CS485 Project Proposal – CVCERD

The Chippewa Valley Center for Economic Research and Development (CVCERD) gathers and provides local/regional economic data for public use. Currently, all of the data is researched and organized by hand, and the client was interested in any sort of automation possible. Optimally, the project would provide a platform that allowed for automated reading and organizing of Excel data, in a simple enough interface that allows for use once the team is finished working.

Additionally, the website and display of information is open for improvement. The client expressed interest in an updated display layout that allowed for quicker and easier access. There was a lot of freedom allowed in this area—either a separate standalone website or something right on the UWEC site work just fine, and an opinion on a fresh layout that worked well for people not already familiar with the setup was requested.

Because the length of the project could vary given how many categories were able to be automated, the goal was split up into an intermediate and end goal. The intermediate goal was to set up a platform that allows other students to continue work on the project—making strong, clean documentation key. The end goal is to get as many of the categories automated as possible through the newly designed system.

In this sense, the intended users would include future students that will use the platform, as well as the public that wish to use the data created.

The current system in place is done largely by hand, and the format is not as straightforward as desired, since it can take multiple clicks to get through the website and find the actual Excel sheets. This takes a lot of time and thus has a few areas available for optimization.

Possible risks mostly lie within the sources of information. If data must be pulled from multiple sources, the service must accommodate for the varying formats as cleanly as possible.

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