

## INFOGRAPHICS 101

## Infographics

There are many ways to define infographics it basically boils down to any visual representation of information used to inform the viewer. They can generally grouped into three large (and overlapping) categories: maps, charts and diagrams.


## Maps

Locator maps are still important as infographics after all, everything happens somewhere.


STeports
TRIBUNE NEWPAPERS

## Maps

And maps can still provide important information about geographic specifics, such as proposed facilities for a hypothetical Olympic effort.


## Maps

But the advent of online services like Google maps and mobile apps have rendered the average map a little less useful as an infographic staple.


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## Maps

Fortunately, maps can still become effective graphics by doing more than merely showing where things are.


## Maps

Some maps are still created using a modern version of the transparency-on-screen tracing (by tracing over a scan). But highend software can produce highly complex datamaps by "marrying" spreadsheet data to a shape file.


## Maps

And of course, maps can still make for powerful and compelling visuals.


## Maps

Maps can also be reimagined in inventive ways. In these examples, maps are distorted so their shapes represent data. These are called "cartograms."


## Diagrams

Diagrams can be vitally important to stories. They let the reader know where, when and how something happened, explain complex processes, and take readers into places they otherwise wouldn't be able to go.


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## Unleashing the atom

When Albert Einstein unveiled his theory of relativity in 1905, he set in motion mankind's ability to understand and exploit the power of the atom. In the decades that followed, scientists developed impressive applications for this power, from the promise of nuclear energy
to the terrifying devastation of nuclear weapons.
How nuclear fission works
The entire process happens almost instantaneously.

A neutron is slammed into an atom's nucleus.

The impact splits the nucleus in two and releases at least two neutrons and energy.

The newly freed neutrons collide with other nuclei, splitting them the same way. The cycle produces a chain reaction, releasing exponentially larger quantities of energy.

Why uranium?


## Diagrams

Applications of nuclear fission

- NUCLEAR POWER


Up to 5\% U-235

How it works: A controlled nuclear chain reaction provides heat that converts water into steam. The steam drives a genera tor, producing electricity. One key by-product of the uranium fission process is plutonium, which can be used in nuclear weapons.

- NUCLEAR RESEARCH

Fuel used:
Some reactors use high-enriched uranium


More than $90 \%$ U-235
(Others use low enriched uranium)

How it works: A controlled nuclear chain reaction produces neutrons used for research. Sample uses: - Medicine: Production of isotopes for nuclear medicine - Agriculture: Developing methods of food irradiation and soil analysis

- Manufacturing: Determining the chemical properties of various materials
- NUCLEAR WEAPONS important to stories. They let the reader know where, when and how something happened, explain complex processes, and take readers into places they otherwise wouldn't be able to go.


An explosive detonates, sending a wedge of U-235 down a shaft toward a larger piece of U-235. The impact causes a nuclear chain reaction and a large explosion.

Sources: Sources: World Book Encyclopedia, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Dr. James Mato of Argonne National Laboratory

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Fixing Fallingwater
After it became clear in 1996 that the projecting terraces of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater would eventually collapse, the terraces were braced with temporary teel supports and engineers devised a
plan to reinforce the terraces. The
$\$ 11.5$ million project is
nearly complete.
's

 $\square 1$


rrace


## Sagging terraces

 THE PROBLEM Even before Fallingwater was finished in 1938, its terraces sagged under the weight of their tremendous load- 75 tons for the main-floor terrace and overhangs, and nearly 50 tons for the master bedroom terrace. Engineers say there was not enough steel reinforcement in the concrete beams of the main-floor terrace to support both.THE SOLUTION
After sandstone floors were removed, steel cables were placed on the side f each beam and were anchored in concrete blocks next to the end of he beams. The cables were tightened with hydraulic jacks. The tension in the cables counteracts the sagging of the terraces.

Cantilever beams Horizontal concrete beams that support the main-floor terrace They are reinforced with rods of steel and extend beyond their extend beyond their structural technique called a cantilever.

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## Charts

The visual display of quantitative data remains the most significant aspect and role of the infographic. This can be done in a number of different ways depending on the data.

A viewer's guide


## Charts

## Golden Arches battles slide in U.S. sales and stock price

McDonald's stock has failed to keep pace with its peers, sinking nearly $\$ 11$ per share since the second quarter ended in June. The stock's downward trend comes as the fast-food giant has posted small gains in its key U.S. restaurant business during the first half of this year.



