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Putting Everyday Data to Use

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PUTTING EVERYDAY DATA TO USE

Ellie Dworak
ELLIE DWORAK

WAIT. HOLD ON. STOP TALKING.

SHOW ME THE DATA

Information Design & Data Visualization Librarian @
Boise State University, Albertsons Library
What is data?
data, n. An item of (chiefly numerical) information, esp. one obtained by scientific work, a number of which are typically collected together for reference, analysis, or calculation.


This is an official definition from the Oxford English Dictionary.
Data (broadly viewed):

Related items of information considered collectively

This is a broader definition.

Let’s look at some examples of data visualizations that use this broader definition.
“The Sleep Blanket: A visualization of my son's sleep pattern from birth to his first birthday. Crochet border surrounding a double knit body. Each row represents a single day. Each stitch represents 6 minutes of time spent awake or asleep” Seung Lee
Timo Aho and Pekka Niittyvirta used sensors, LED lights, and timers to display future water lines
Kaki King’s daughter suffers from a condition where her body attacks her own platelets, which leads to spontaneous bruising and burst blood vessels. She collaborated with information designer Giorgia Lupi to create this data driven art piece titled “Bruises-the data we don’t see.”
Activity 1
Grab the following:

- Your App Inventory
- Colored pens or pencils
- Your packet of workshop handouts

We’ll start on the first page, titled Activity 1, Part 2
### 1. Assign Colors to Categories

3–4 minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Review the Shape Rules

1–2 minutes
3. How are you going to organize your apps on the Data Canvas?

1-2 minutes
Step 5. Complete your Data Canvas

5–6 minutes
Activity 1 Debrief

- Did colors that were similar or divergent work better for your data visualization?

- Which activity did you like better?
## 1. Look over the Data

2–3 minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment:</th>
<th>User group:</th>
<th>Age group:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tremendously helpful staff. They really seem to care about me and my work.</td>
<td>Undergraduate student</td>
<td>18-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Library is my go to spot when I need to find a computer to use while on campus.</td>
<td>Undergraduate student</td>
<td>23-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary loan service is awesome!</td>
<td>Graduate student</td>
<td>31-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I request articles through interlibrary loan, the service is very prompt.</td>
<td>Graduate student</td>
<td>31-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The librarians are great. They are helpful, positive and ready to connect with the students.</td>
<td>Graduate student</td>
<td>31-45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Review the Codes in the Column Headers**

3–4 minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User group:</th>
<th>Age group:</th>
<th>Function: Collections</th>
<th>Function: ILL</th>
<th>Function: Spaces</th>
<th>Happy</th>
<th>Not happy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. **Create Some New Codes (Column Headers)**

3–4 minutes

4. **Finished Early? Sketch an Idea for Visualizing this Data**
Activity 2 Debrief
**Code idea: Action items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Action item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library personnel are always willing to help. I like how different</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subjects have their own librarian that is assigned to them so that</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>students can build a relationship over time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The wifi in the library is terrible and will disconnect randomly. I have</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spent hours in the library just waiting for it to connect.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library needs more signs showing where to find printers,</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scanners, workstations, group study rooms, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wish there were more computers set aside for just looking up call</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>numbers for library materials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Code idea: Facet - People, place, or Thing?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Facet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tremendously helpful staff. They really seem to care about me and my work.</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Library is my go to spot when I need to find a computer to use while on campus.</td>
<td>Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary loan service is awesome!</td>
<td>Things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I request articles through interlibrary loan, the service is very prompt.</td>
<td>Things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The librarians are great. They are helpful, positive and ready to connect with the students.</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undergraduate students
- People
- Things
- Places

Graduate students
- Things
- People

Faculty
- Things

Visualization idea
**Tree charts**
User groups + facets
Undergraduate students:
- Happy
- Not Happy

Graduate students:
- Happy
- Not Happy

Faculty:
- Happy
- Not Happy

Visualization idea:
INFOGRAPHIC
User groups + happy/not happy
Visualization idea

Word cloud

Comments
PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE COMMENTS

ON THE 2019 LIBRARY SURVEY

We need money for a new building
Thank you!
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