Information Presentation & Data Visualisation

01 Lab Exercise sheet

This week, we will focus on collecting student data, exploring visualisations in the news, setting up your coding environments, and submitting your first lab assignment.

Task 1: Student information survey

Please complete the survey at: https://forms.office.com/r/c0bhJvLykt
This short survey collects data to help us understand your background, expectations, and favourite colours, and it may be used for future data visualisations.

Task 2: Visualisations in the news

Find a recent visualisation about natural disasters (e.g., a specific storm, hurricanes, or related topics like wild fires). Post it to Canvas with a paragraph explaining what it shows, the data used, its original source, and what you like or dislike about it. Include constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement, and don't forget to add the URL to the original visualisation.

Task 3: Set up and explore visualisation toolkits

Install Python (or ensure it's already installed on your system). You are welcome to use any development environment you like, as long as you are running Python 3.X. No matter your editor preferences, though, we strongly recommend you download and install Anaconda; it comes with a lot of useful libraries and plug-ins, all in one package.

Task 4: Create a Visualisation in a Jupyter or Colab Notebook

Create a simple visualisation using a dataset of your choice in a Jupyter Notebook or Google Colab to check your Python setup. Use Python libraries such as Matplotlib, Seaborn, or others to visualise the data. Submit the notebook on Canvas along with a brief description of the data and the approach you took.

Worksheets should be submitted on Canvas by the Monday after the lab at 23:59.