

Playing with data: Infographics

Resource: Piktochart (<https://piktochart.com>)

Difficulty: 2-3 out of 5

Requires: creating a Piktochart account with an email address (possibility to use Google account or Facebook)

Piktochart offers some free templates for creating infographics. It also has video tutorials to help you get started.

Piktochart has an easy way of inserting a map of a country and highlighting some regions in different colours according to a data set. You can also create different kinds of graphs and charts by uploading a spreadsheet (in CSV, XLS or XLSX format).

Basics

Watch a demo: <https://piktochart.com/demo-signup/> (requires sign-up). Once you have logged in and selected a template you can also take a tour of the editing panel by clicking on the “Tour” icon in the bottom left.

Start

It might be quicker and easier to start by creating a poster rather than a full infographic.

Select your template or start from blank. Customise the background, the fonts, add your own images, etc. The fun data bits are under the Tools tab.

Pick a “simple” data set (Piktochart is not so happy when there is too much data - you may need to select a sample from one of our data sets before you import it into Piktochart.) As an example, we used the libraries_ncc-libraries-current_csv file but kept only the column with the names of the libraries and the one with the number of PCs in each.

You can edit the data within Piktochart but with large data sets it quickly becomes unwieldy. If you are starting from a large data set it is best to do your formatting and save as a new file before importing your data into Piktochart.

Go to Tools / Charts then click “import your data” on the top right.

Now it’s up to you to have a play! Don’t forget to download your poster as an image (in File tab at the top) to then show off and share it.

Other resources you can use to create infographics using free templates

Canva <https://www.canva.com/create/infographics>

Venngage <https://venngage.com/>



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