

Scraping Data from the Web

In this lab, you will learn how to scrape data from websites using browser extensions and Google Spreadsheets.

Getting Started



In Russia, shell companies abound and political involvement in business creates significant risks for international businesses. Today, there is the added pressure of increasing US and EU sanctions. In this example, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists scraped several Russian and international business registries to track ownership and money flows behind shell companies. The data was available online but there was no way to download the data from the site. Take a look at: <http://www.icij.org/blog/2014/08/how-investigate-russias-shady-business-world-online>

Scraping Data Using Browser Extensions

Browser Extensions or Browser Add-Ons are applications that run in your internet browser that enable you to:

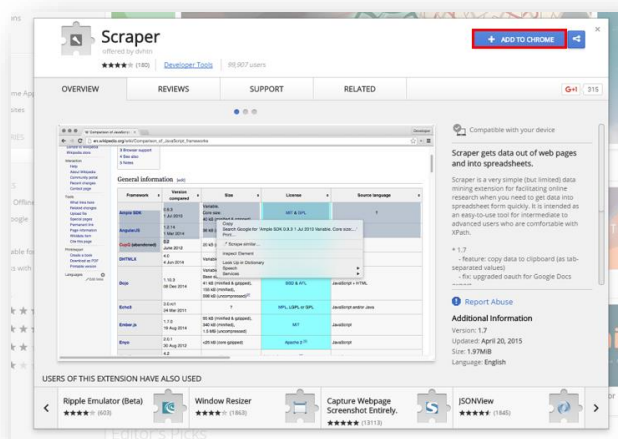
- Select data tables on a website, including specific rows and columns
- Copy data from these tables and use it in a spreadsheet application like Excel or Google Sheets

Here is an example, let's use a browser extension to scrape data about Pakistan from a United Nation's website. You can use any of these procedures – depending on the browser you are using: Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

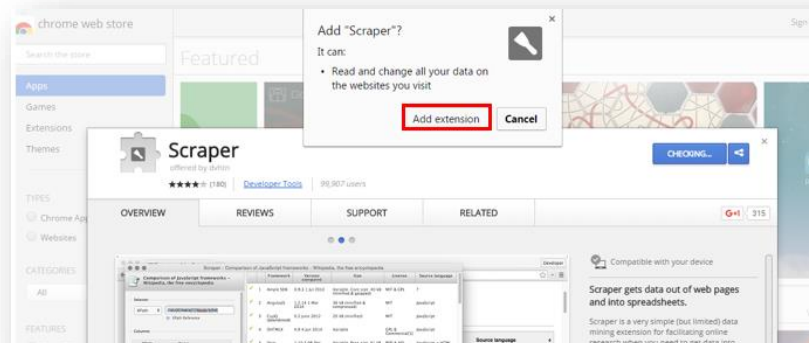
Scraping Data using Browser Extension for Google Chrome

Download Browser Extension to Scrape Data

1. Open your Chrome browser
2. To download **Scraper Extension**, go to <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/scraper/mbigbapnjcgafohmbkdlecacpepngjd?hl=en>
3. In the 'Scraper' window that opens, click the blue + **ADD TO CHROME** button.



4. In the popup window that appears, click the **Add extension** button.



5. The extension is now added to chrome.

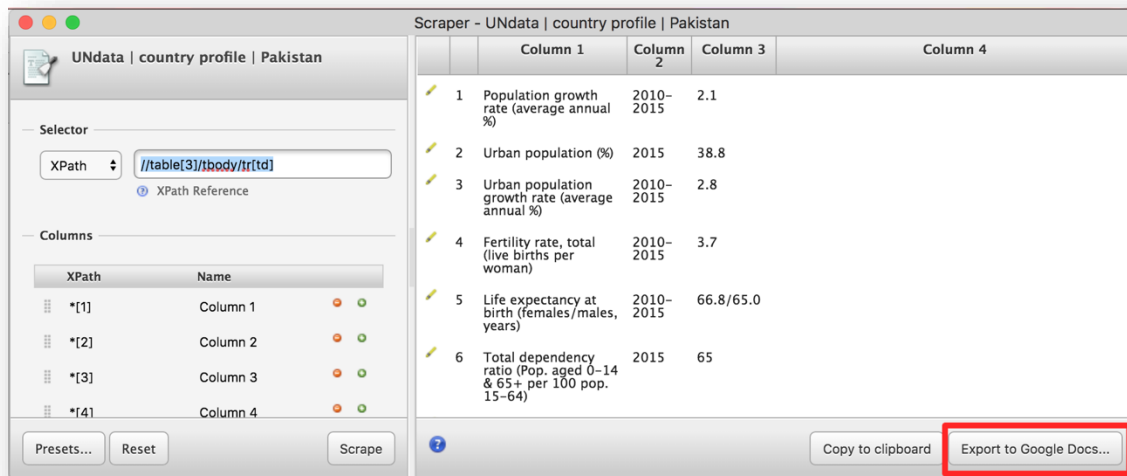
Scraping Data from a Website

- Now, open a new Chrome window
- Go to: <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Pakistan>
- Once the page opens, scroll down to reach the table with the heading "Social Indicators"
- Now use the mouse pointer to highlight first three rows of the "Social Indicators" table, then right-click and select **Scrape similar...** (Note, if you select the entire table, the tool will not work. You have to select a portion of the table and Google will automatically find the rest of the table).

