DAT 405 – Data Visualisations – Alex Coghlan - Report

Introduction

For this assignment, we were asked to create a program that would display a specific piece of data. We were required to use a data source of our choice and then pull the data from that source and output it to the user on the site that we make. We were also required to add interactivity to the project so it would seem more appealing to the user. An example of this would be to use some of the keys on a keyboard to make something move, or to use the mouse the click and drag something across the screen.

I had some troubles at the start of the project because I couldn’t come up with an idea for my data visualisation. I had the idea of producing something to do with translating and different languages but I encountered a major problem when I wasn’t able to use the API key that I needed to produce the piece of work I wanted to create. So, after this I decided to look for other ideas but I was spending too much time looking for something to work on so in the end I decided to work on a weather program that would display the temperature and the humidity of the specific city around the world. The background colour of the different cities would change depending on the temperature e.g. Red would mean hot weather & blue would mean a cold environment. I have also added interaction so when the user clicks on the page of my project it will change to a different city around the world whereas when I first designed it the user would have needed to keep refreshing the page. Therefore adding the mouse function makes a lot easier for the user.

3 Artists/Projects used for Inspiration

1. Aeris Weather – This website displays the weather of different states across America and the different weather types that have occurred over a period of time. There are tables and graphs that display the different types of weather. There is also an image of a map of America showing little circles in the different states and they are all a different colour that represent to the different weather states e.g. rain, snow, thunder. My project isn’t as advanced as this but if I was given more time I would make sure that I implemented more complex factors such as this. However, I didn’t stick to just states in America. I decided to use cities all over the world.
2. Weather Radials by Andy Kirk – This project shows different types of weather and from this, corresponding different colours to the different weather types. I liked this idea which is why I decided to link the different temperatures of different cities to colours that would be distinct when linking the two together e.g. Red = Hot conditions, Blue = Cold conditions
3. Climate Maps – Climate maps are known for displaying bright colours across a map of somewhere and the different colours correspond to different specific weather conditions. I took this into thought and from this I also decided to link weather and colour together.

References

<https://www.aerisweather.com/blog/making-weather-data-visualizations/> - Website that displays different cities and states across America.

<http://www.visualisingdata.com/2014/02/weather-radials-new-project-from-raureif/> - Project that links colours to different weather types from the past to link it to present weather conditions.

<https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/primer/visualizing-climate-data> - Website displaying climate maps. They link colour to different weather conditions and climates which is sort of the theme I was aiming for with my project with the different colours coinciding with different weather conditions.