

Title: Visualization for Robert Christgau / Yuchu Lei

Description: Robert Thomas Christgau is an American essayist and music journalist. In this visualization, I visualized over Robert's over 20,000 graded reviews and presented the distribution of the album reviews to the years and to the grade letter.

Interactions: All the graph can be clicked, hover and so on. Try to interact with them as you want!

Views: There are 3 views. Grade view, year view and artist view.

1. Grade view shows the distribution to the grade, that is, what is the proportion of certain grade Christgau ever gave. You can scroll on this graph to rotate the pie graph to get better view of one certain grade. Besides, hover over one grade to have detail statistic of this grade.
2. Year view shows the review distribution to the year. The darker color tells more albums this certain year Christgau graded to the certain grade. Hover over to see detail statistic of one grade. Click on it to see all the albums of one certain year and one certain grade.
3. Artist view is the view where grades are shown according to the artists. When an artist has more albums graded as a certain grade, the bubble becomes bigger. Vice versa. To interact, click on one bubble to read detail.

How to use: the website is quite intuitive and does not require too many professional techniques, so just hang around and click wherever you want, or you do not quite know what it means.

Reasoning for choosing each view.

1. Grade view is focus on comparison which proportion is the most important thing. Pie chart is one of the best graphs to do so.
2. In year view, I want to show 2-dimensional information simultaneously. So, I create this calendar-like graph to show 2-dimensional information – year and grade – at the same time and use color lightness to show the specific amount, which is intuitive.
3. Artist view is complicated to implement. Unlike years and grade, which ranges from 1967 to current time and within certain pre-decided criteria, artists are so many that is impossible to draw in one graph. As a result, I choose the artists who are mentioned more than twice in one grade. To display the data, I was intended to use artists' face as the background of bubbles, but API becomes a major problem and I could not figure out. Bubble graph is very dynamic and visually pleased graph. And I do not want to put comparison between different artists to the highest priority. That is why I choose bubble graph.

Future improvements: List page should be updated a little. Using real-time album cover and artist faces could be my next thing to do.

Student Evaluation: I really like Yuchu Lei's visualization. The font is refreshing, and visualization is reasonable and well-designed. Overall, it is very beautiful. (Bojun Wang)

Extra credits: I spent a lot of time to make the interaction with the webpage to be smoother and more intuitive. The subtle improvement includes: when you scroll down, the webpage will directly scroll to the next page which creates a reading-magazine-like experience; The page will load until you scroll to the graph; the animation of the legend in the first graph is very agile.