

# Improving Data Visualization Literacy

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*Plug-and-Play Macroscopes Workshop at CNS, IU  
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*Language Communities of Twitter - Eric Fischer - 2012*

## Data Visualization Literacy Study

900 youth and adult visitors across six U.S. science museums. Results show that:

- a very high proportion of the population, both adult and youth, cannot interpret data visualizations beyond very basic reference systems;
- construction of complex visualizations led to more accurate interpretation than deconstruction; and
- individuals are willing to spend time attempting to make meaning in representations depending on their personal interest in the topic.

*Joint work with Adam V. Maltese, Russell N. Balliet, Joe Heimlich and the NYScience, SMM, WonderLab.*



## Study 2: Can 273 Science Museum Visitors Read 20 Visualizations?



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Visitors saw 5/20 visualizations and were asked to answer:

- Does this type of data presentation look at all familiar?
- Where might you have seen images like this?
- How do you think you read this type of data presentation?
- What would you call this type of data presentation?

			n=273
Male	Female	Not Recorded	
16.1	26.4	10.6	
Boy	Girl	Not Recorded	
19.4	21.2	6.2	

**Results omitted as paper is under review**

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## **Theoretically Grounded and Practically Useful Visualization Framework**



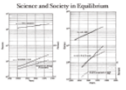



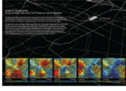








developed to empower the broadest spectrum of users to read and make data visualizations that are useful and meaningful to them.

The visualization framework was used to

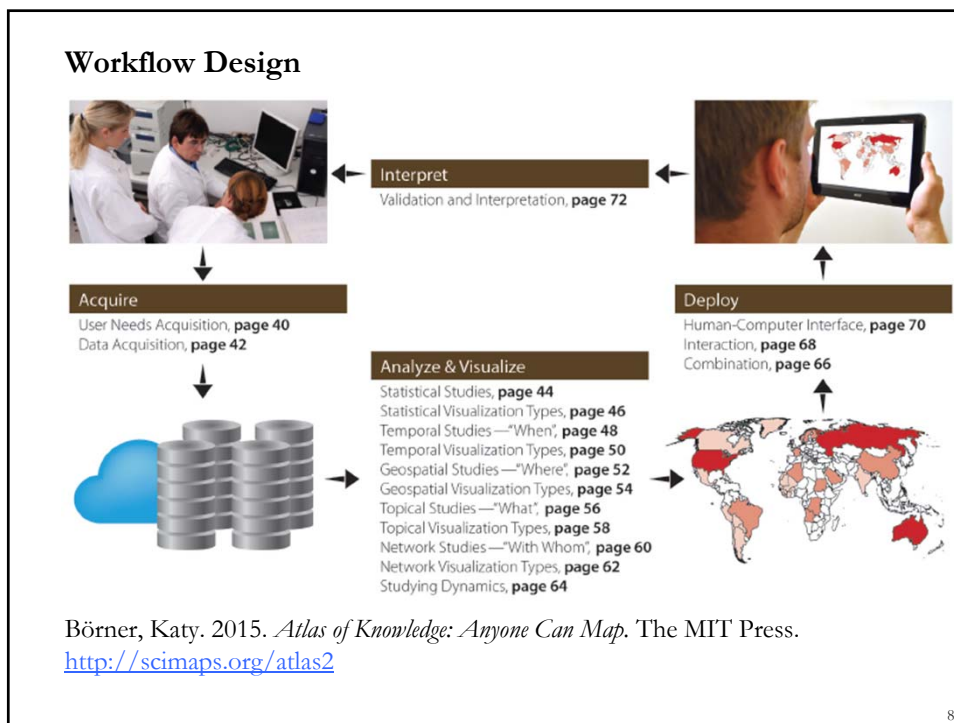
- design the aforementioned study and
- develop plug-and-play macroscope tools that improve the data visualization literacy of researchers, practitioners, IVMOOC students, museum visitors, and others.