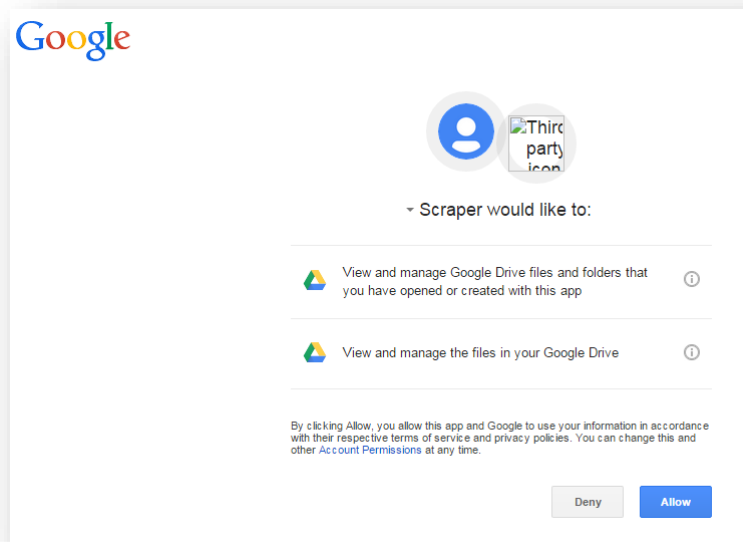
The screenshot shows the 'Social indicators' table for Pakistan. The table has columns for the indicator name, the period, and the value. The first three rows are highlighted, and a right-click context menu is open over them. The menu options include 'Look Up...', 'Copy', 'Search Google...', 'Print...', 'AdBlock', 'DataMiner-Get Similar', 'Save current session', 'Scrape similar...' (highlighted), 'Inspect', 'Speech', 'Add to iTunes as a Spoken Track', and 'Add to Evernote'.

Social indicators			
Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.1	
Urban population (%)	2015	38.8	
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.8	
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	3.7	
Life expectancy at birth (females/males)	2010-2015	66.8/65.0	
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14/15-64)			
International migrant stock (000/% of total population)			
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)			
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR			
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)			
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)			
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	4.3	
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	85.8/100.7	
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	36.6/46.3	
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	10.7/10.1	
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	7.8	2012.
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	20.6	
Environment			
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	2014	73.3	Data as at the end of December.
Individuals using the Internet (%)	2014	13.8	Estimate.
Patents: Resident filings (per million pop.)	2014	1.0	

- In the Scraper window that opens, click the **Export to Google Docs...** button.



11. If you are not signed in to Google, Chrome asks you to sign-in using your Gmail id. A window opens seeking permission for the Scraper extension. Click **Allow**.



12. A Google Spreadsheet now opens showing the Social Indicators data scraped from the UN website:

UNdata | country profile | Pakistan

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was 3 minutes ago

Comments Share

fx

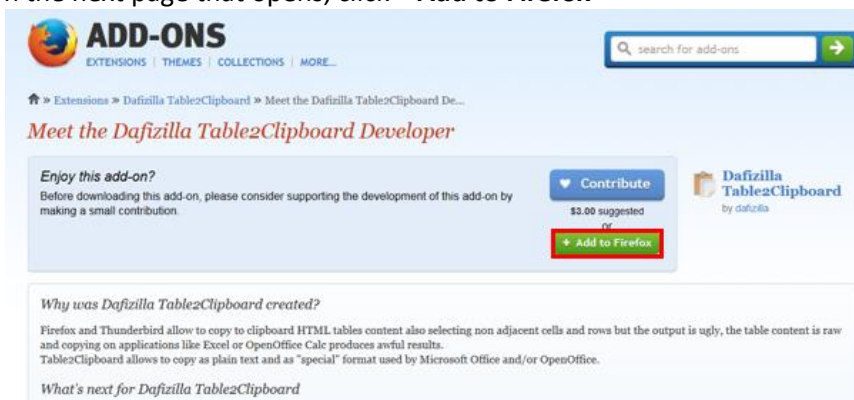
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4								
2	Population growth 2010-2015			2.1								
3	Urban population	2015		38.8								
4	Urban population 2010-2015			2.8								
5	Fertility rate, total 2010-2015			3.7								
6	Life expectancy at birth 2010-2015		66.8/65.0									
7	Total dependence ratio 2015			65								
8	International migrant stock mid-2015		3629.0/1.9	Including refugees.								
9	Tourist arrivals at hotels and other establishments 2014		966	2012.								
10	Refugees and other migrants mid-2015		3439965									
11	Infant mortality rate 2010-2015			70								
12	Health: Total expenditure on health 2014		2.6	Data revision. Total level of government expenditure on health increased due to the inclusion of local government expenditure, as well as a more-comprehensive e								
13	Education: Government expenditure on education 2014		2.5									
14	Education: Primary enrollment rate 2014		85.8/100.7									
15	Education: Secondary enrollment rate 2014		36.6/46.3									
16	Education: Tertiary enrollment rate 2014		10.7/10.1									
17	Intentional homicide rate 2014		7.8	2012.								
18	Seats held by women in parliament 2016		20.6									
19												
20												
21												
22												
23												
24												
25												
26												

