

Data Types : Personal Experience / Data

Data Visualization As Generative Narrative

Kunal D Patel | Danny Chang | Dong-Yoon Park

Personal Experience

Qualitative - Moment-to-moment experiences and sensory awareness of internal and external events

- Emotional States
- Relationships between people
- Record of events through mixed media?
 - Photographs
 - Video
 - Written Narratives

Personal Data

Quantitative - Recording metrics from the human body for given periods of time

- Temperature
- Heart rate
- Blood Pressure
- Calories, cholesterol, etc.

Questions

What are the characteristics of this kind of data set?

- Careful attention and focus paid to establishing the people who generate the data set
- Usually collected over a period of time (rather than a single reading of many people)
- Experiences are generally firsthand accounts which are recorded or logged externally
- The data source(s) are living things – physical beings with quantitative qualities (e.g. pulse) and qualitative qualities (emotions)

What kinds of stories are likely to surface from this kind of data?

- Revealing narratives about the user – abstracting moments of their life
- Tracking change or lack thereof over a period of time relating to the user – revealing short or long-term trends
- Measuring effects of environmental change(s)
- How the act of collecting data affects the data being collected

Questions

What are the biggest design challenges in visually representing this kind of data?

- Qualitative - remaining objective and finding appropriate visualizations for emotions
- Quantitative - comparing data across disparate groups of people (is physiological data about a community relevant to other communities)
- Finding the hidden trends or narratives within the data

What types of visualization methods are most frequently used?

How are these methods more appropriate to the type of data?

- Qualitative - more 'experimental' - nodes, network diagrams, tag clouds - because of the abstract nature of the data
- Quantitative - more 'standard' forms - bar graphs, histograms, pie charts (Nike+, Mint.com)

Example 1

The Temperature Of My Mind *by Hyemi-Song*

Visualization of single user emotions (Print)

<http://www.adaagallery.com/honor/2331L.php>

- Arbitrary color selection for emotions - wholly dependent on author's perspective
- Distance matters - macro vs. micro view - much more informative at micro level
- Aggregation of emotion by month is visually clearer than timeline-based approach



