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INFO 330

Assignment 10

Lessons Learned

Before I took INFO 330, I didn’t know anything about databases or how to use them. In the winter quarter, I took INFO 300 – Research Methods and at the end of the quarter we had a group research project to complete. This included getting data from reliable resources and analyzing it. In my group, we pursued the effects of forest fires on climate change and my groupmates found the datasets we’d be using. I believe they took INFO 330 before.

The reason I was not able to see, manipulate, and directly analyze the data for our project was that I didn’t know how to work with databases. When they gave me the source, I had to look up how to work with databases and what software to use; I couldn’t even achieve that correctly. None of my efforts in understanding databases were successful because I didn’t have the time to learn SQL code due to other schoolwork, so my groupmates did most of the data manipulations. I was only able to contribute research findings and summaries that complimented the data that we presented in our report.

Now that I have finished this quarter, I am much more confident in using databases. Everything that my teammates were doing during our project, I can now understand how to execute those same tasks. First, I know how to access and view content in a database, which I would’ve felt that to be a huge accomplishment back then. The most valuable thing in this class to me was learning the basic SQL queries. Because of that, I know how to manipulate existing data columns and create new findings by making new tables. I also learned how to create and use stored procedures. Learning how to do this and more has made me more confident in working with data, which I believe is an important skill to have in any career.