UNdata | country profile | Pakistan

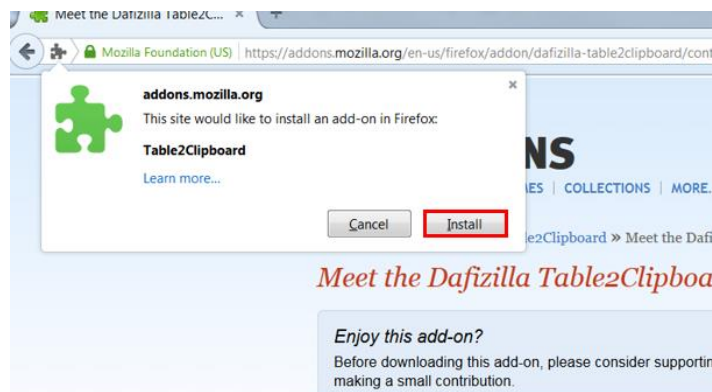
Scraping Data using Browser Add-On for Mozilla Firefox

Download Browser Add-On to Scrape Data

- Open Firefox browser.
- To download an add-on called **Dafizilla Table2Clipboard**, go to: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-us/firefox/addon/dafizilla-table2clipboard/>
- On this webpage, click **Continue to Download**
- On the next page that opens, click **+ Add to Firefox**



- In the pop-up window that appears, click **Install**.



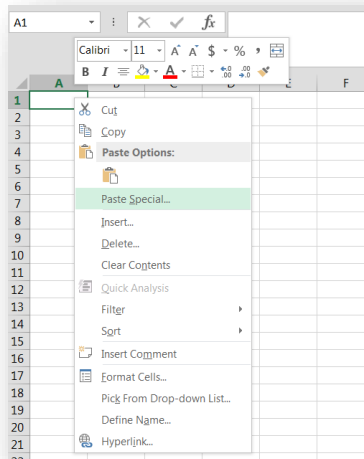
18. In the next pop-up window, click **Restart Now**. Firefox closes and reopens – the add-on is now added to Firefox.

Scraping Data from a Website

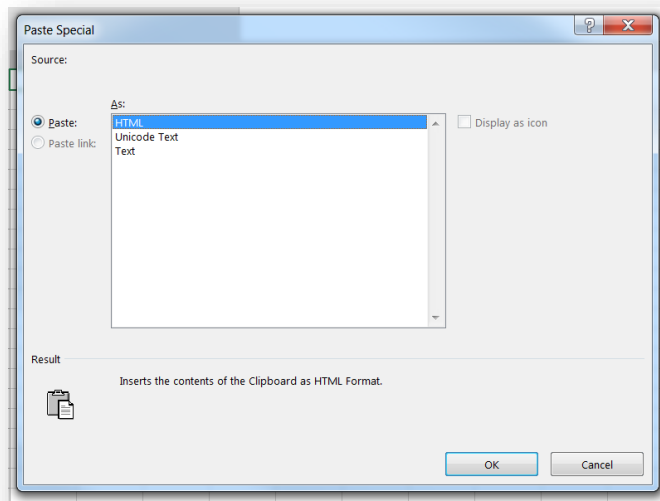
19. Now, open a new Firefox window.
20. Go to: <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Pakistan>
21. Once the page opens, scroll down to reach the table with the heading “Social Indicators”
22. Now use the mouse pointer to highlight first three rows of the “Social Indicators” table, then right-click and select **Table2Clipboard > Copy whole table**

Major trading partners (% of imports)	2015	Saudi Arabia (6.8)	
Social indicators			
Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.1	
Urban population (%)	2015	38.8	
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	2.8	
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	3.7	
Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years)	2010-2015	66.8/65.0	
Total dependency ratio (Pop. aged 0-14 & 65+ per 100 pop. 15-64)	2015	65	
International migrant stock (000/% of total pop.)	mid-2015	3629.0/1.9	Including refugees.
Tourist arrivals at national borders (000)	2014	966	2012.
Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR	mid-2015	3439965	
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2015	70	
Health: Total expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.6	Data revision. Total level of government expenditure on health increased due to the inclusion of local government expenditure, as well as a more-comprehensive estimation of regional expenditure on health.
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2014	2.5	
Education: Primary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	85.8/100.7	
Education: Secondary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	36.6/46.3	
Education: Tertiary gross enrolment ratio (f/m per 100 pop.)	2014	10.7/10.1	
Intentional homicide rate (per 100 000 pop.)	2014	7.8	2012.
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2016	20.6	

