# Data Visualization Connecting research to the world

### **Data Visualization**

CONNECTING RESEARCH TO THE WORLD

## Why is visualizing data important?

A big problem with social research (and many other types of research) today is that it doesn't reach many of the most important audiences (the public, research participants etc.)

What does research generally produce?

## **HUGE BORING REPORTS NOBODY WANTS TO READ!**



## Why the disconnect?

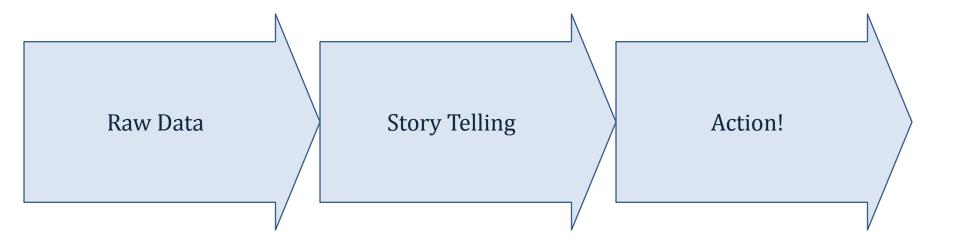
- Most researchers communicate in language only researchers use
- Most organizations paying for research don't know to ask for something different
- Like all other industries, researchers have their own dogma change is difficult

### Why the does it matter?

- Much of the research done is wasted
- People who are researched deserve to see the results
- The bigger the audience is, the more information you will draw from the research

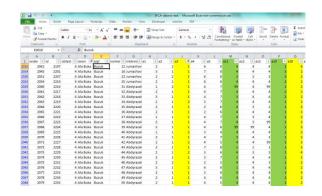
## Visualizing data is about telling a story

- Every data point has a story just like a character in a book
- There are relationships, and interactions with data just like characters in a book
- How you present data can help people remember
- Good visualization can make people take action



#### The art and science of data visualization

Part scientist / researcher, part computer programmer, part graphic designer, part story teller



```
import matplotlib
matplotlib.use('Agg')
from pylab import *
import calendar
def webshow(img):
    savefig(img,dpi=500)
    print 'Content-Type: text/html\n'
    print '<img width="800" height="400" src="'+img+'" />'
genres = []
for c in sorted list:
    genres.append(sorted_list[n][0])
grosses = []
for c in sorted list:
    grosses.append(sorted_list[a][1])
```