Börner, Katy. 2015. *Atlas of Knowledge: Anyone Can Map*. The MIT Press. <http://scimaps.org/atlas2>



Tasks	LEVELS		
	MICRO: Individual Level about 1–1,000 records page 6	MESO: Local Level about 1,001–100,000 records page 8	MACRO: Global Level more than 100,000 records page 10
<b>TYPES</b>			
<b>Statistical Analysis</b> page 44	 Knowledge cartography page 135	 Productivity of Russian life sciences research teams page 105	 Number of scientists versus population and R&D costs versus GNP page 103
<b>WHEN: Temporal Analysis</b> page 48	 Visualizing decision-making processes page 95	 Key events in the development of the video tape recorder page 85	 Increased travel and communication speeds page 83
<b>WHERE: Geospatial Analysis</b> page 52	 Cell phone usage in Milan, Italy page 109	 Victorian poetry in Europe page 137	 Ecological footprint of countries page 99
<b>WHAT: Topical Analysis</b> page 56	 Evolving patent holdings of Apple Computer, Inc. and Jerome Lemelson page 89	 Evolving journal networks in nanotechnology page 139	 Product space showing co-export patterns of countries page 93
<b>WITH WHOM: Network Analysis</b> page 60	 World finance corporation network page 87	 Electronic and new media art networks page 133	 World-wide scholarly collaboration networks page 137

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## Types

Insight Need Types page 26	Data Scale Types page 28	Visualization Types page 30	Graphic Symbol Types page 32	Graphic Variable Types page 34	Interaction Types page 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• categorize/cluster</li> <li>• order/rank/sort</li> <li>• distributions (also outliers, gaps)</li> <li>• comparisons</li> <li>• trends (process and time)</li> <li>• geospatial</li> <li>• compositions (also of text)</li> <li>• correlations/relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nominal</li> <li>• ordinal</li> <li>• interval</li> <li>• ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• table</li> <li>• chart</li> <li>• graph</li> <li>• map</li> <li>• network layout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• geometric symbols                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• point</li> <li>• line</li> <li>• area</li> <li>• surface</li> <li>• volume</li> </ul> </li> <li>• linguistic symbols                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• text</li> <li>• numerals</li> <li>• punctuation marks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• pictorial symbols                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• images</li> <li>• icons</li> <li>• statistical glyphs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spatial                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• position</li> </ul> </li> <li>• retinal                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• form</li> <li>• color</li> <li>• optics</li> <li>• motion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overview</li> <li>• zoom</li> <li>• search and locate</li> <li>• filter</li> <li>• details-on-demand</li> <li>• history</li> <li>• extract</li> <li>• link and brush</li> <li>• projection</li> <li>• distortion</li> </ul>

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## Types

Basic Task Types								
Bertin, 1967	Wehrend & Lewis, 1996	Few, 2004	Yau, 2011	Rendgen & Wiedemann, 2012	Frankel, 2012	Tool: Many Eyes	Tool: Chart Chooser	Börner, 2014
selection	categorize			category				categorize/cluster
order	rank	ranking					table	order/rank/sort
	distribution	distribution					distribution	distributions (also outliers, gaps)
	compare	nominal comparison & deviation	differences		compare and contrast	compare data values	comparison	comparisons
		time series	patterns over time	time	process and time	track rises and falls over time	trend	trends (process and time)
		geospatial	spatial relations	location		generate maps		geospatial
quantity	part-to-whole	proportions			form and structure	see parts of whole, analyze text	composition	compositions (also of text)
association	correlate	correlation	relationships	hierarchy		relations between data points	relationship	correlations/relationships