23. Now, open a new Microsoft Excel file.
24. In the cell A1 of the spreadsheet, right-click and select **Paste Special**



25. In the 'Paste Special' window, check if **HTML** is selected, and then click **OK**.



26. The social indicators data table is now available in Excel.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Social Indicators																					
2	Population g 2010-2015		2.1																			
3	Urban popul	2015	38.8																			
4	Urban popul	2010-2015	2.8																			
5	Fertility rate	2010-2015	3.7																			
6	Life expectar	2010-2015	66.8/65.0																			
7	Total depend	2015	65																			
8	International mid-2015	3529.0/1.9	including refugees.																			
9	Tourist arriv	2014	966	2012.																		
10	Refugees an	mid-2015	3439965																			
11	Infant morta	2010-2015	70																			
12	Health: Total	2014	2.6	Data revisio																		
13	Education: G	2014	2.5																			
14	Education: P	2014	85.8/100.7																			
15	Education: S	2014	36.6/46.3																			
16	Education: T	2014	10.7/10.1																			
17	Intentional h	2014	7.8	2012.																		
18	Seats held by	2016	20.6																			
19																						
20																						
21																						
22																						
23																						
24																						
25																						
26																						
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36																						
37																						
38																						
39																						
40																						
41																						

Exercise: Scrape Data Using Browser Extensions

Use the Chrome or Firefox browser to scrape data from the **Number of Health Workers** table available on this web page: <https://www.quandl.com/collections/pakistan/pakistan-health-data>

Quandl

DATABASES

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MYANMAR

NEPAL

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PHILIPPINES

QATAR

SAUDI ARABIA

Pakistan Statistics Overview

Alcohol and Tobacco

Demography

Economic Growth

Economy

Education

Energy

Health

Inflation

Mortality

Population

Society

Unemployment

WHO

Per capita government expenditure on health - Pakistan

18.70

PPP \$

2011

JSON, CSV

Number of Health Workers

Source	Indicator	Level	Units	As Of	Api Call	vs World
WHO	nursing and midwifery personnel - Pakistan	100,397.00	unit	2010	JSON, CSV	
WHO	dentistry personnel - Pakistan	10,508.00	unit	2010	JSON, CSV	
WHO	pharmaceutical personnel - Pakistan	8,102.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	laboratory health workers - Pakistan	9,744.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	environment and public health workers - Pakistan	106.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	community and traditional health workers - Pakistan	11,510.00	unit	2010	JSON, CSV	
WHO	other health workers - Pakistan	19,082.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	health management & support workers - Pakistan	203,337.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	dental technicians/assistants - Pakistan	1,410.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	laboratory scientists - Pakistan	1,751.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	laboratory technicians/assistants - Pakistan	6,323.00	unit	2004	JSON, CSV	
WHO	community health workers - Pakistan	11,510.00	unit	2010	JSON, CSV	

Density of Medical Personnel

Source	Indicator	Level	Units	As Of	Api Call	vs World
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pakistan Health Data

Demographic Indicators

General Population Health (Age Standardized)

Mortality

Child Care

Child Growth

Family Care

Alcohol and Tobacco

Disease Prevention

Health Expenditure

Number of Health Workers

Density of Medical Personnel

Density of Medical Services

About Pakistan Health Indicators

Related Datasets

27. Scrape the data from Number of Health Workers using chrome Scraper Tool or Firefox Dafizilla Table2Clipboard.
28. Chose another table from <https://www.quandl.com/collections/pakistan/pakistan-demography-data> and scrape it.