## U.S. RESTAURANT SALES

By restaurant operator (with change from year-earlier period)

Second quarter (2002): \$5.25 billion


Sources: McDonald's Corp., Merrill Lynch
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Bar charts

## Line charts

## Pie charts

## Bar charts

Generally, bars are best used when the items to be compared are:

- Discreet, whole amounts
- Relatively few in number
- Relatively wide in range



## Line charts

Generally, line charts are a better choice when charting:

- Continuous amounts
- Rates
- Numbers with relatively small deviation

MONDAY'S DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE Minute-by-minute


## Line charts

Line charts are especially effective when comparing two or more data sets to each other on the same axis.

## Web watching on the rise



## Pie charts

Pie charts are named for their shape, and the fact that the data appear as "wedges" of a pie.

## THE PEROT EFFECT

The presence of a third-party candidate had a dramatic effect on the 1992 contest, won convincingly by Bill Clinton with significantly less than a majority of the vote.

Percentage of the popular vote, 1992 Presidential election


[^0]
## Pie charts

The absolute rule of pie charts is that the numbers add up to a total, that percentages equal 100, that the "whole" amount is somehow a meaningful number.


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## A slimmer Sara Lee <br> In an effort to reshape its portfolio, Chicago-based

Sara Lee Corp. announced Tuesday that it plans to dispose of several components and focus on food and beverage, intimates and underwear, and household products.

Sara Lee Corp. 1999 revenue: $\$ 20$ billion What's being cut \begin{tabular}{l|l}
Champion \& Coach <br>
Manufacturer, \& Designer,

 

$\begin{array}{l}\text { Manufacturer, } \\
\text { marketer and } \\
\text { distributor of }\end{array}$ \& $\begin{array}{l}\text { Coach } \\
\text { Designer, } \\
\text { producer and } \\
\text { marketer of }\end{array}$ <br>
\hline
\end{tabular} marketer and

distriuturo of
athetic and athletiot and

casual wear casual wear $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { ligh-quality } \\ & \text { leather goods }\end{aligned}$ | Revenue: |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 500$ million | \(\begin{aligned} \& Revenue: <br>

\& \$ 550 million\end{aligned}\) | Pct. of total: | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Pct. of total: } \\ 2.5 \text { percent }\end{array}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2.8 percent |  |



| $\begin{array}{l}\text { International } \\ \text { Fabrics } \\ \text { Producer of }\end{array}$ |
| :--- |
| . |



Producer of
material sold
to material sol
tom makes
intimate apparel.
Revenues
S400 milion


## Charts

Which of our three main charts - bar, line or pie - is the best choice for the following graphics?


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THE PEROT EFFECT The eresence ofa atird-party candidate had a dramatic
effect on the 1992 contest wonc
 with significanty lyss than a majo ority of the vote. Percentage of the popular vote, 1992 Presidentiol lection


- Annual snowfall totals for Bloomington, Indiana
- IDV student breakdown: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors
- U.S. minimum wage in real dollars (adjusted for inflation)


## Stacked

A variation - actually, a hybrid of the bar and pie charts - is the stacked column, where totals are brown down into subgroups, all of which can be compared.

## GOING FOR GOLD

The 36 gold medals won by the United States at the 2008 Summer Games matched their total from 2004 and was good for second in the overall standings, behind host China's fifty-one.

Total medals won by the United States during the Summer Olympic Games, I896-2008



NOTE:The Summer Games were not held in 1916, 1940 or 1944 because of World Wars I and II.The U.S. led a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games and did not participate. SOURCE: International Olympic Committee

## Bubbles

Another variation is the proportional symbol chart - AKA the bubble chart (when they're circles), which uses a circle to compare discrete amounts.

High mercury levels in skin lighteners
The Tribune bought skin lightening creams throughout Chicago, sending 50 samples to Columbia Analytical Services Inc. in Kelso, Wash., to be tested for mercury content. Six
were found to contain the toxic metal. Federal law bans mercury in skin lightening cream, though the metal is allowed in trace amounts - below 1 part per million - in other cosich


## Bubbles

This type of representation is often used on maps, as the circles can help locate where certain information pertains.

The challenges of Afghanistan today

theinsurgency The strength of the
Taliban and loosely Taliban and loosely
allied militant groups has grown dramaticaly over 2008 was the mo
iolent year since the U.S.S-led invasion
in 2001 in terms of in 2001 in terms of
deaths of Afghan civilians and

Ethnic divisions

POLITICS
President Hamid Karzai
faces a re-elect Kin faces a re-election bid on
Aug. 20. His pooularity has Aug. 20. His popularity has
plummeted, but the oppo piummete, but the oppo
sition is weak and divided.
 Western officials are
concerned that Karza has concerned that Karain has
allied with ex-warlords with serious records of human-
rights violations, including rights violations. including
one who is on his ticket as one who is on his ticket as a
vice eresidential contender.

