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Comparison of Cleveland and Tufte

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William Cleveland, a computer scientist and Professor of Statistics and Computer Science at Purdue University, and Edward Tufte, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Statistics, and Computer Science at Yale University, both had innovative minds that created imaginative ways that changed the graphical presentation of data. As teachers and scientists they developed new methods of data visualization for the purpose of providing a better comprehension of data.

William Cleveland envisioned that information, data presentation, and information graphics should be methods by which anyone could understand the statistics and perspectives being conveyed. His research and studies about graphical perception and cognition were among the first in the data science field. He wanted to facilitate how people understand information in charts and graphs. Cleveland has written, co-authored, or have been the editor of several books; as well as being known for creating a user's manual. He is the founder of the Graphics Section of the American Statistical Association and was part of the team that developed the framework for trellis display for data visualization. Cleveland emphasizes that data visualization works best when charts are free from excessive information that prohibit data from being understood; he also believes that the different content of graphs needs to be neat and well executed.

Edward Tufte has an artistic mind as well as being an author, having written, designed, and self-published four books that are considered classics of data visualization. Tufte has also taught courses on data visualization for which he wrote books for each module. Like Cleveland he believed that a large amount of quantitative data can be packed into a small region without obscuring the meaning within the data. Tufte is regarded as an expert in the field of data visualization; his colleagues refers to him as "ET" and he seems to a wonderful sense of humor that was often on display during his presentations. At Hogpen Hill Farms Tufte has created a Landscape Sculpture Park and his publishing company, Graphics Press is also located there.

The two inventors, statisticians, and data visualization experts have contributed a great body of knowledge to the field of statistical evidence and scientific visualization. They have won awards and been credited with reshaping the field of data visualization.

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