Task 3: Scraping Data Using ImportHTML

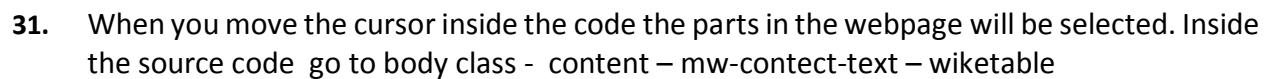
Code Source from a webpage

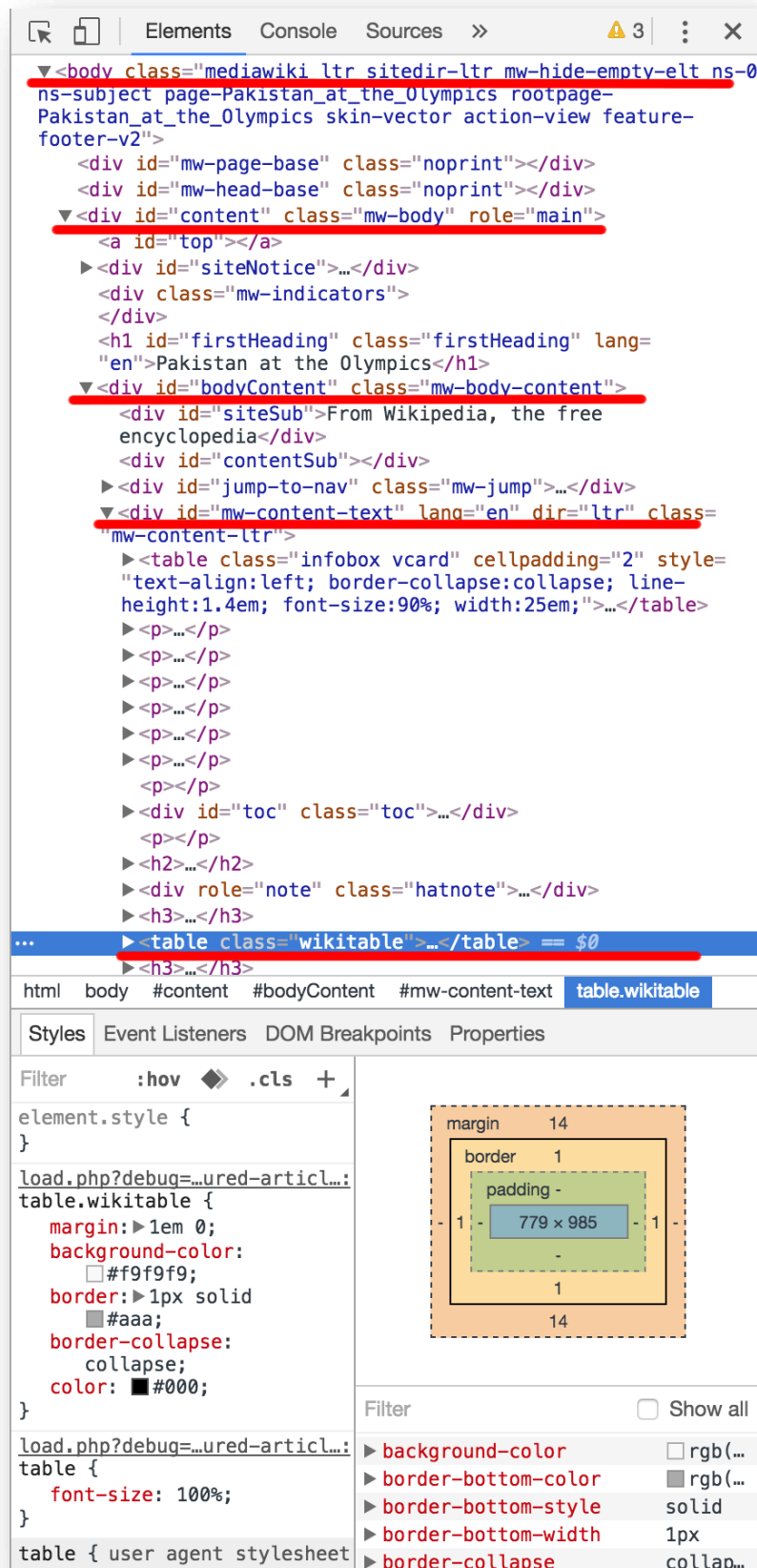
Behind of all text, table, photos, videos that a web page contain there is sourcecode. This code determines what is on the page, how it looks and what it does.

29. Open https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_at_the_Olympics - cite note-jang.com.pk.2Fthenews.2Fjul2-10 either in google chrome or firefox
30. To see the source code right click and click in Inspect (Google Chrome) or Inspect Element (Firefox)

