Data Journalism Project

Whitepaper

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The “Data Journalism Project” is a loose organization of people interested in truth, social justice, science, data and journalism. Its purpose is not to earn income nor is it intended to voice a particular political view or opinion. Its purpose is, however, to enhance the world by providing unbiased, fact based information on a variety of topics.

There is a great difference between data and information. Data is nothing more than a collection of numbers and facts. Information or knowledge comes from analyzing data and uncovering relationships, patterns and anomalies.

In execution, DJP – Delta Joliette Papa – will be a website with a collection of published articles. Ideally an article would be published once a week. Aiming for one a month is probably a good place to start.

All articles should start with a question. Examples are:

Will electric cars reduce emissions?

Do refugees help the economy?

Who is hiding money off shore?

Who is in the middle class?

Is poverty decreasing?

Is the world safer?

How to reduce infant mortality?

Where do Canadians spend their money?

Once a question is selected, the writer looks for free and open data that will help answer this question. For questions that matter, it’s likely the data will be difficult to find or more likely, multiple sources of data will need to be related to find the answer.

The raw data supporting the article will be recorded and archived. This is necessary for anyone wanted to reproduce the results.

Once the data is collected, an analysis needs to happen. This needs to be well documented and through. Once the analysis is complete, a procedure must be written so that the analysis could be reproduced by another data scientist.

From the analysis, various conclusions will be drawn that related to the question. An article will be written describing the results – either good or bad – and the ‘information’ will be communicated through interactive visualizations and videos.

Published with the article will be references to the source data as well as the methodology of the analysis. In this way, we full embrace the scientific method. We run an experiment or analysis and invite others to reproduce it. This increases the veracity of our work.

Our core principles are transparency, truth, facts, embracing the scientific method and neutrality.