

My path to developing code literacy and data skills began with my project, "Investigating Award Winners from 'Friends'". Inspired by the show's impact, my aim for this project was to create a web platform that would serve as an interactive and up-to-date news source for the show's main, supporting, and guest cast members that not only resonates with fans but also showcases the cast's achievements in a dynamic digital format. This involved the integration of Python, HTML, JavaScript and CSS, hoping to mirror what we had learned throughout the subject. Additionally, readings such as "A History of Modern Computing by Paul E. Ceruzzi (2003), "Data Points: Visualisation That Means Something" by Nathan Yau (2013), and "What is Code?" by Paul Ford (2015) from weeks 2, 3, 3 and 8 provided a rich theoretical backdrop.

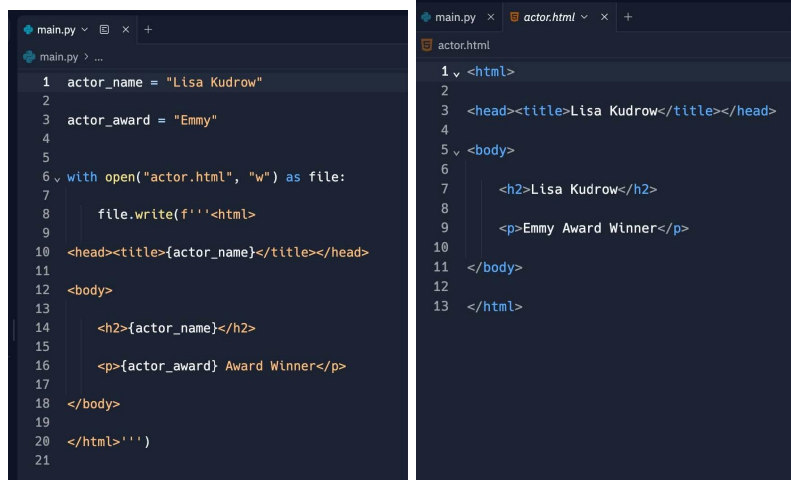
To develop this engaging web application, my original plan consisted of using Replit as the IDE and using HTML for frontend structure and Python for backend scripting, reflecting Week 2's concept on programming languages and object-oriented programming. I intended on applying RSS for real-time updates so that the data could be displayed dynamically. Initially, grasping these coding languages and integrating them effectively was a bit of an obstacle. It took a bit of extra effort to process and apply the information I was learning. The first time I was able to display the data was through Python variables embedded within HTML to illustrate clear code integration for my A2 presentation ( See Figures 1.1 and 1.2)