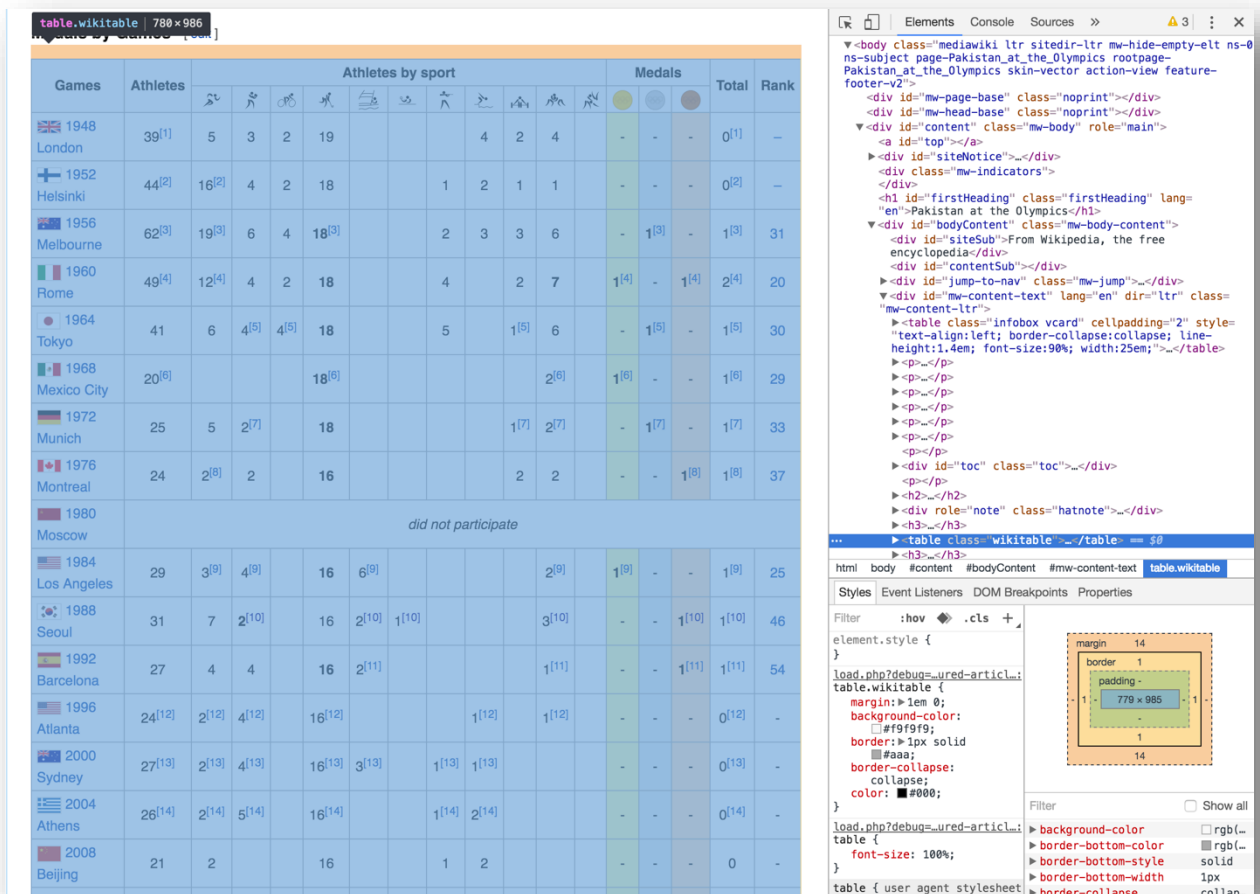
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Wikipedia page 'Pakistan at the Olympics'. The 'Inspect' menu is open, and the 'Elements' panel on the right shows the HTML structure of the page. The 'Medals by Games' table is visible, and the 'Inspect' menu is open over the table. The 'Elements' panel shows the HTML structure of the table, including the table header and the table body.

Games	Athletes	Athletes by sport					Medals			Total	Rank
		Summer	Winter	Paralympics	Refugees	Unified Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze		
 1948 London	39 ^[1]	5	3	2	19		4	2	4	0 ^[1]	—
 1952 Helsinki	44 ^[2]	16 ^[2]	4	2	18		1	2	1	0 ^[2]	—
 1956 Melbourne	62 ^[3]	19 ^[3]	6	4	18 ^[3]		2	3	3	1 ^[3]	31
 1960 Rome	49 ^[4]	12 ^[4]	4	2	18		4	2	7	1 ^[4]	20
 1964 Tokyo	41	6	4 ^[5]	4 ^[5]	18		5	1 ^[5]	6	1 ^[5]	30
 1968 Mexico City	20 ^[6]				18 ^[6]				2 ^[6]	1 ^[6]	29
 1972 Munich	25	5	2 ^[7]		18			1 ^[7]	2 ^[7]	1 ^[7]	33
 1976 Montreal	24	2 ^[8]	2		16		2	2		1 ^[8]	37
 1980 Moscow	did not participate										
 1984 Los Angeles	29	3 ^[9]	4 ^[9]		16	6 ^[9]			2 ^[9]	1 ^[9]	25





32. You will see the Table selected. As you can see every part in the table is selected as you move the cursor in the code, links, pictures, and data.



