**Title:** How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Wrangle the Data

**Duration:** Thirty Minutes

**Bio**

Itzel Jihan is in her second year at the iSchool at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She’s a total technology noob. In her free time, she enjoys: biting off more than she can chew, tending to several struggling houseplants, and pretending to be “outdoorsy”.   
  
**Description**

I have spent the last several months working on a personal data compilation and interpretation project. The original purpose of this project was to gain practice with utilizing and manipulating data, but it has become much more personal and relevant to me throughout the course of the project. I developed my hypothesis by turning my focus to the area I was born: Southern Illinois. Southern Illinois is home to a rich cultural heritage and a breathtaking landscape, but it’s population and economic opportunities are dwindling. On the surface, this situation seems hopeless, but I thought that *something*  could be done to help address and alleviate this concern.

Some broad questions I seek to answer here are: “How can Southern Illinois be saved?” and “How can we retain and attract citizens to the area?” I believe that one of the many answers to these questions is technology-related remote working options. In my data compilation, I attempt to show how and why this is a viable option. I will also share my methods of data gathering, cleaning, and composure for other technology novices like myself who are looking to practice their newly developing data-wrangling skillsets.   
  
**Who and Why?**

This talk is designed to speak to the technology novice, or anyone who might need direction or inspiration for a personal data project. I expect the average listener to have little to no experience with programming or data-wrangling. After the talk, I hope that listeners will feel uninhibited and ready to begin or continue to learn new computer and data-related skills, and perhaps feel inclined to create their own data compilation project.

**Outline**

Introduction to the project: 5 mins  
Data-gathering techniques: 5 mins  
Data compilation: 5 mins  
Final dataset review: 5 mins  
Proof of concept: 5 mins  
Q&A: 5 mins

**Additional Notes**

I have never given this presentation anywhere, nor have I ever spoken publicly about any technology related subject. I have very little programming and data experience. I have participated as a public speaker in a handful of events: I was the keynote speaker for Lenart Elementary School’s 8th grade graduation ceremony in 2013, I have been a panel member for an assortment of panels at three different conferences for foster care caseworkers and foster youth, I presented a paper at Illinois State University’s Women and Gender Symposium in 2014, and I have led two workshops at the Chicago Nonmonogamy Conference.