Data Science Career Track
Capstone Two: Project Ideas

Project Overview

For your second capstone, you'll work through the entirety of the Data Science Method as you move through each step of the project — to get started, you simply need a few good ideas. Welcome to the ideation phase of your capstone! For this step of the project, you'll use Google Dataset Search and other open data sources to identify up to three project ideas. Google Dataset Search combines the prowess of Google's search engine with the nuance of Google Scholar. If you'd like to learn more about this search engine, click here.

When identifying a dataset to work with, here are a few things to consider:

- If you're coming from a different professional background, you may want to search for a dataset that will bridge the gap between your previous experience and data science.
- While we love Airbnb and Yelp, we don't recommend that you use their datasets, as these datasets are used frequently in aspiring data science portfolios. Find a dataset that will set you apart from the crowd.
- Note that Google's Dataset Search returns paid resources as well as free ones. You may want to direct your search to the free datasets.
- If you're having a hard time coming up with ideas, check out this set of datasets to get your creative juices flowing.

Project Steps
Estimated Time: 2-4 Hours

1. Explore datasets from Google Data Search. Some other search engines include:

- [Quandl](#), [US Government Open Data](#), [UCI Machine Learning Repository](#), [Kaggle competitions](#), [Mode Analytics](#)
- [Data is Plural](#) is an email list that sends newly released and interesting datasets

2. Find **three datasets of interest** and turn those into project idea drafts. You can also combine two or more datasets to answer a single question.

    For your initial project ideas, please:
    - Include a short description of each idea. The description should briefly discuss the problem and the data you'll use to solve it. At this point, there's no need to outline specific methods and techniques.
    - Post your idea, including the title and description, to the community and solicit feedback from both other students.

    One word of caution:
    Be sure to choose your datasets wisely; check for a reputable source and detailed data documentation or metadata to describe how it was collected and the appropriate level of context required for using it responsibly.

Student Example
Check out Springboard alum Sarah McEleney's [capstone project](#) for some inspiration.