Games	Athletes	Athletes by sport											Medals			Total	Rank
		Boxing	Fencing	Gymnastics	Judo	Karate	Shooting	Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	Weightlifting	Wrestling	Gold	Silver	Bronze		
1948 London	39 ^[1]	5	3	2	19				4	2	4		-	-	-	0 ^[1]	-
1952 Helsinki	44 ^[2]	16 ^[2]	4	2	18				1	2	1	1	-	-	-	0 ^[2]	-
1956 Melbourne	62 ^[3]	19 ^[3]	6	4	18 ^[3]				2	3	3	6	-	1 ^[3]	-	1 ^[3]	31
1960 Rome	49 ^[4]	12 ^[4]	4	2	18				4		2	7	1 ^[4]	-	1 ^[4]	2 ^[4]	20
1964 Tokyo	41	6	4 ^[5]	4 ^[5]	18				5		1 ^[5]	6	-	1 ^[5]	-	1 ^[5]	30
1968 Mexico City	20 ^[6]				18 ^[6]							2 ^[6]	1 ^[6]	-	-	1 ^[6]	29
1972 Munich	25	5	2 ^[7]		18					1 ^[7]	2 ^[7]		-	1 ^[7]	-	1 ^[7]	33
1976 Montreal	24	2 ^[8]	2		16					2	2		-	-	1 ^[8]	1 ^[8]	37
1980 Moscow		did not participate															
1984 Los Angeles	29	3 ^[9]	4 ^[9]		16	6 ^[9]				2 ^[9]			1 ^[9]	-	-	1 ^[9]	25
1988 Seoul	31	7	2 ^[10]		16	2 ^[10]	1 ^[10]			3 ^[10]			-	-	1 ^[10]	1 ^[10]	46
1992 Barcelona	27	4	4		16	2 ^[11]				1 ^[11]			-	-	1 ^[11]	1 ^[11]	54
1996 Atlanta	24 ^[12]	2 ^[12]	4 ^[12]		16 ^[12]				1 ^[12]		1 ^[12]		-	-	-	0 ^[12]	-
2000 Sydney	27 ^[13]	2 ^[13]	4 ^[13]		16 ^[13]	3 ^[13]		1 ^[13]	1 ^[13]				-	-	-	0 ^[13]	-
2004 Athens	26 ^[14]	2 ^[14]	5 ^[14]		16 ^[14]			1 ^[14]	2 ^[14]				-	-	-	0 ^[14]	-
2008 Beijing	21	2			16			1	2				-	-	-	0	-

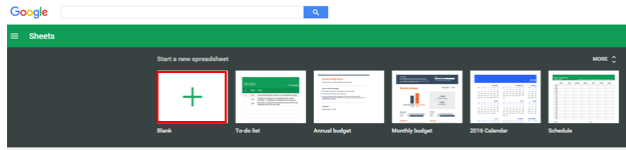
Using ImportHTML

The Google Spreadsheet function **=importHTML("","table",N)** helps scrape a table from an HTML web page into a Google spreadsheet. Within this function:

- The URL of the target web page, and the target table element both need to be in double quotes.
- The number **N** identifies the table in the page (counting starts at 0) as the target table for data scraping.

Here is an example. Let's use Google Spreadsheets to download data about the medals won by Pakistan in the Olympics:

33. Open https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_at_the_Olympics#cite_note-jang.com.pk.2Fthenews.2Fjul2-10 Scroll down the page to find "Medal by Games" table.
34. Now, open a blank Google Spreadsheet from: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/> (if you are not signed-in, Google will ask you to sign in).



35. This is the format for formulas in Google sheets: =function("url", "object", number)
36. In the new Google Spreadsheet that opens, type the following function:
 =importHTML("https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_at_the_Olympics#cite_note-jang.com.pk.2Fthenews.2Fjul2-10", "table", 3)