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**Lisa Kudrow**

Emmy Award Winner

*(Figure 1.1)*

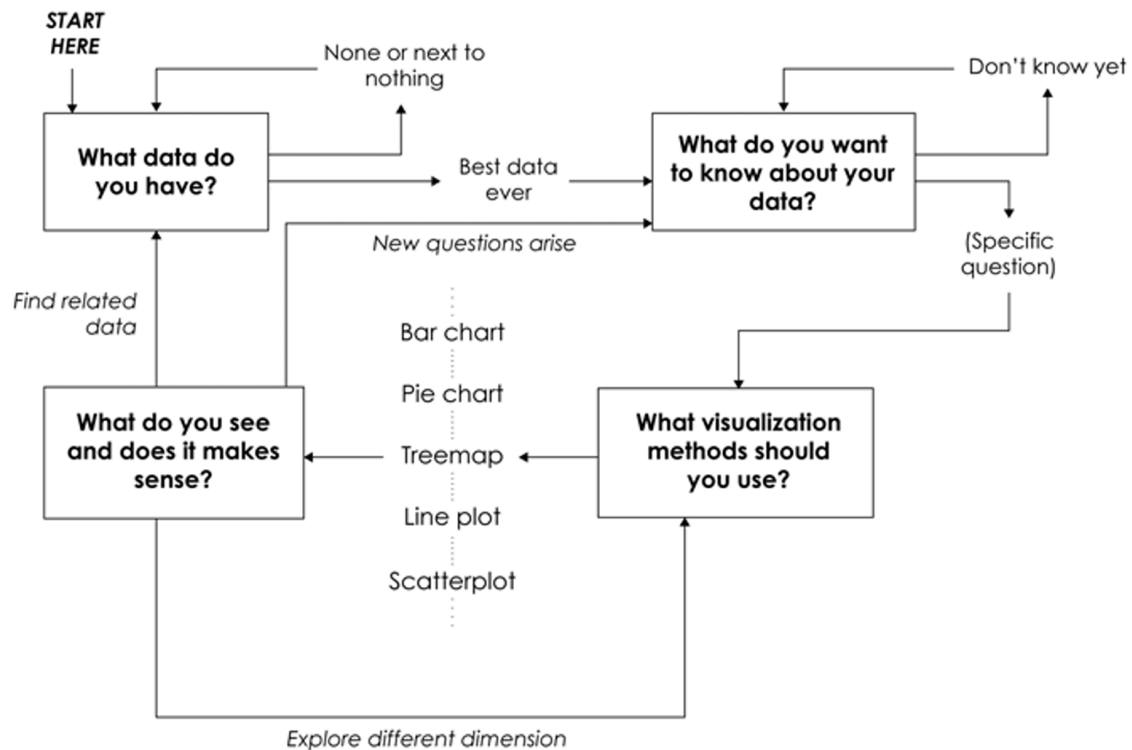


(Figures 1.2)

Despite these difficulties, I was able to develop a somewhat functional site. I did not want to focus on perfecting the project but mainly just to demonstrate my growing code literacy skills. I wanted a site that was informative and user-friendly, coming from a person who initially had no clue what coding even does. It was really much about learning and adapting as it was about building the application.

However, after delivering my A2 presentation, I realised the need to enhance the interactivity and visual appeal of the site, which led to the project undergoing a pivotal shift from RSS to JavaScript for enhanced web interactivity to resonate with week 8's emphasis on data visualisation and reporting, marked by an infusion of CSS for adding style to the website, to make the data presentation more visually engaging as well as a practical application of understanding week 3's notion on software and Internet platforms.

I didn't anticipate the need for visual appeal in the project. However, the suggestion of my tutor, and Yau's (2013) emphasis on visual data representation in his article aligns with my own realisation of the significance of design in coding. Through his concept of "the iterative data exploration process" (see Figure 1.3), it advocates for an approach that prioritises data understanding before visual presentation while also highlighting the importance of visual exploration in uncovering stories and insights that may not be evident through statistical analysis. Hence the switch integrating JavaScript and CSS to add style and interactivity, which was definitely beyond my expectations.



(Figure 1.3) "The iterative design process"

Again, throughout the additional process of integrating JavaScript and CSS, I assumed it was going to be challenging. My code literacy journey, through countless sleepless nights, however, is mirrored from Ceruzzi's introduction from "A History of Modern Computing" and the narrative on the digitisation of the world, which helped me understand the dynamic and evolving nature of coding, somewhat reshaping assumptions of coding as a fixed skill set into a continuous adaptation and innovation.

The addition of JavaScript and CSS was undeniably significant. It emphasises the importance of not only coding functionality but also user experience and design. The shift from a purely functional to a design-centric perspective reflects the broader technological evolution highlighted in Ceruzzi's article.

It took me several attempts to understand and integrate these new coding technologies, as I was hesitating about their application. I had great difficulty in finding its API. I had no idea where to find it, even when I have an account for

newsapi.org and have watched one too many video tutorials. Despite this, post application I felt more confident in my understanding of these coding languages, which is a result of witnessing the positive impact of these changes on the project.

In conclusion, the insights from both Yau and Ceruzzi helped me understand the multidimensional nature of web development, encompassing technical skills, design and user interaction.

Reflecting on the project and its result, I realised that if I put greater focus and creativity into it, I could have created a more sophisticated outcome. For future reference, I would most likely allocate more time for more in-depth study and brainstorming innovative ideas. I could have also incorporated concepts like qualitative and quantitative data from Week 6, along with Week 10's concept of algorithms and its ethical implications, which could enrich the project's scope and relevance, especially in the context of a student studying digital and social media.

The realisation of adding JavaScript and CSS was not just a technical choice, but a strategic one, as it helped in the transformation of creating a project that is probably dull and boring to engaging and interactive. It helped me understand the importance of aesthetics and functionality in coding, which reflects Ford's (2015) and Yau's (2013) readings. Additionally, through Python and HTML, they are all critical components of code and data literacy. The project is not about its complexity but rather the demonstration of understanding key concepts and being able to apply them effectively.

Moving forward, to mitigate the chances of underestimating the project's scope in the future, I would approach them with a deeper appreciation of the relevance of coding and data literacy. I would start by gathering more comprehensive information upfront and considering the broader implications of coding decisions that could be important in order to create a more holistic approach. Through the insights I have gained through tutorials in class and online, including all the challenges that were faced, I will ensure to create a more thoughtful and well-rounded approach to coding and web development. This project has certainly sparked an interest in further exploring data analysis and ethical considerations in technology, helping me equip myself with a richer skill set for the ever evolving landscape of digital media.

