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DSC 106: Final Project Faculty Review

We originally submitted our brainstorming document and rough sketch assignments as separate projects. At the time, we had different ideas and therefore planned to work on our projects individually. However, after some thought and communication, we decided to work together on the final project focusing on a topic that suited both of our interests. Our final project would revolve around the growing popularity of Korean-pop music, specifically K-pop girl groups. We wanted to compare different K-pop girl groups, their popularity on social media, as well as the popularity of their videos on YouTube.

Initially, we had different plans on how we wanted to present the data. Carolyn was leaning towards a no-code solution by creating infographics using the popular tool, Canva. She wanted to focus more on the design aspects of the project. Alex, on the other hand, was leaning towards a codable solution by creating a webpage that included charts using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (more specifically, the Highcharts library for JavaScript), which we used in our previous programming assignments. Because we both had different interests in what we wanted to do for this project, Carolyn focused more on the visual aspects of the design, whereas Alex focused more on the visualisations and data (though we helped out in both). We ended up deciding to create a web page that displayed different charts and statistics for our final project. The tools that we used included HTML, CSS, JavaScript (and Highcharts). We also used Python and Jupyter Notebook to clean the original dataset and extract insights before creating the visualisations.

At this time, we have our main components down on the web page including a bar chart, a pie chart, a bubble chart, and interesting facts and statistics about the top 3 K-pop girl groups.

All of that really needs to be done is tweaking the design or the layout, so that it is more aesthetically pleasing, but that is an optional step. If we had more time and skill mastery, we could take this to another level and use a different JavaScript Library, namely D3, to create more specialized data visualizations (as opposed to Highcharts, which is fairly simple to use and offers a smaller range of creativity and personalization). Our web page could potentially be more interactive with the statistics being updated every hour or every day, as opposed to being static.

Our web page may be different than the other final projects you will find because our theme is on something much more playful, so our audience is mainly people already interested in Korean-pop music or those that are interested in learning more about this genre of music. It is not meant to be professional or editorial in any way; we were going for a concept that was simple, girly, and cute, words that you would describe K-pop girl groups!