parish.diocese.anglican.org
- **Methodists (Belfast): >50% in .uk**
- **Free Presbyterian : >70% in .org**

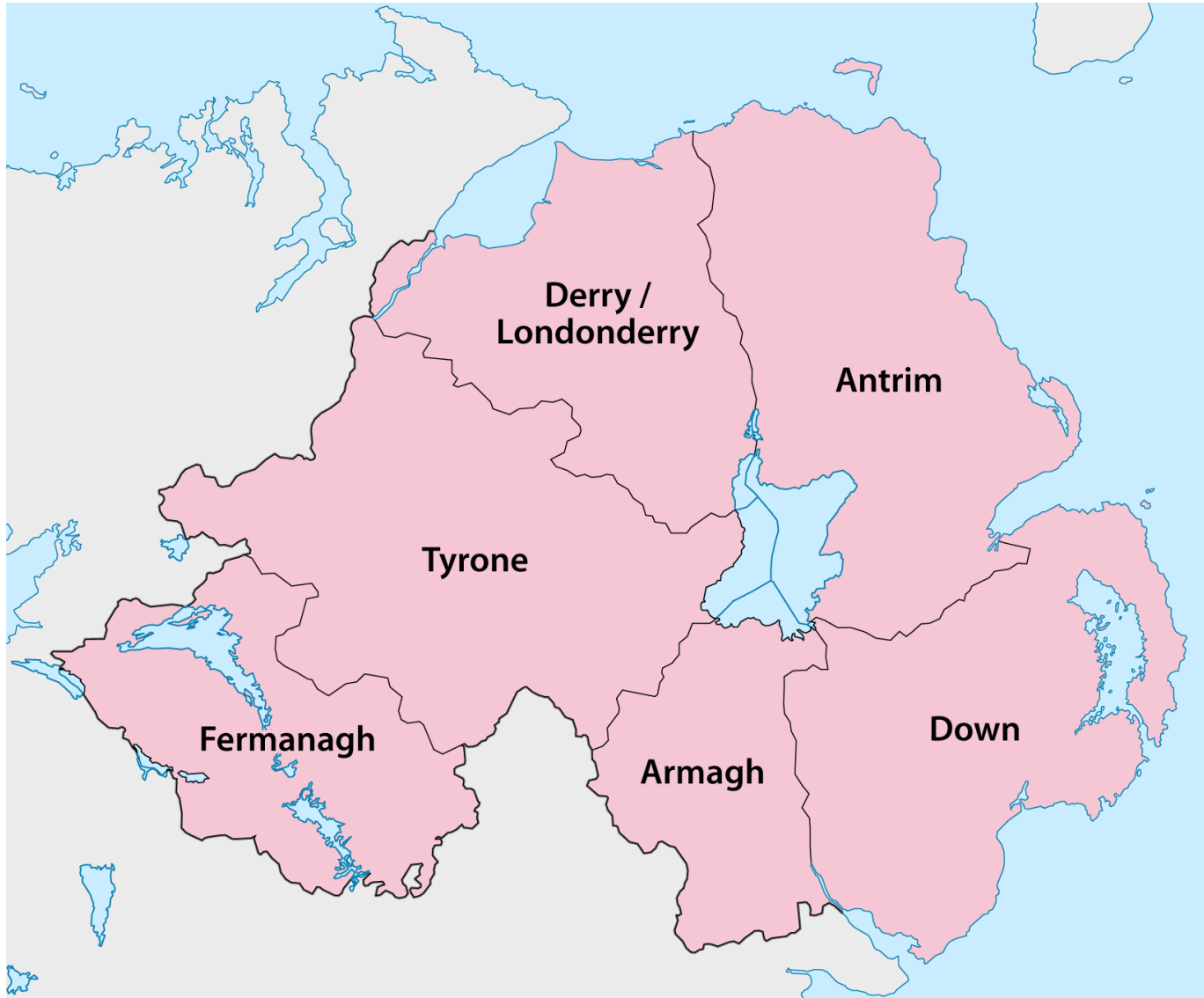
(Tentative) conclusions

- **>50% of NI religious web outside .uk ?**
- **no easy reading of political sentiment in national domains**
 - **need to understand why content is where it is**

Baptists in Ireland (2016)

- **Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland has 117 congregations: 28 in RoI, 89 in NI**
- **8.5k members, community of 20k**
- **Including independents, 93 in NI and 30 in RoI**
- **28 congregations with domains in RoI, 77 NI**

Counties of Northern Ireland



(Map by Maximilian Dörrbecker, CC-BY-SA 2.5)

Where are the congregations?

