

Designing with Data Final Project Proposal

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For the past four years, I have run a conversation / salon series in NY called Gleaners. Each meeting has an original discussion prompt, topic, and a unique group of participants from different disciplines. I would like to visualize the data traces of these meetings to explore and archive how the project has evolved over time. I plan to compile metadata associated with the meetings and provide a dynamic means of navigating through the information.

There have been ~60 meetings to date and ~100 participants. Most of the data already exists in a spreadsheet but some I will still need to compile by hand (discussion prompts from PDFs).

Data may include, but is not limited to:

- Names of Attendees
- Number of Attendees
- Attendee's domain
- Meeting Type (Potluck, Cafe, GoogleHangout)
- Meeting Date
- Topic
- Discussion Prompt / Questions
- Recap URL
- Connections between Attendees

I'm inspired by a number of examples of that visualize metadata in interesting ways :

One is a [concept map](#) for the podcast The Conversation, which uses thematic metadata to organize episodes. Made by [Chris Willard](#). I like how the thematic tagging allows for interest based navigation. It cleverly hides large lists of information with its node-link logic. Though it's a bit daunting, I'd be curious to push myself to try setting up some sort of node-link relationships with meetings and individuals. Perhaps with a force-directed layout.

Another inspiration is [Immersion](#) from MIT Media Lab. While I'm dealing with far less data, I like how this project has multiple views for the data, including simple barcharts showing trends over time. I would consider making a few overview charts like this to answer questions like: how often were meetings held and with how many participants?