

# DATA COLLECTION

WESLEY WILLETT

VISUAL ANALYTICS

24 SEPT 2014

# WHERE DOES DATA COME FROM?

**We tend to think of data as a thing...**  
**in a database...**  
**somewhere...**

# WHY DO YOU NEED DATA?

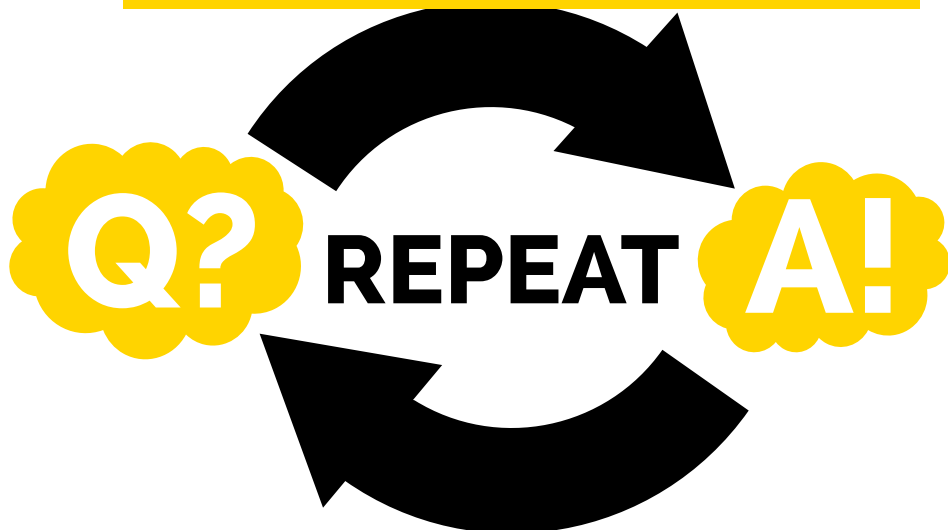
**(HINT: Usually, because you have a question you need to answer!)**

**DATA ➡ ANSWERS**



# ANALYSIS IS A CYCLE

GATHERING DATA,  
APPLYING STATISTICAL TOOLS,  
AND CONSTRUCTING GRAPHICS  
TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS



INSPECT "ANSWERS" AND  
ASSESS NEW QUESTIONS

**(SOMETIMES YOU'LL  
ALREADY START WITH DATA...)**

**“EXPLORATORY  
DATA ANALYSIS”**



**JOHN TUKEY**

We'll revisit this later in the course...

**(...BUT OFTEN YOU START  
WITH A QUESTION AND NEED  
TO COLLECT DATA TO FIT IT)**

# CHOOSING A QUESTION

“How has language evolved over time?”

“What will the weather be like next month?”

“Are the right people are seeing my  
advertisements?”

“What is the current temperature?”



# A PROBLEM OF SCALE

**CHALLENGING  
TO FIND DATA**

"How has language evolved over time?"

"What will the weather be like next month?"

"Are the right people seeing my  
advertisements?"

**NOT AS  
INTERESTING**

"What is the current temperature?"

# HOW TO OBTAIN DATA?

## COLLECT IT

- OBSERVATION
- SURVEYS
- LOGGING
- SENSORS
- CROWDSOURCING

## FIND OR EXTRACT IT

- OPEN CORPUSES
- DATA RETAILERS
- APIS
- SCRAPING THE WEB

## GENERATE IT

- SIMULATIONS

ALL OF THESE HAVE  
**PROS/CONS**

# THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE

**This lecture is intended to expose you to just a few useful data sources and collection methods.**

# COLLECTING DATA

Choosing the best way to capture information you need.