<i>County</i>	<i>County Code</i>	<i>% of congregations (with domains)</i>
Antrim	AN	44
Armagh	AR	7
Down	DO	25
Londonderry	LD	10
Tyrone	TY	10
Fermanagh	FE	4

Coded link graph (NI-to-NI)

1999 | AN27 | AR07 | 11

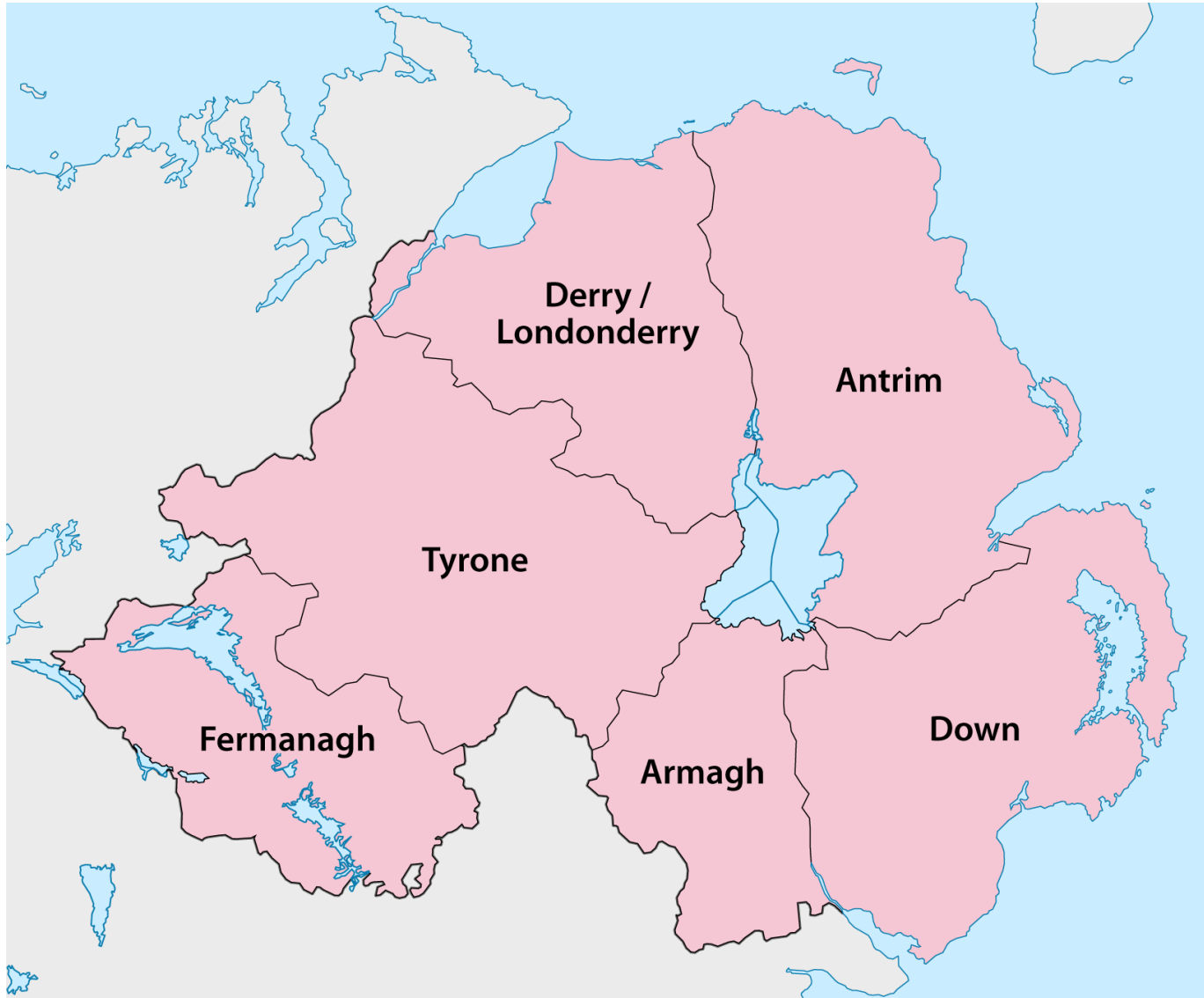
2003 | DW13 | LD05 | 17

2010 | AN11 | AN21 | 3

Coded link graph (NI-to-NI)

	<i>Inbound</i>	<i>Outbound</i>	<i>Internal</i>
<i>AN</i>	248	299	151
<i>AR</i>	56	98	10
<i>DW</i>	125	64	15
<i>LD</i>	52	20	2

Counties of Northern Ireland



(Map by Maximilian Dörrbecker, CC-BY-SA 2.5)

Where are the domains?

	Domains	Coverage	.uk	.com	.ie	Other
		%	%	%	%	%
Baptist	101	> 80	40	24	-	36
<i>Baptist (Antrim)</i>	48		40	31		29

(Tentative) conclusions

- **The NI Baptist web sphere very tightly localised**
- **.. but spread across four TLDs**
- **link analysis hard in national web archives**

Questions ?

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