Team Shakespearit – Process book

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The Journey

Brainstorming

Our journey for this project started with choosing what we wanted to show. The first criteria was having enough data to visualize something interesting and attractive. Another important criteria was choosing a subject from which we could learn something. We wanted to do something about art, and we first thought about movies and more precisely about Netflix, but then we saw that projects were already done on this topic so we decided to change our subject. Then we thought about street art and doing à website that will show a map with the location of graffities in some cities over the world. Unfortunately, we were not able to get any data for this, so we had to abandon the idea. Finally, we ended up with the idea of a website about Shakespeare and some of his famous plays. This choice was motivated by the fact that we all love literature and that Shakespeare is one on the most famous writer in the world.

Once the main dataset was found, we created our own dataset that contained characters clustered by plays’ name, with their name, role, description, gender, and relationship.

Beginnings

After choosing the dataset, we had to find what and how we wanted to display our data.

The first three main ideas were the following:

- the creation of a network that will show the links between characters of a selected play

- the visualization of topics……explain…….

- the visualization of character personalities ……explain…….

To improve user experience when navigating in our project, we thought about the following ideas. A first idea was to add on the network page a pop-up window when the user hover on nodes. The window would contain information about the character such as its gender (man ‘M’, woman ‘W’ or none), its role in the play and a small description of its personality. In addition to these general displays, we wanted to add a more interactive part be creating a small quiz about Shakespeare and his plays. Lastly, if time would allow it, we thought about introducing modifiable filters on the network such that users could select a type of relationship in addition to the selection of a play such that he only sees a network with characters linked by the chosen type of relationship.

Creation

Disclaimer: The following description is not accurate chronologically speaking since features were developed in parallel by all team members.

As we knew what dataset we had, and what visualization we wanted to create with, we divided the work to do in three an each of us had a part to implemented.

As a home page, we thought that a small biography of Shakespeare would be a nice introduction to the user. Then we decided to add a bubble chart (add image from our website) that would cluster plays according to their type (comedy, tragedy, or history). Thus, the user would understand better the topic of our website and he would have a great overview of all Shakespeare’s plays.

Network

After visiting the home page, the user is eased into our world of Shakespeare’s plays, he can learn more about plays and their characters by playing with our network of relationship. He can choose among eight plays (“A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Hamlet, Julius Caesar, King Lear, Macbeth, Othello, Romeo and Juliet, and The Marchand of Venice) and the corresponding network of relationship would be displayed. For the implementation, we decided to use Anychart library. We had first to convert our dataset into the appropriate Json file that anychart.graph requires.

Topic

Personalities

4 Technical challenges

While working on the project, we faced some technical difficulties and we had to find out how to solve them. Below is a non-exhaustive list of those challenges.

* Anychart graph: We had to convert the dataset into a Json file containing the appropriate keys’ name to match the ones requisite by anychart. Then we add to understand how nodes and edges were constructed to build the corresponding network.

5 Peer assessment

At the beginning of the project we were a group of three talking about the project and deciding together on the visual part of the website. After the second milestone we decided to code independently on different visual parts.

Here are the main tasks performed during this project and how they were divided between team members:

* Research of the dataset: Danaé, Marie-Alix and Paula
* Home page: Marie-Alix
* Network: Marie-Alix
* Topic:
* Personalities:
* Quiz: Marie-Alix
* About us: Marie-Alix
* Process book: Marie-Alix, Danaé, Paula
* Screencast:
* Various adjustments and code cleaning: