DAT405 Assignment 2 – Data Visualisation

A piece that I immediately found interesting was the website “Wind and Words” by impossible-bureau which is a data visualisation of the dialogue of each character in the tv show “Game of Thrones”. The reason I found this so interesting was because of the smooth and interactive animations such as the spinning of the wheel when on the dialogue section of the website, I am also interested in the subject matter of the website. Another aspect of this website that I find interesting is that there are numerous levels to the website such as the different sections on each season. Carrot2 by Marcin Ignac also influence my work as I found it interesting how the data changed the dimensions of the objects instead of just having an interactive element that when clicked returned a value like the previous piece, I also like how the circular shape makes the single visualisation seem more complete and focussed as everything is in one place. The final piece I looked at was “After Babylon” which I found interesting as whilst it did not have much in the way of animations its simplistic design made it easy to follow and its basic yet functional interactive features made the experience engaging, these are both qualities I wanted to include in my project. The website visualises the locations where languages originate from on a global map and features over 2000 languages split up into various categories and charts.

After researching artists, I began searching for an appropriate media database for my project, it needed to be in an API in a JSON format. Eventually I found a site called omdb which sent me an API key via email which gave me access to their database and allowed me to use this data in my project. After this I began coding my project, I wanted to create a loop that would load each link of every film in my array, this would allow me to pull whatever data I needed for the specific film that is currently being used by the code. Next I chose what data I wanted to represent and how I wanted it to be presented, I decided that I wanted to have all the films in the array on the initial screen and then once the user clicks on one of the films more details will be loaded and the other films will disappear from the canvas.

A problem I had was converting the box office earnings from the films to integers as they were presented in strings so that the author of the database could include currency symbols and commas, after experimenting with different algorithms I did some research and found a stackoverflow page with the solution. In the future I would like to include a slider that has 3 settings and its function would be to change the films onscreen as currently all the films in my array are phase 1 marvel films so the option for the user to switch between phases would be interesting and would also add more variety to my project.

References

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Stackoverflow, 2009, *How to convert a currency string to a double with jQuery or Javascript?* Available at: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/559112/how-to-convert-a-currency-string-to-a-double-with-jquery-or-javascript> [Accessed 8 January 2018]