Air Pollution Data for Houston

1.   Source of the Data

I found the site 'http://www3.epa.gov/' when I searched for pollution data of Houston in Google which is site developed by United States Environmental Protection Agency(EPA). When I was browsing through the website I found 'airnow.gov' which has all the legacy Air pollution data of all the United States of America .

2.   Description of the Data

We can find all the data files on webpage http://aqsdr1.epa.gov/aqsweb/aqstmp/airdata/download_files.html. This webpage has data files related to air pollution on an annual basis, air pollution on a daily basis and air pollution on hourly basis of all the states in USA given for each year. All the data is stored in excel sheets. The data is very detailed which is measured at different sites at different county's in each city of different states. We can get data related Houston by applying filters on excel sheet and setting 'State Name' column to 'Texas' and 'City Name' to 'Houston'.

This is a huge data which is from years 1990 to 2015 which is static which will be uploaded on to the website at the end of each year. This data is available to everyone and can be downloaded from the website mentioned above.

The Annual summary files contains data for every Monitor for a year. A monitor is specific device which measures the pollutant at a given site. The daily summary file contains data for every monitor for each day. The Hourly data files contain data for each hour.

The air quality data that is generated is collected using federal reference or equivalent monitoring techniques or techniques approved by the state, local or tribal monitoring agencies.

The data files has each measured value the EPA has calculated using Air Monitoring Program. It has aggregated values calculated by EPA for hourly, daily and annually. The basic information about the data can be found at https://aqs.epa.gov/aqsweb/documents/data_mart_welcome.html#basicinfo .

The webpage where we can find detailed description of the data is http://aqsdr1.epa.gov/aqsweb/aqstmp/airdata/FileFormats.html which we will be directed from http://aqsdr1.epa.gov/aqsweb/aqstmp/airdata/download_files.html webpage once we click on 'Description of data and formats'.

The intended users of these data files are air quality data analysts in the regulatory, academic, and health research communities. All the data intended for those who need to download large volumes of detailed technical data stored at EPA.