## security

 Safety has deterSEafety has detetr-iorated sharoly in many areas of the
country, with road country, with roa
travel between maver cetween
maities be-
coming extremely coming extremely
dangerous. A few provincial capital are eirtually cut
off from the off from the
outside world
except by air


Foreign presence

Since the Soviets
1989-96
The Afghan civil war The Afghan civil wa
continues following
the Soviet departwe the soveset dolowarture,
ending with the evenending with the even
tual rise of the Tall$\int^{\substack{\text { ban, a militant } \\ \text { Islamic group } \\ \text { Iargely made }}}$ largely made up
of ethnic Pashtuns
educated in Pakistani educated in Pakistani
religious schools.

The Taliban The Taiban impose
an extreme form of
islam that include an extreme form o
Islam that includes
particulaty particularly harsh
treatment of wome treatment of wome
and giris. They also
provide sanctuary provide sanctuary
former mujahedeen former mujahedee
fighter Osama bin Laden and his a
Qaeda terrorist Organization. to surrender bin
Laden following the Laden following
Sept.1 terrorist attacks leads to the
Oct. 7 invasion by the Oct. 7 invasion by the
U.S. and its allies and the rapid deteriora-

2002-0 ${ }_{\text {A Aew Afghan }}^{2002-04}$ formed, highlighted by the 2004 ratifica-
tion of a constitution tion of a constitution
and the nation's first and the nations sirst
democratic presiden-
tial election tial election. 2005-present

## Balance of power

In class today, we will start work on a fairly simple infographic that would convey shifts in the balance of Congressional power over the previous three presidential administrations. What is the best approach to making this data visual?

House: 435 Seats

| No. | Year | President | Dem | Rep |  | Margin | Dem | Rep | Ind | Margin |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 103rd | 1993-95 | Clinton (D) | 258 | 176 | I | 82 | 57 | 43 | 0 | 14 |
| 104th | 1995-97 | Clinton (D) | 206 | 228 | 1 | 22 | 48 | 52 | 0 | 4 |
| 105th | 1997-99 | Clinton (D) | 207 | 226 | 2 | 19 | 45 | 55 | 0 | 10 |
| 106th | 1999-01 | Clinton (D) | 211 | 223 | 1 | 12 | 45 | 55 | 0 | 10 |
| 107th | 2001-03 | Bush (R) | 213 | 220 | 2 | 7 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 108th | 2003-20 | Bush (R) | 205 | 229 | 1 | 24 | 48 | 51 | I | 3 |
| 109th | 2005-07 | Bush (R) | 201 | 233 | 1 | 32 | 44 | 55 | I | 11 |
| 110th | 2007-09 | Bush (R) | 232 | 203 | 0 | 29 | 49 | 49 | 2 | 0 |
| IIIth | 2009-11 | Obama (D) | 257 | 178 | 0 | 79 | 57 | 41 | 2 | 16 |
| 112th | 2011-13 | Obama (D) | 193 | 242 | 0 | 49 | 51 | 47 | 2 | 4 |
| 113 th | 2013-15 | Obama (D) | 201 | 234 | 0 | 33 | 53 | 45 | 2 | 8 |
| 114th | 2015-17 | Obama (D) | 188 | 247 | 0 | 59 | 44 | 54 | 2 | 10 |

[^1]
## CHARTS IN ILLUSTRATOR

## CHARTS IN ILLUSTRATOR

## Chart tool

Adobe Illustrator features several chart tools. There are nine options for charts - you don't need to specify which your graphic will be before you create it, as you can always change the chart type once you have acquired the data.

Hill Column Graph Tool
(J)

Winf Stacked Column Graph Tool
E Bar Graph Tool
酉 Stacked Bar Graph Tool

- $\curvearrowleft$ Line Graph Tool
« Area Graph Tool
Scatter Graph Tool
(C) Pie Graph Tool
© Radar Graph Tool


## CHARTS IN ILLUSTRATOR

## New document

Open Illustrator and make a new page (Command-N). For graphics on the web, you need to use RGB color. Remember, the width of our page-wrap div is 600 pixels, so that is how wide this graphic should be. You can make the page wider than this, though, and modify the size later.