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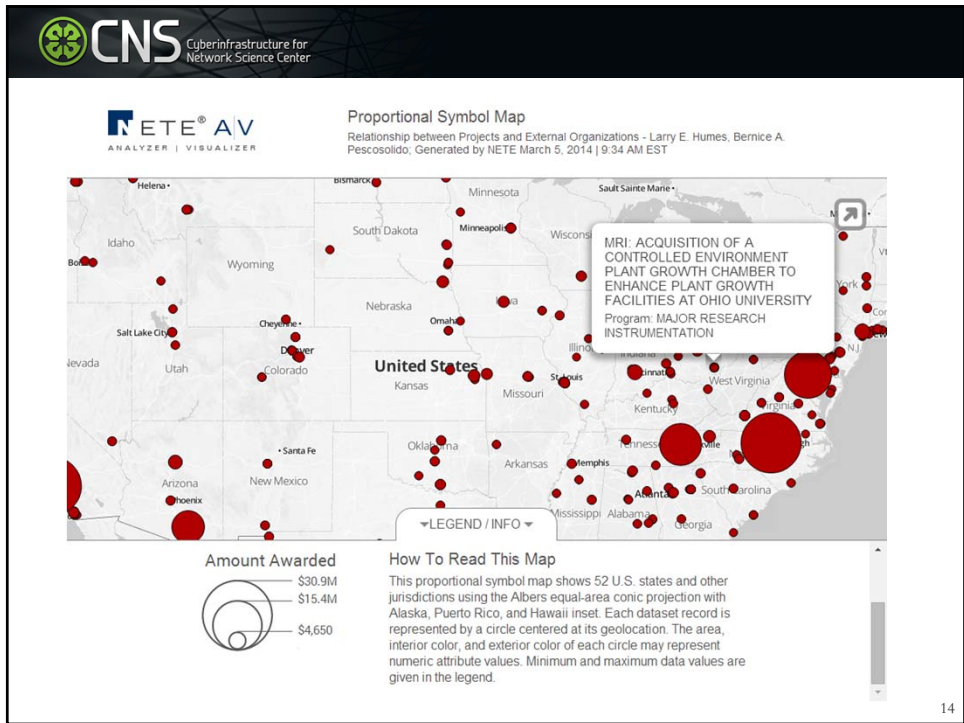
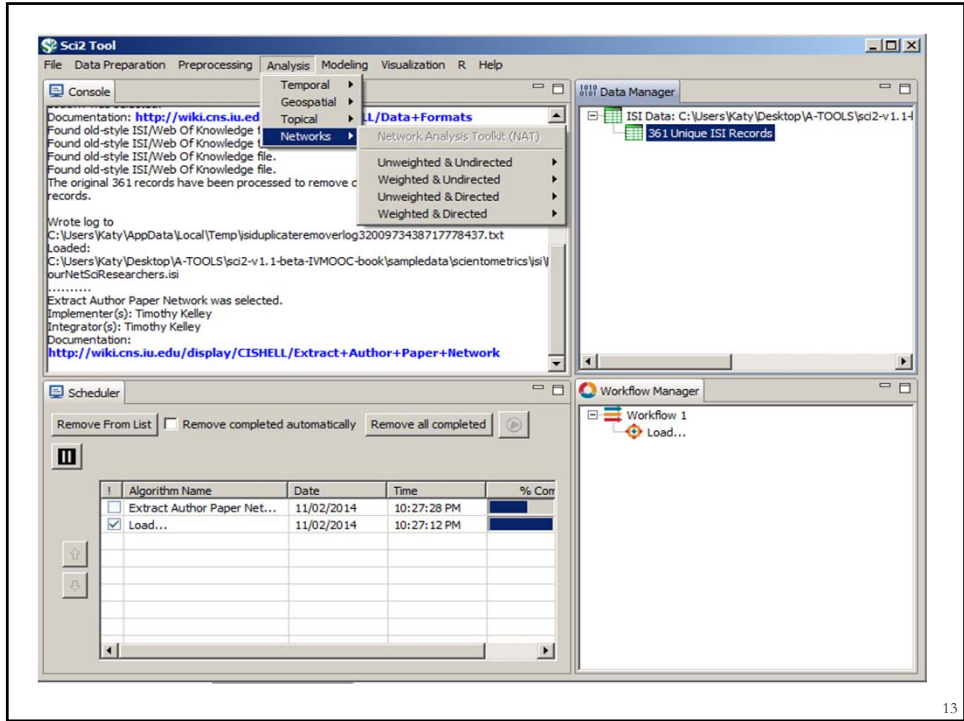
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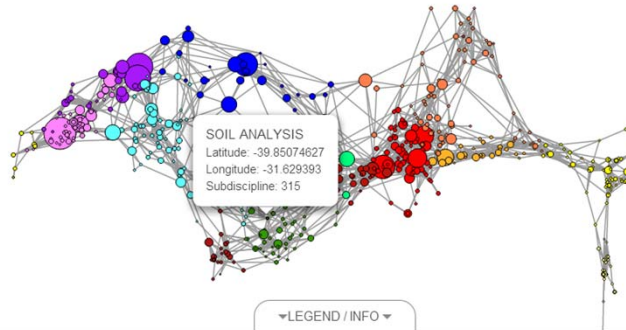
## Graphic Variable Types Versus Graphic Symbol Types

