

Summary of Information is Beautiful by David McCandless

Overview: An incredibly immersive book which is full of data visualisations across data in diverse range of fields such as science, technology, global issues, etc. The book feels more like a catalogue of David's amazing skills but provides powerful ideas on how to tweak visualisations to make them insightful and impactful.

Key takeaway: Visualising news stories is seldom easy and the news content may not be what people want to know. However, visualisations can be a strong tool for communicating news. While a news article may take 5 minutes of the reader's time, a visualisation allows the person to grasp the news and reflect on it in the same time frame. It is important to choose the visualisation and the colour choices based on the type of the news and how it may affect the readers.

Visual design & quality: The book is full of visualisations with innovative designs and punchy colours to take inspiration from. Definitely a book I will keep going back to when trying to make visualisations with vibrant colours.

Strengths & weaknesses: The book showcases the brilliant designs applied by David himself in his work and provides a great reference for beginners and professionals. However, it does lack in explanations and why/how are the design choices made when creating such visualisations.

Recommendation: I would recommend this to all who want to up their aesthetics when creating visualisations. While the tools used by David are not the most widely used, it is still an amazing repository for anyone to get some inspiration and try to recreate to the best extent possible in their respective tools.