## Getting started

There are a variety of ways to add data to Illustrator so that you can use one of the chart tools. Select one of the tools - the one you think you want to use to visualize the data about the balance of power in Congress. Use this tool to draw a box on your (blank) page.


## Getting started

An empty spreadsheet - well, nearly empty - will open, awaiting some input of data. For this exercise, we will copy and paste the information we need from an Excel document.


## Getting data

The information for our graphic is in Excel format. You can find this in the Course Materials section (at the bottom) of the Links page on the syllabus website.

## DDV460

## INTERACTIVE DATA VIZ SPRING 16

## THE SYLLABUS

## Accounts you'll need

On the first day of class, you will create these two accounts (unless you have them already). The first will allow you to create your own website for our class, using the free web hosting available to you as an IU student. The second is a web-based code repository, where you can store and share your code. It is the largest host of source code in the world.

| The Mercury server... |
| :--- |
| For Pages info...$\quad$ kb.iu.edu/d/alcr |
| For Pages problems...$\quad$ www.iu.edu/~accrec/mypage_agreement |
| Code repository... |
| github.com |

## Course material

In this section, downloads of files we are using during in-class activities can be found. These files are in a variety of formats. Just click the link to download as needed!

## Getting started

Copy and past the data from Excel into your Illustrator chart spreadsheet. You can now see the visual representation of that data.


## GRAPHIC ANATOMY

## Headline

A good headline is written, like a story headline, to grab the reader's attention. It should be relatively short - it needn't fill its horizontal space - and directly reflect the information imparted by the graphic.

## GOING FOR GOLD

Ine 50 gotu medais won by tne United States at the 2008 Summer Games matched their total from 2004 and was good for second in the overall standings, behind host China's fifty-one.
Gold medals won by the United States during the Summer Olympic Games, I896-2008


NOTE:The Summer Games were not held in 1916, 1940 or 1944 because of World Wars I and II.The U.S. led a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games and did not participate. SOURCE: International Olympic Committee

## Explainer

Sometimes called "chatter", this brief paragraph summarizes the main idea of the graphic and applies context. Often, an explainer will offer a level of detail not shown in the visual section (the chart in this case).

## GOING FOR GOLD

The 36 gold medals won by the United States at the 2008 Summer Games matched their total from 2004 and was good for second in the overall standings, behind host China's fifty-one.
Gold medals won by the United States during the Summer Olympic Games, 1896-2008


NOTE:The Summer Games were not held in 1916, 1940 or 1944 because of World Wars I and II.The U.S. led a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games and did not participate. SOURCE: International Olympic Committee

## Label

A label lists the pertinent information shown in a chart and is best placed directly adjacent to it. The label should not contain any extraneous information, but it should be thorough. Sometimes, the label includes a small headline (for example, "Gold medals") above the descriptive text.

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## Figure

The "figure" in any graphic needs to be the vital visual component. It must be the focus of the graphic as a whole, and the visual representation of the graphic's main point.

## GOING FOR GOLD

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## X-axis

Bar charts are usually made up of two axes: the $X$ and the $Y$. The $X$ axis runs along the bottom of the chart, and is the label for what each bar represents in this case, Olympic years. The X -axis is often, but not always, a time measurement.

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## Y axis

The Y axis tracks the incremental values between zero at the bottom and the maximum. The highest charted number can exceed the $Y$ axis, though not by much. $Y$ axis numbers should be regular, whole numbers. Lines connect the $Y$ axis across the figure.

## GOING FOR GOLD

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## Call-outs

Focal information needs to be brought forward in a graphic, highlighted in a pointer box or similar device so that it is seen and understood at a glance. Key data should be bold.

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## Notes*

Additional chart information that helps explain gaps in the data, for example, or the methodology of poll data, is added at the bottom of the chart in small type (try 12 pixels or so).

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## Source

Every graphic needs a source - the origin for the information represented in the graphic. Sources should be authoritative - not Wikipedia, for example - and they can, and often do, include multiple sources.

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[^2]
## The key

Many graphics chart more than one variable. In such cases, you often need a key to provide readers with quick-scan knowledge of what the bars mean. A key should be prominent, easy to find, and usually directly above the chart.

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## Choosing charts

For more on Illustrator's charting, go to https://helpx.adobe.com/ illustrator/using/graphs.html



[^0]:    SOURCE: Federal Election Commission

[^1]:    Sources: United States House of Representatives, United States Senate

[^2]:    SOURCE: International Olympic Committee
    1940 or 1944 because of World Wars I and II.The U.S. led a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games and did not participate.

