

Jack Mathieson Journal weeks 7-8

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Week 7

06/Sept/2019

-learning about a program called Openrefine. Basically sounds like Excel except that it will also show you the *work process* of what you've done with your data.

-...this would be cool if the thing had loaded already...

-and now I need to download Java... I really want to say that I have no recollection of having to download this stuff beforehand but I don't know if I can trust my memory on this

-Ok, having FINALLY gotten this thing up and running (thank you Brian) it does look very much like Excel.

-Facets are officially awesome.

-...and because I've completed approximately two steps in this exercise in the time it took the class to get to step 13 or something I'm gonna put this fun new tool aside and take notes on the rest of class.

Class Lecture

-I have figured out WHAT I want to do (scoping)

-I have figured out HOW I want to do it, what TOOLS I'll be using for it (Elaboration)

-Now I'm going to DO it (...wait, what?)

-The purpose of doing this kind of thing is to show how it can be used and potentially get people to see how it would be useful for them too.

-The next step will be the Proof of Concept, but before that...

-Your Design. This will involve a bunch of things like a User Story, themes that are categorized, it will be loaded into a project management system... etc. (see week 6 slides)

-This is very much like your scoping exercise but it will decomposing a ... as opposed to decomposing the manual steps of your scoping.

-VERY entertaining skit between Brian and Shawn.

Week 8

18/Sept/2019

Personal goal over this break is to A) catch up on carpentry/openrefine work, B) do the next proof of concept step, C) sort out Trello D) sort out a file recovery program (yes, shame on me I haven't done that yet) and F) document it all in this journal. Oh, all that on top of other studies and whatever life I have left... ugh.

Well, first things first, atoning for sins: Recovery Program.

0.1 Recovery Program:

21/Sept/2019

-Ok, after waiting far too long I've finally gotten round to installing a data-recovery system. The program of choice after a cross analysis that is comparable to selecting my shirt for today was Disk Drill (in my defence I have a vague memory of a class mate talking about using it, so there). The 500 MB free deal seemed good, though I don't think it would work for a major break of my machine, so I think I'm also going to invest in a hard drive back-up.

-Currently downloading...

-Still currently downloading... don't get excited.

-Successful download, looks like a relatively friendly system to use, just checking what it says I've lost...

-Hmm, the images section is interesting... showing a lot of images that are not actually saved on my PC but I do remember seeing on screen at one point... creepy?

-...aaand now it's frozen. Boy when I back up the mountain of stuff saved on this machine...

-So the system seems to be showing me ABSOLUTELY everything, which isn't so useful. Initiating filters test and the test to delete one file and see if it shows up.

-Takes it's time...

-Ok, close and restart and lets see how this goes again.

-After a second try the file I've deleted isn't coming up, even after a specific search for it... back to square one.

-And now the program is trying to set-up something else... I think the thing I hate about computers so much is that the general response to everything that goes wrong is "well you told me to, so it is your fault incompetent human" which I feel like is an accusation of me not being as sophisticated as the tool I'm trying to use to improve my sophistication. So there, computer, I have the moral high-ground! Hah!

-Time for another program? Let's see what others have been using...

-After running a similar set of tests with program Recuva I have not been able to find, let alone recover one word document that I permanently deleted about an hour ago... am I doing something wrong?

-This little project is going to wait until tomorrow.

-SUCCESS!!! found the file and it has been resored again (on the same day) time to recover something a little older.

-Nope, ok, now I'm coming back tomorrow.

2/Oct/19

-Alright, so the only program I've managed to find is one that was recommended to me by a professional called Acronis. It's a service, so I'll have to pay for it, but it seems like it's well worth it: all my stuff will be backed up on a cloud at a regular time (I'm having trouble finding exactly how often that is, so there's my one risk) and the annual fee is less than \$70.

0.2 Openrefine Exercises:

26/Sept/2019

-On reflection, while this whole documenting process is good practice I feel like it adds a whole lot more work when I need to note down how things went every time I follow a command or do an exercise or try out something... I guess it does help collect thoughts and process how I'm doing.

-Starting on the Openrefine exercises that I couldn't get done in class last week thanks to my slow yet lovable machine.

-So far so good. One exercise said I'd see only two clusters- found five. Am I worried? Meh.

-First lesson completed! Yay! Yeah, it's miles ahead of using Excel. Might take a bit of time to get used to. Wonder how well it does with equations? Because Excel does have that going for it so far. But this is much better for working with qualitative values.

-They're right, faceting and filtering are very similar... might need to remember that distinction.

-Second lesson finished!

-Neat- can't transform words into numbers. Saves a lot of hassle.

-Ah, ok, important note: when navigating the "undo" command list make sure you press "Enter" once you've selected the step you want to revert to and not anything else.

-Finished 3rd lesson!

-Aaaaaannnd lesson 4 I've done in class. Nice.

-Ah, there's the glitch of the day. Export the file and then expand it. Simple? Not so. Let's try Google Drive and then see...

-Ugh

-So the only way it seems I can continue is if I download 7zip. Not a problem. I look into it and the page that I get seems to be telling me that there are two dozen different ones to download depending on what model your windows machine is and when it was made...???

2/Oct/19

-Unfortunately even after referring the problem to the Slack community I cannot access my exported Gz. file. (I think I've downloaded the right 7-zip program). Will see how to fix this in class I think.