			Geometric Symbols		
			Point	Line	Area
Spatial	x	quantitative			
	y	quantitative			
	z	quantitative			
Form	Size	quantitative	NA (Not Applicable)		
	Shape	qualitative	NA		
	Rotation	quantitative	NA		
	Curvature	quantitative	NA		
	Angle	quantitative	NA		
Retinal	Closure	quantitative	NA		
	Value	quantitative			
	Hue	qualitative			
Color	Saturation	quantitative			



Topic Analysis - Map of Science

Generated from Publications for top 20 projects - Jeffrey R. Alberts, Larry E. Humes, Bernice A. Pescosolido and 9 others. Generated by NETE.



LEGEND / INFO

How To Read This Map

This map is a visual representation of 554 sub-disciplines within 13 disciplines of science and their relationships to one another, shown as points and lines connecting those points respectively. Over top this visualization is drawn the result of mapping a dataset's journals to the underlying sub-discipline(s) those journals contain. Mapped sub-disciplines are shown with size relative to the number of matching journals and color from the discipline.

Information Visualization MOOC

Overview

This course provides an overview about the state of the art in information visualization. It teaches the process of producing effective visualizations that take the needs of users into account.

This year, the course can be taken for three Indiana University credits as part of the Online Data Science Program just announced by the School of Informatics and Computing. Students interested in applying to the program can find more information here.

Among other topics, the course covers:

- Data analysis algorithms that enable extraction of patterns and trends in data
- Major temporal, geospatial, topical, and network visualization techniques
- Discussions of systems that drive research and development.

Just like last year, students will have the opportunity to collaborate on real-world projects for a variety of clients. Click here to see this year's list of clients and projects.

Everyone who registers gains free access to the Scholarly Database (26 million paper, patent, and grant records) and the Sci2 Tool (100+ algorithms and tools).

Please watch the introduction video to learn more.



Register for Course

IVMOOC 2014 course materials will be available until end of November 2014. The IVMOOC 2015 will open in January 2015 with new materials and a cloud computing setup.

Register for free at <http://ivmooc.cns.iu.edu>. Class will restart in January 2015.



## References

Börner, Katy, Chen, Chaomei, and Boyack, Kevin. (2003). **Visualizing Knowledge Domains**. In Blaise Cronin (Ed.), *ARIST*, Medford, NJ: Information Today, Volume 37, Chapter 5, pp. 179-255. <http://ivl.slis.indiana.edu/km/pub/2003-borner-arist.pdf>

Shiffrin, Richard M. and Börner, Katy (Eds.) (2004). **Mapping Knowledge Domains**. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 101(Suppl\_1). [http://www.pnas.org/content/vol101/suppl\\_1/](http://www.pnas.org/content/vol101/suppl_1/)

Börner, Katy, Sanyal, Soma and Vespignani, Alessandro (2007). **Network Science**. In Blaise Cronin (Ed.), *ARIST*, Information Today, Inc., Volume 41, Chapter 12, pp. 537-607. <http://ivl.slis.indiana.edu/km/pub/2007-borner-arist.pdf>

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Scharnhorst, Andrea, Börner, Katy, van den Besselaar, Peter (2012) **Models of Science Dynamics**. Springer Verlag.

Katy Börner, Michael Conlon, Jon Corson-Rikert, Cornell, Ying Ding (2012) **VIVO: A Semantic Approach to Scholarly Networking and Discovery**. Morgan & Claypool.

Katy Börner and David E Polley (2014) **Visual Insights: A Practical Guide to Making Sense of Data**. MIT Press.



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All papers, maps, tools, talks, press are linked from <http://cns.iu.edu>  
 These slides will soon be at <http://cns.iu.edu/docs/presentations>  
 CNS Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cnscenter>  
 Mapping Science Exhibit Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mappingscience>

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