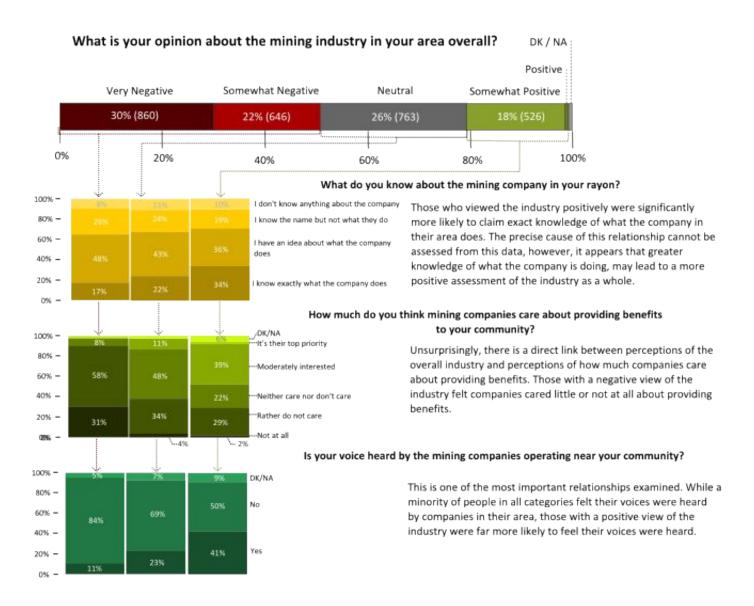


Raw data



Computer programming Graphic design



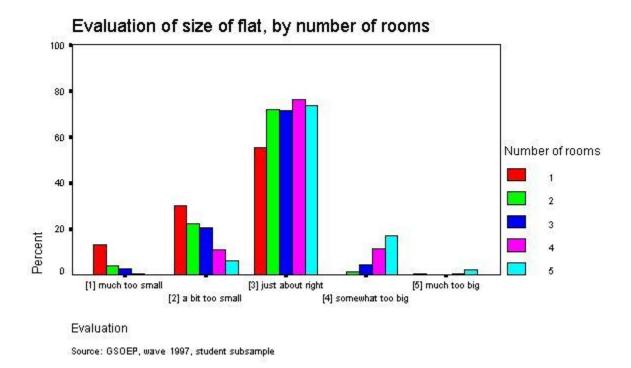


## Common types of "out-of-the-box" visualizations

- Sociologist generally use SPSS
- Many other analysts use Excel
- Statisticians use "R"
- Graphic designers use Illustrator or Inkskape

All have their advantages and disadvantages as seen next...

#### SPSS:

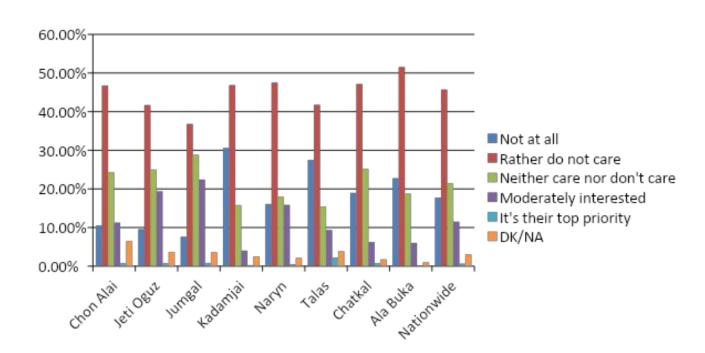


#### Advantages:

- Widely used in social sciences
- Extensive number of features
- Very rigorous analytical capabilities
- Able to handle large amounts of data

- UGLY charts
- · Limited number of visualizations
- Incredibly expensive
- Not used by anyone but sociologists

#### Excel:

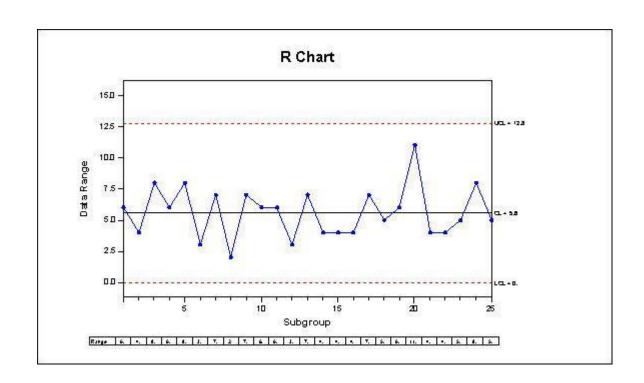


#### Advantages:

- Used in nearly every office
- Very easy
- Able to handle somewhat large datasets
- Decent graphic quality

- Limited chart types
- Not the best graphics

R:

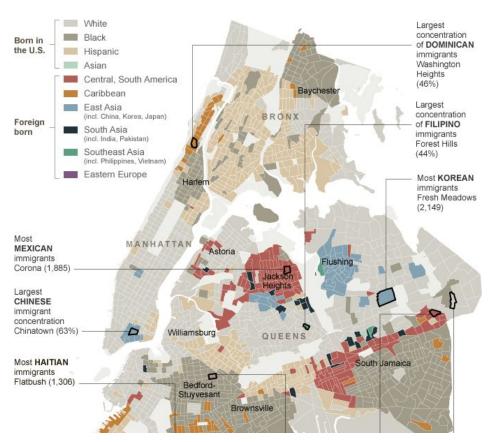


#### Advantages:

- Free! (legally)
- Able to handle large datasets
- Countless analytical functions

