Connecting Communities through a Passion for Data Visualization in Libraries:

The Visualizing the Future Symposia

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Visualizing the Future Symposia

An IMLS funded National Forum on Data Visualization in Libraries

https://visualizingthefuture.github.io

About the grant

From the Visualizing the Future About page:

“This grant aims to create a diverse community that will advance data visualization instruction and use beyond hands-on, technology-based tutorials toward a nuanced, critical understanding of visualization as a research product and form of expression.”

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, RE-73-18-0059-18.
Co-investigators

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Why Libraries?
Data Viz in Communities and Communication

- Data viz as a component of information/data literacy
  - Data viz as empirical evidence
  - Recognizing misleading visualizations - applying critical inquiry to analyzing/interpreting data viz
  - “understanding of visualization as a research product and form of expression”

Librarians, Libraries & Data Viz Instruction

- The Library is disciplinary agnostic
  - Modularized nature of data viz training
  - Instruction potential for various skill levels as needed
  - Public access!

- Long-term strategic vision of library as leaders in the data viz realm
  - Community-driven mapping of data viz as a literacy
Librarians are Information Professionals

- Work with research data to provide support and services
  - Finding and evaluating research
  - Preparing data
  - Using data (and software) in analysis
  - Preserving and sharing data

- Librarians are data users too!

Adapted original source: The University of California, Santa Cruz, Data Management LibGuide, Research Data Management Lifecycle, diagram, viewed 26th July 2019
<http://guides.library.ucsc.edu/datamanagement>
Research Projects: Social Justice, Ethics, & Empathy

- Data visualization and social justice work in libraries - Negeen Aghassibake
- Ethics of data visualization - Megan Ozeran
- Data storytelling for social change - Zoë Wilkinson Saldaña
- Ethical community health data visualization - Amy Sonnichsen
- Ethically visualizing aggregated community data - David Christensen
- Data visualization + empathy - Sally Gore & Tess Grynoch
Data Visualization + Empathy
Sally Gore & Tess Grynoch

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Research Projects: Data & Information Literacy

- Critical data visualization in first-year courses - Ryan Clement
- A blended framework for visualization literacy concepts - Dorothy Ogdon & Delores Carlito
- Visualizing spatial uncertainty - Matthew Sisk
- Assessing spatial visualization learning - Alisa Rod
- Behind the scenes: The metadata of data visualization - Jo Klein
Assessing Spatial Visualization Skills

- Barnard ERC offers series of GIS workshops
- Develop an assessment tool to evaluate data viz learning goals:
  - Apply principles of layout and visual design while avoiding misrepresentation
  - Create accurate digital spatial visualizations using GIS software
  - Critically analyze visualizations and propose improvements
  - Acquire critical skills of quantitative literacy
- Findings so far: Takes minimum of 5-6 workshops to achieve goals
Areas of Research

1. Challenges and Areas of Need
2. Metadata Standards, Schemas, and Tools
3. Instruction, Services, and Advocacy

Findings So Far

- Are data visualizations independent entities (“works”)?
- Schema use in example repository
August 2019 Meeting

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Deliverables

- Whitepaper
- Instructional materials
- Examples/ Example repository
- Assessment resources
- Materials/ Resources for new librarians
- Podcast
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