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Computer Science 122

Winter 2016

Examining Crime on College Campuses

For our project, we would like to examine the issue of crime on college campuses. We will use the Campus Safety and Security Survey of 2013, a survey conducted by the United States Department of Education and responded to by all institutions of higher education that received any Title IV funding. This represents nearly all institutions of higher learning in the United States. Our main dataset (from http://catalog.data.gov/dataset/campus-safety-and-security-survey-2013) is an xls file that can easily be converted to CSV for easier analysis and contains school name, geographic data (namely address and zip code), school information (such as public/private, 4 year/2 year, and student body size), and data for a range of crimes committed on campus between 2010 and 2012. We intend to search for correlations of our data between crimes and various other indicators, such as demographics and income level of the surrounding neighborhood (gathered from US Census data using the cities/zip codes of the colleges) and US News and World Report Ranking (taken from crawling their website), among possibly other information. We also intend to analyze the relationships provided by the data provided, such as a difference between private and public institutions, size, etc. In addition, we would like to create an interactive search engine that will find the safest schools fitting some input criteria, such as ranking or proximity to a location.

Timeline

- By Week 6: Process our data sources such that they are in a form usable to our functions. This will include file processing and SQL data processing using table manipulation, as well as debugging our source data.
- By Week 8: Examine correlations in our data. We will likely use a more advanced statistics module than our homemade functions from 121.
- By Week 9: Build our interface for a searchable school issue. We plan on using wx.python, an interface builder for a search engine.