About half the males in my team seem to be called Alasdair, but few of them spell it the same way. I live in hope the The International Organization for Standardization will fix the spelling, I can’t believe it hasn’t been higher up their agenda.

Anyhoo, here’s a quick post about baby names using National Records of Scotland data and a wee bit of R magic to tidy and visualise.

* NRS data: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2018/most-popular-names-in-scotland> (including nifty Shiny app)
* Wikipedia variants of Alasdair: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alistair>

library(tidyverse)

df = read\_csv("Downloads/babies-first-names-18-vis-final.csv")

# <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alistair>

var = c("Alasdair", "Alistair", "Alastair", "Allister", "Alister", "Aleister")

png("Downloads/a\_baby\_named\_Al.png", height = 800, width = 1200)

df %>%

gather(year, count, -firstname, -sex) %>%

filter(sex == "Male") %>%

filter(firstname %in% var) %>%

mutate(year = as.numeric(year)) %>%

ggplot(aes(year, count, colour = firstname)) +

geom\_line(lwd = 2) +

scale\_color\_brewer(type = "qual", palette = "Set1") +

labs(title = "Popularity of Al baby names",

subtitle = "Created by Mike Spencer @mikerspencer\nNational Records of Scotland data:\nhttps://[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2018/most-popular-names-in-scotland](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2018/most-popular-names-in-scotland)",

x = "Year",

y = "Named babies",

colour = "") +

theme\_bw() +

theme(text = element\_text(size = 30),

plot.subtitle = element\_text(size = 14))

dev.off()

Here’s the output!

