Reflective Journal

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Programme: BSc Technology Management, Data Analytics Stream.

Month**: September**

September has been a hectic month, a lot going on but, yet I feel like I have very little done. I have been looking up data sets the past few months and have yet to find one that I feel is good enough to base my final year project on. The uncertainty of how much data is needed, and what exactly it is I want to achieve at the end of the project is the main reasons I haven’t finalised my choice of data set for my project. Two main topics I keep going back and forth on is Farming, particularly the dairy farmer sector, and Skin Care. I think skin care is close to home with myself and I think I could enjoy it as a topic to concentrate on. However, finding suitable dataset(s) is proving to be impossible. The options seem to be to focus on the UK or USA. I wanted to take the angle that in the cosmetic industry skin care products is the best seller. I wanted to then analyse the healthcare sector, for those who have skin conditions over the past 10 years let’s say. And then compare both skin condition trends with skin care product trends and see if skin products are having a negative or positive effect. I would have all the facts and trends displayed on a website for bloggers and that to access. Id love to also find out a few of the bestselling brands of skin care products, along with the most common skin conditions, and causes. I still am unsure about how this will all work as the datasets are hard to find for same locations. And it wont work having a dataset for the skin conditions in south America, and the skin care products for north etc.,

# My Achievements

This month I achieved very, very little in this project.

I conducted a lot of research, but not enough. I found myself so caught up in preparing for career events and other modules that I have failed to spend the time I had hoped on my project. And now it is less than a week away until my video pitch is due, and I still haven’t committed to a project idea and a dataset. It’s officially panic mode and its only week three of college!!!!!!!

# My Reflection

I certainly need to be strict on myself and set specific times a week to work on my project. I also need to just pick a topic and work on it rather than chopping and changing the whole time as it’s gotten me nowhere!!!

# Intended Changes

Next month, I will try to get at least my project plan finished, and proposal started.

I realised that I need to stop over thinking everything and trust that it will be good in the end provided I put the work in. Stop Procrastinating!!!

## **Supervisor Meetings**

No supervisor allocated yet this month.

Month: **October**

**October 2nd, 2018**

It’s the start of the month, and I hope to by Saturday have my project pitch submitted, my project plan done and at least my datasets found and downloaded, ready to be organised and cleansed.

And then after the approval/declining stage of the project pitch I hope to start straight away on my project proposal and the cleansing of my data.

Today, I hope to get a grip of what exactly I am doing my project on, and hopefully plan a meeting with Eugene or Ron to see if I am on the right track and that my idea is what is expected of me as a BSHTM Data Analytics student. I think if I could just find that out then I’ll get a lot further in my project hopefully.

Grad Ireland careers fair is tomorrow, and the video is due this Sunday. And I have Aine’s meal/day out Sunday. Which means, I really need to get my ass in gear and get the video perfect and submitted Saturday. And get prepared for the ethics seminar which is Monday 8th. A lot is going on, and the pressure is certainly on.

A few questions I have regarding my project, that I really should have gotten clarity on a long time ago:

Q: After I get a data set and cleanse it and that, what exactly do I have to do other than predicting trends and graphs and charts and that? Eamon mentioned something about having a basic website to illustrate the facts and trends I discover? How exactly would I do this? Like should I have a website about skin care let’s say, but more so have it like a news forum? I need to clarify this!!

Q: Where I base my data set on, E.G. UK or USA does it matter? And around how much data, and how many data sets?

Q: Do I have to submit ethics documents or Requirement Specifications document?

Q: In my project pitch do I need to mention data sets? Or just the topic I want to analyse and why?

**October 10th, 2018**

Wednesday morning and I’m in Information Systems management and can’t take my mind of how much I must do for the project. I submitted the video pitch on Sunday for Gun crimes. I really hop it’s approved as I really do think that I will enjoy learning more on the topic.

Project Proposal and Ethics form is due next week. How the hell will I get these done, on top of studying for a 50% CA for Programming for Big Data, CA for Business Data Analysis, A poster for Information Systems Management and attend classes on top of that!!!! Stressed!!!!!

Today I hope to finish of the video for week two on Programming for Big Data and start and hopefully finish the second video. I would like to get a good chunk of the Strategic Management assignment too, so that on Tuesday I can focus primarily on the Project Proposal and Ethics form after my CA on Monday.

**October 16th, 2018**

Okay, so the Programming for Big Data 50% CA is out of the way, that was last night; now time to get stuck in Strategic Management CA that is due the end of this week. Also – the Project Proposal for my project!

Objective for the week is to have the Strategic Management Ca done and submitted Saturday latest. This way I can then spend Saturday evening on the project proposal if Ciaran is going out with the lads. If he isn’t, well then it’ll be submitted only half done in a way. As my main concern right now is the 30% CA for Strategic Management. And then after that’s done I can go back and touch up the proposal document. I also must then make a bit of time to finish and submit GSCM CA. It’s only 10% so I don’t plan to waste too much time on it like Catherine expects.

**October 18th, 2018**

Currently in project class, and I am sure I have Eamon’s head melted at this stage with questions. I also made it clear I really want to achieve a 1:1, hoping that he will be firm with me and guide me in that direction. Don’t get me wrong I don’t expect him to do any of the work for me!! But, if I present something I hope he is lenient and hands it back and says, “not good enough, do better” rather than, “yeah that’ll do”. I am working on my proposal now as Ron’s assignment has been given an extension. I still hope to upload it Wednesday next week latest though! Really happy with my grade of 10/10 for my Business Data Analysis module. But, worried about the Hypothesis grade. I had a very bad day Friday with stress of family stuff and relationship stuff that had me in tears the morning of the CA for the Hypothesis test, which unfortunately, I couldn’t think straight no matter how much I tried to focus. Besides that, I do struggle a bit with determining which is the Null Hypothesis and which is the Alternative. I am working on improving my understanding watching YouTube video’s yesterday evening and this morning before class. Hopefully tomorrow’s CA goes better than last weeks.

Now, I’m off to do a half hour work on my proposal before my BDA class at 14:00pm.

Oh, before I go; I have an idea for my title. I got side tracked, it was the reason I came on here to write on here. I want to base my title around the fact that currently guns are legal in America. But what if the gun laws were changed and they no longer were? Would it be the case that only the bad guys will have the guns, leaving the innocent defenceless? And how would all the guns be returned? I’d also love to see is there anyway of predicting the cost of recalling all the guns and gun licence. The expenses that the civilians encounter to purchase the guns would have to be refunded to compensate the fact they will be losing their licence.