Feedback from Alexander and Caleb

We discussed visualizing a distribution of the unique word frequencies in all songs for each year (and for each genre). We initially were not sure if we should use some sort of standard deviation or quartile bands around our line graph, or use separate graphs such as a stacked bar chart, multiple histograms (per genre), or some other measure to represent the distributions. We discussed finding a balance between giving lots of information, and not being too cluttered. They mentioned that they liked being able to compare genres within the graphs (and that we should therefore keep the option to select multiple genres at once), but that having multiple graphs or a large stacked bar chart may be too cluttered.

Alexander suggested that we could add more user interaction on View 2 (the View showing the top (n) most popular words per genre. His suggestion was that the user could click on each word and we could track the frequency of that word in View 3 (the view that shows the usage of words per year per song for each genre. We liked this idea; however, this would probably be unfeasible. Because we wouldn't know which words are the most popular for each genre beforehand, we would have to go back and track the frequency of each word after the fact. For example, if we found that 'truck' was the most popular word in the country genre, we would have to run through all the songs again with a new regex looking for the word country for all the other genres.

But we really liked the idea of adding more interaction to view 2. So instead of the user being able to click on a word and feed that into View 3, moving forward, we will plan to add a tooltip to View 2 that will show the frequency of the selected word over all the years for that genre. So, for example, if the user highlighted the word 'truck' in the country's most popular word list, they would see a line chart showing how often truck was said in country songs each year.

We discussed the possibility of having some sort of network visualization to represent words (somehow connecting the words together). These ideas are not being used due to being overly complicated and too abstract.

Feedback from Kiran

Also, our TA Kiran said the following, "Given the nature of your data, I wonder if you can incorporate an excellent storytelling component into your project. Maybe pick some exciting trends in word usage across years and tell an automated story based on that alongside your planned interactive visualizations. It helps to have a story since it makes the project more fun and easy to like."

We really like this feedback and plan to incorporate it. However, we still don't know the specifics of what we will highlight because we haven't been able to see all the data together yet. But this is something that we want to do. It will be helpful for the user to see some highlights of the data.