**Summary:**

I'm in the same boat as many others who prefer Python to JavaScript. Like others, I'm intrigued by how expressive D3 is for data visualization. So, after the tutorial class  yesterday, I attempted to understand how the D3 works by following a tutorial. I had trouble understanding basic things like how to load and run a file at first, but after a little googling, I came across this book Interactive Data Visualization for the Web, 2nd Edition, which is freely available through the UW library. This book will teach you how to use D3 through the use of example programs. I've only just started reading it, but I'm enjoying it so far. I'd also like to point out that the introduction to this book discusses simple charts that you might want to use if you don't have time to create one from scratch, such as D3. OR you may need to support very old browsers and cannot rely on technology like SVG. They offer a short, non-exhaustive list of D3 alternatives that use web-standard technologies (primarily JavaScript) and are free to download and use. Some of them are, I have mentioned below:

[DataWrapper](http://datawrapper.de/), [Flot](http://www.flotcharts.org/), [Timeline.js](http://timeline.knightlab.com/), [Arbor.js](http://arborjs.org/), [Sigma.js](http://sigmajs.org/), [Kartograph](http://kartograph.org/), [Leaflet](http://leafletjs.com/), [Modest Maps](http://modestmaps.com/), [Polymaps](http://polymaps.org/) etc.