- Requires coding knowledge
- Ugly graphics

## Illustrator / Inkscape:



#### Advantages:

- Amazing graphic quality
- Limitless flexibility for types of graphics

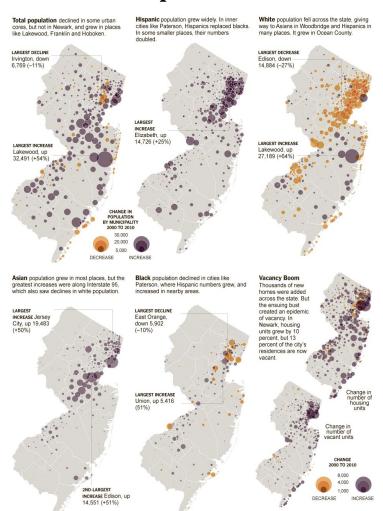
- No analysis functions
- Easier to make mistakes

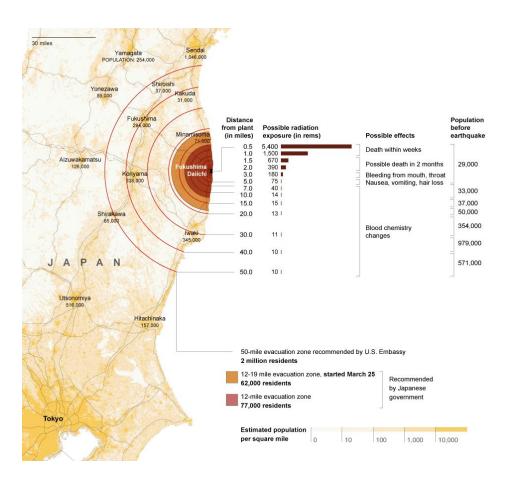
The best outcomes are a mix of programming and graphic design

## **Programming Options:**

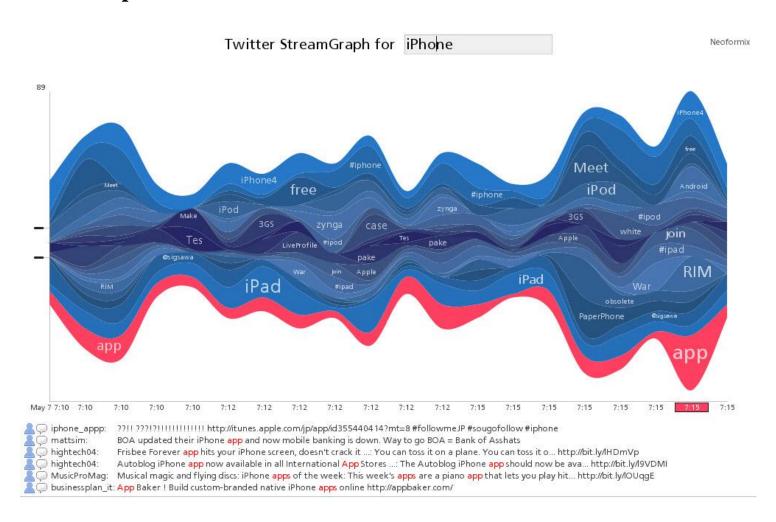
- Java
- Javascript
- HTML
- Python
- PHP
- Flash
- HTML

## Static examples:





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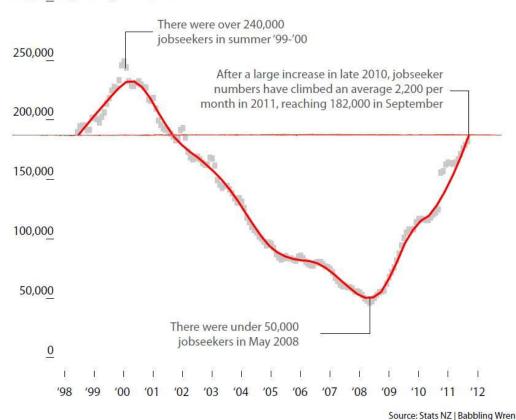


## Static examples:

#### **NZ Unemployment Continues to Climb**

Work and Income New Zealand greeted 18,000 new jobseekers between January and September this year, bringing the total number of jobseekers to 182,000. The last time unemployment reached this level was 1998-2001, when it continued to climb to almost 250,000.

300,000 registered jobseekers



Dynamic examples: Tableau and Gapminder

http://www.tableausoftware.com/learn/gallery/high-school-reading-and-math-scores

http://www.gapminder.org/world/

http://www.gapminder.org/videos/200-years-that-changed-the-world-bbc/

# Data Visualization What story do you want to tell?