

For this project, I used R; this is my first large undertaking using R. It was very interesting learning the successes and faults of R. For example, I learned that it is difficult, if not impossible to set a global variable to reference a column by string. This was also my first time creating an animation. I found it a challenging and intriguing endeavor.

Prototyping is a great tool for planning a project and this assignment confirmed that idea. I found the customer feedback to be especially helpful with the prototyping process. Even though we were a large class, and it was difficult to get individual feedback during class time, it was still very useful to hear feedback on other student's projects and apply it to your own.

If I had more time, I would have spent more time on the statistical analysis of the data, rather than getting the animation to work. There is a lot more normalization to overall immigration and emigration in Illinois, birth rates, high school graduation rates, applications received, first year retention rates, etc.

My biggest challenge in this project was figuring out how to structure the data into an easily readable format as well as using the R animation packages. The data on the website was easily visually readable, but I found it much harder to read it in via R.