Untitled spreadsheet

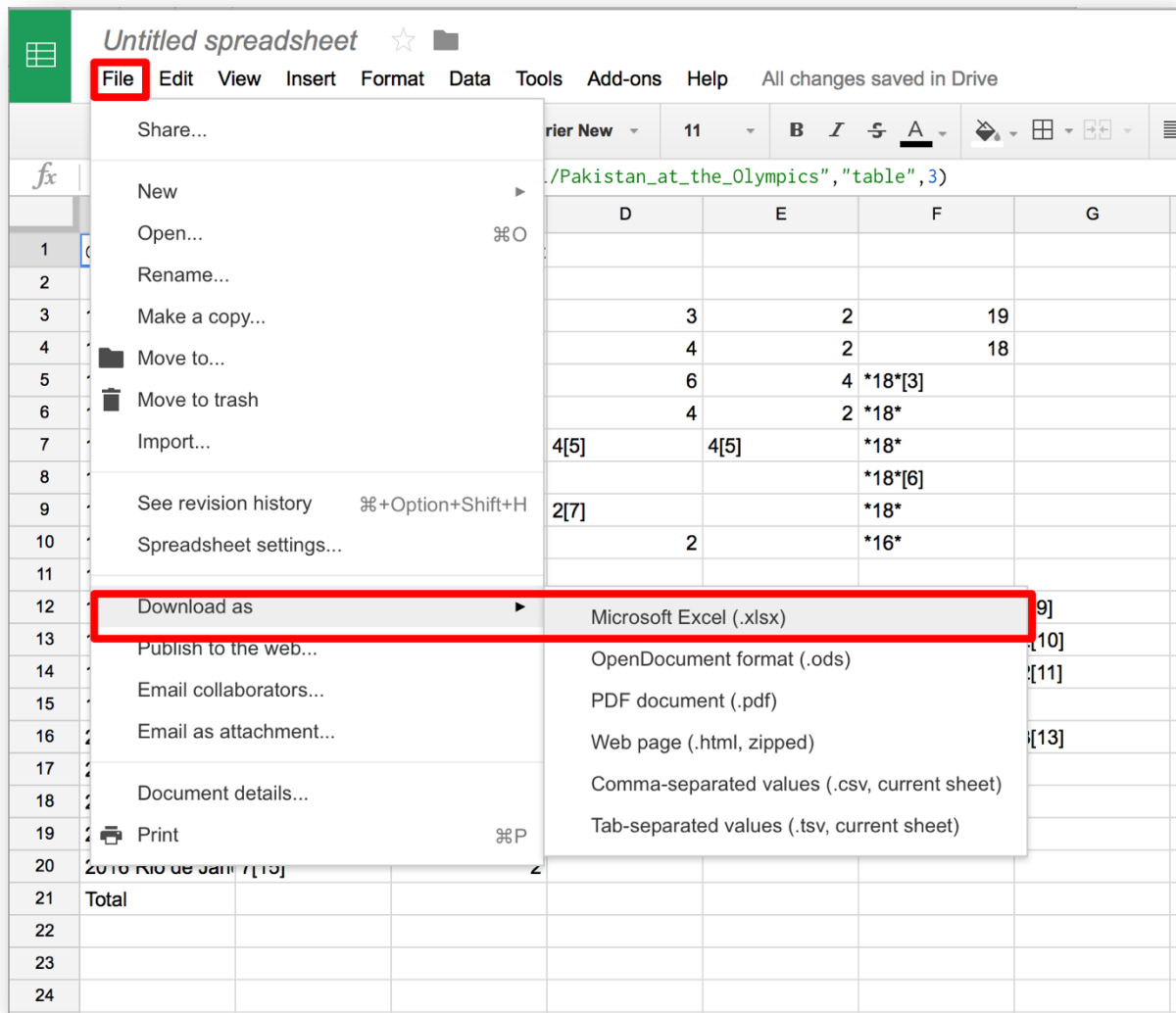
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

fx =importHTML("https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_at_the_Olympics", "table", 3)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Games	Athletes	Athletes by sport									
2												
3	1948 London	39[1]	5	3	2	19				4	2	4
4	1952 Helsinki	44[2]	16[2]	4	2	18		1		2	1	1
5	1956 Melbourne	62[3]	19[3]	6	4	*18[3]		2		3	3	6
6	1960 Rome	49[4]	12[4]	4	2	*18*		4			2	*7*
7	1964 Tokyo	41	6	4[5]	4[5]	*18*		5		1[5]		6
8	1968 Mexico City	20[6]				*18[6]					2[6]	
9	1972 Munich	25	5	2[7]		*18*				1[7]	2[7]	
10	1976 Montreal	24	2[8]	2		*16*					2	2
11	1980 Moscow	*did not participate*										
12	1984 Los Angeles	29	3[9]	4[9]		*16*	6[9]				2[9]	
13	1988 Seoul	31	7	*2*[10]			16	2[10]	1[10]			3[10]
14	1992 Barcelona	27	4	4		*16*		2[11]				1[11]
15	1996 Atlanta	24[12]	2[12]	4[12]		16[12]				1[12]		1[12]
16	2000 Sydney	27[13]	2[13]	4[13]		16[13]	3[13]		1[13]	1[13]		
17	2004 Athens	26[14]	2[14]	5[14]		16[14]			1[14]	2[14]		
18	2008 Beijing	21	2				16		1		2	
19	2012 London	21	2				16		1		2	
20	2016 Rio de Jan	7[15]	2						2		2	
21	Total											
22												
23												
24												
25												
26												
27												
28												

Sheet1

37. If you prefer to use Excel, click on File- Download as-Microsoft Excel.



Exercise

Scrape http://privatisation.gov.pk/?page_id=125

Complex Scraping: References

If you would want to learn to about more complex scraping applications, refer to these resources:

- **Import.io** is a browser based web scraping tool: <https://www.import.io/>
By following their easy step-by-step method you select the data you want to scrape and the tool does the rest.
- **Outwit Hub** is a software package that you can use on your PC or laptop: <http://www.outwit.com/products/hub/> Note that the free version can only scrape 100 rows of data.
- **Regular Expressions** is a coding language that looks for a particular pattern of words, digits, or characters that recurs and extracts data using code: <http://www.regular-expressions.info/>
- **Morph.io** offers pre-written, editable scripts that use code not only to scrape but also to schedule and reformat scraping with reusable libraries: <https://morph.io/>