Computing & TPP

Student Newsletter | January 2023

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I am grateful to work and learn on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the **xʷməθkwəy̓əm** *(Musqueam),* **Səlí? lwəta?/Selilwitulh** *(Tsleil- Waututh) and* **Skwxwú7mesh** *(Squamish) Nations.*
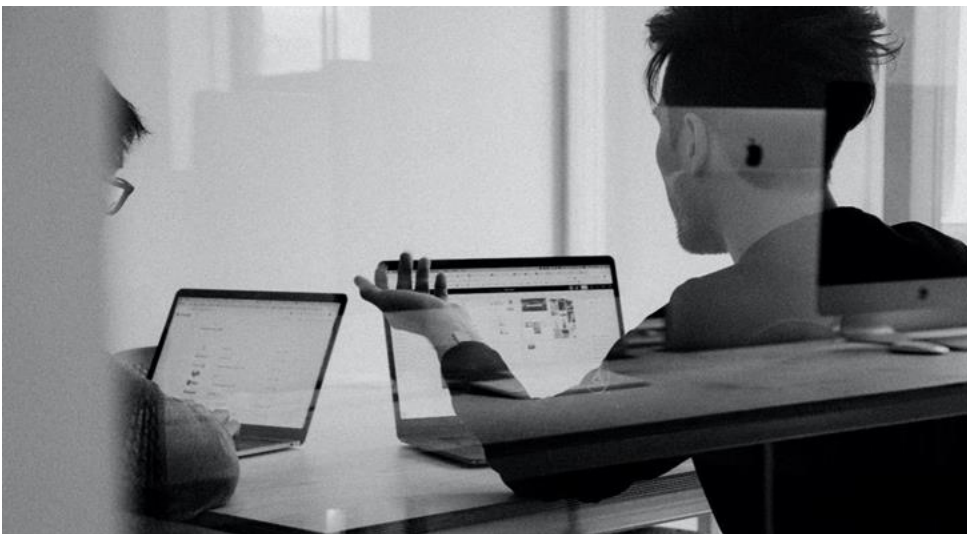
Resource Notes

Photo by charlesdeluvio on Unsplash

Vividata on Telmar

Source for datasets: We are now using Telmar to access our Vividata subscription. The Telmar interface provides the ability to (fairly) easily create cross tab reports, impressive charts and visuals. Census Canada data can also be accessed and manipulated through Telmar (currently the 2016 Census is available, 2021 is coming soon).
Note: Onelog software is required to access Vividata from off-campus, and Vividata can only be used for BCIT course assignments and the data is not to be shared with third parties.

For more information on accessing and using datasets, consult our Research Guide https://libguides.bcit.ca/data

Events

New Peer Tutoring Schedule for January

The schedule has come out for Peer Tutoring, the free source of academic support. You can refer students for help in math and statistics; there are tutors who tutor in CIT, CST, and FSWD. Note that tutoring is available at both BBY and DTC campuses, as well as online.

These are the online tutoring rooms for Computing this term:

- Mondays 5.30 – 7.30: Writing (Sarah)
- Wednesdays 2.30 – 4.30: CST (John)
- Saturdays 1 – 3: CST (Gloria)

For the schedule and more details about the service, please share this link with your students   https://www.bcit.ca/learning-commons/peer-tutoring/

Other Events:

Sweater Day, from BCIT's Green Team - Thursday Feb. 2. hot chocolate and tea packets with Sweater Day stickers on them encouraging people to turn down the heat and post photos of themselves in sweaters to Instagram. There will be prizes!

DIY card making station (Just in time for Valentine's Day!) We'll be having a drop-in February 10th and 14th from 11:30- 1:00 pm at the Burnaby Campus Library and February 14th from 11:30 – 1:00 at the DTC Tech Collider.

Pink Shirt Day is Feb. 22nd. KINDESS WALL and "LIFT EACH OTHER UP" BUTTON activities that week at BBY and DTC. Check details: https://bcit.libcal.com/event/3715745

Any Book Book Club -- Ongoing - because we do a hybrid model, you can join us in the BBY Library or via Zoom. They are the first Thursday of every month, 12:30 - 1:30 - listed on the Library calendar of events.

Featured Titles

As per tradition, the Library put together a 'Best Reads 2022' list spanning many topic areas and interests. https://libguides.bcit.ca/bestreads2022
Some other recent titles:

Broad band : the untold story of the women who made the Internet / Claire L. Evans.
"The history of technology you probably know is one of men and machines, garages and riches, alpha nerds and brogrammers. But the little-known fact is that female visionaries have always been at the vanguard of technology and innovation--they've just been erased from the story. Until now. Women are not ancillary to the history of technology; they turn up at the very beginning of every important wave. But they've often been hidden in plain sight, their inventions and contributions touching our lives in ways we don't even realize. VICE reporter and YACHT lead singer Claire L. Evans finally gives these unsung female heroes their due with her insightful social history of the Broad Band, the women who made the internet what it is today. Learn from Ada Lovelace, the tortured, imaginative daughter of Lord Byron, who wove numbers into the first program for a mechanical computer in 1842. Seek inspiration from Grace Hopper, the tenacious mathematician who democratized computing by leading the charge for machine-independent programming languages after World War II. Meet Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler, the one-woman Google who kept the earliest version of the Internet online, and Stacy Horn, who ran one of the first-ever social networks on a shoestring out of her New York City apartment in the 1980s. Evans shows us how these women built and colored the technologies we can't imagine life without. Join the ranks of the pioneers who defied social convention and the longest odds to become database poets, information-wranglers, hypertext dreamers, and glass ceiling-shattering dot com-era entrepreneurs. This inspiring call to action is a revelation: women have embraced technology from the start. It shines a light on the bright minds whom history forgot, and shows us how they will continue to shape our world in ways we can no longer ignore. Welcome to the Broad Band. You're next"-- Provided by publisher.

How the world really works : the science behind how we got here and where we're going / Vaclav Smil.
"An essential analysis of the modern science and technology that makes our twenty-first century lives possible--a scientist's investigation into what science really does, and does not, accomplish. We have never had so much information at our fingertips and yet most of us don't know how the world really works. This book explains seven of the most fundamental realities governing our survival and prosperity. From energy and food production, through our material world and its globalization, to risks, our environment and its future, How the World Really Works offers a much-needed reality check--because before we can tackle problems effectively, we must understand the facts. In this ambitious and thought-provoking book we see, for example, that globalization isn't inevitable--the foolishness of allowing 70 per cent of the world's rubber gloves to be made in just one factory became glaringly obvious in 2020--and that our societies have been steadily increasing their dependence on fossil fuels, such that any promises of decarbonization by 2050 are a fairy tale. For example, each greenhouse-grown supermarket-bought tomato has the equivalent of five tablespoons of diesel embedded in its production, and we have no way of producing steel, cement or plastics at required scales without huge carbon emissions. Ultimately, Smil answers the most profound question of our age: are we irrevocably doomed or is a brighter utopia ahead? Compelling, data-rich and revisionist, this wonderfully broad, interdisciplinary guide finds faults with both extremes. Looking at the world through this quantitative lens reveals hidden truths that change the way we see our past, present and uncertain future"-- Provided by publisher.

I Think and Write, Therefore You Are Confused : Tehnical Writing and The Language Interface / Vahid Paeez.
"The importance of good documentation can build a strong foundation for any thriving organization. This reference text provides a detailed and practical treatment of technical writing in an easy to understand manner. The text covers important topics including neuro-linguistics programming (NLP), experimental writing against technical writing, writing and unity of effect, five elements of communication process, human information processing, nonverbal communication and types of technical manuals. Aimed at professionals and graduate students working in the fields of ergonomics, aerospace engineering, aviation industry, and human factors, this book: Provides a detailed and practical treatment of technical writing. Discusses several personal anecdotes that serve as real-work examples. Explores communications techniques in a way that considers the psychology of what "works" Discusses in an easy to understand language, stories, and examples, the correct steps to create technical documents." -- Provided by the publisher

Making videogames : the art of creating digital worlds / Duncan Harris & Alex Wiltshire.

"...an extraordinary snapshot of modern interactive entertainment, with insight from pioneers about the most important games in the industry. Illustrated with some of the most arresting in-game images ever seen in print, this book explores the unique alchemy of a technical and artistic endeavor striking a captivating balance between insider insight and accessibility.

Across twelve chapters, each focusing on a specific game from AAA blockbusters such as Control and Half-Life: Alyx to cult breakthrough games including No Man's Sky and Return of the Obra Dinn, this volume documents the incredible craft of videogame worldbuilding. These chapters present masterful visual storytelling via the world's most popular, but seldom fully understood, entertainment medium.

Demonstrating the magic and method behind each studio's work, the book includes enlightening text by Alex Wiltshire complementing specially created imagery "photographed" in-engine by screen capture artist Duncan Harris. A book for die-hard videogame fanatics, aspiring designer-creatives, video game developers, and the visually curious alike, Making Videogames will showcase the boundless creativity of this thrilling industry." -- Provided by the publisher

Survival of the richest : escape fantasies of the tech billionaires / Douglas Rushkoff.

"The tech elite have a plan to survive the apocalypse: they want to leave us all behind. Five mysterious billionaires summoned theorist Douglas Rushkoff to a desert resort for a private talk. The topic? How to survive the "Event": the societal catastrophe they know is coming. Rushkoff came to understand that these men were under the influence of The Mindset, a Silicon Valley-style certainty that they and their cohort can break the laws of physics, economics, and morality to escape a disaster of their own making-as long as they have enough money and the right technology. In Survival of the Richest, Rushkoff traces the origins of The Mindset in science and technology through its current expression in missions to Mars, island bunkers, AI futurism, and the metaverse. In a dozen urgent, electrifying chapters, he confronts tech utopianism, the datafication of all human interaction, and the exploitation of that data by corporations..." -- Provided by the publisher