# **SURVEYS**

Paper surveys / In person interviews

**STILL ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET  
DETAILED DATA OR DATA ABOUT  
SENSITIVE SUBJECTS**

# SURVEYS ONLINE

The image displays three overlapping browser windows, each showcasing a different online survey platform. The leftmost window shows the Qualtrics homepage with the text 'Ask Questions Get Answers' and a diagram illustrating the process from 'Collect' to 'Analyze'. The middle window shows a SurveyMonkey survey titled 'University Student Satisfaction' with two questions about teaching effectiveness. The rightmost window shows the Google Consumer Surveys interface with a bar chart titled 'What would most influence your decision to buy clothes online instead of in-store?'.

**Qualtrics: Online Survey Software**  
www.qualtrics.com  
Ask Questions  
Get Answers  
Collect → Analyze  
Create your first survey

**SurveyMonkey®**  
University Student Satisfaction  
1. How well do the professors teach at this university?  
☐ Extremely well  
☐ Quite well  
☒ Moderately well  
☐ Slightly well  
☐ Not at all well  
2. How effective is the teaching outside your major area of study?  
☐ Extremely effective  
☐ Very effective  
☐ Moderately effective  
☐ Slightly effective  
This survey asks students to assess educational, social, and academic life at the university. How effective is the teaching? Is their academic life safe on campus? When you get to know what your students' programs and your overall enrollment and retain students. Can you ask questions if you want to know how students experienced school?

**Google consumer surveys**  
www.google.com/insights/consumersurveys/home  
What would most influence your decision to buy clothes online instead of in-store?  
Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender, Region. (1,538 responses) @ Winner statistically significant. @  
Free shipping 40.9% (±0.7 / -0.8)  
Online discounts 24.9% (±0.4 / -0.5)  
Ability to return in store 16.4% (±0.4 / -0.5)  
Free returns 16.1% (±0.4 / -0.5)

To find out what people really think, just ask the Internet.  
When you want answers to your business questions, you need to reach everyday people — not just those who choose to participate in research panels.


# CROWDSOURCING DATA COLLECTION

Amazon Mechanical Turk

https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome

## HITs containing 'short survey'

11-20 of 49 Results

Sort by:   [Show all details](#) | [Hide all details](#) [First](#) << [Previous](#) < 1 2 3 4 5 > [Next](#) >> [Last](#)

Answer a short survey about Work Team Dynamics		<a href="#">Request Qualification (Why?)</a>   <a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>	
Requester:	<a href="#">Whitney Ohmer</a>	HIT Expiration Date:	Oct 12, 2014 (2 weeks 5 days)
		Reward:	\$0.25
Time Allotted:	60 minutes	HITs Available:	1
Answer a short survey about Work Team Dynamics		<a href="#">Request Qualification (Why?)</a>   <a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>	
Requester:	<a href="#">Whitney Ohmer</a>	HIT Expiration Date:	Oct 12, 2014 (2 weeks 5 days)
		Reward:	\$0.25
Time Allotted:	60 minutes	HITs Available:	1
Short Survey		<a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>	
Requester:	<a href="#">David Tannenbaum</a>	HIT Expiration Date:	Oct 12, 2014 (2 weeks 5 days)
		Reward:	\$0.10
Time Allotted:	60 seconds	HITs Available:	1
Short survey about website experience (on average it takes 13 minutes)		Not Qualified to work on this HIT ( <a href="#">Why?</a> )   <a href="#">View a HIT in this group</a>	

# WEB LOGGING

**Tracking Visits, Click-Throughs, and Traffic Patterns and other measures of User Activity.**

- Google Analytics
- Open Web Analytics
- and many others...



# EDITS & ACCESS LOGS ON WIKIPEDIA

Wikipedia:Statistics: Revision history

en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia:Statistics&action=history

Create account Login

Project page Talk Read Edit View history Search

## Wikipedia:Statistics: Revision history

[View logs for this page](#)

Browse history

From year (and earlier): 2014 From month (and earlier): all Tag filter:

Go

For any version listed below, click on its date to view it.

# SENSORS

- Weather stations
- Personal activity trackers
- Cameras
- Mobile phones



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- CROWDSOURCING

## FIND OR EXTRACT IT

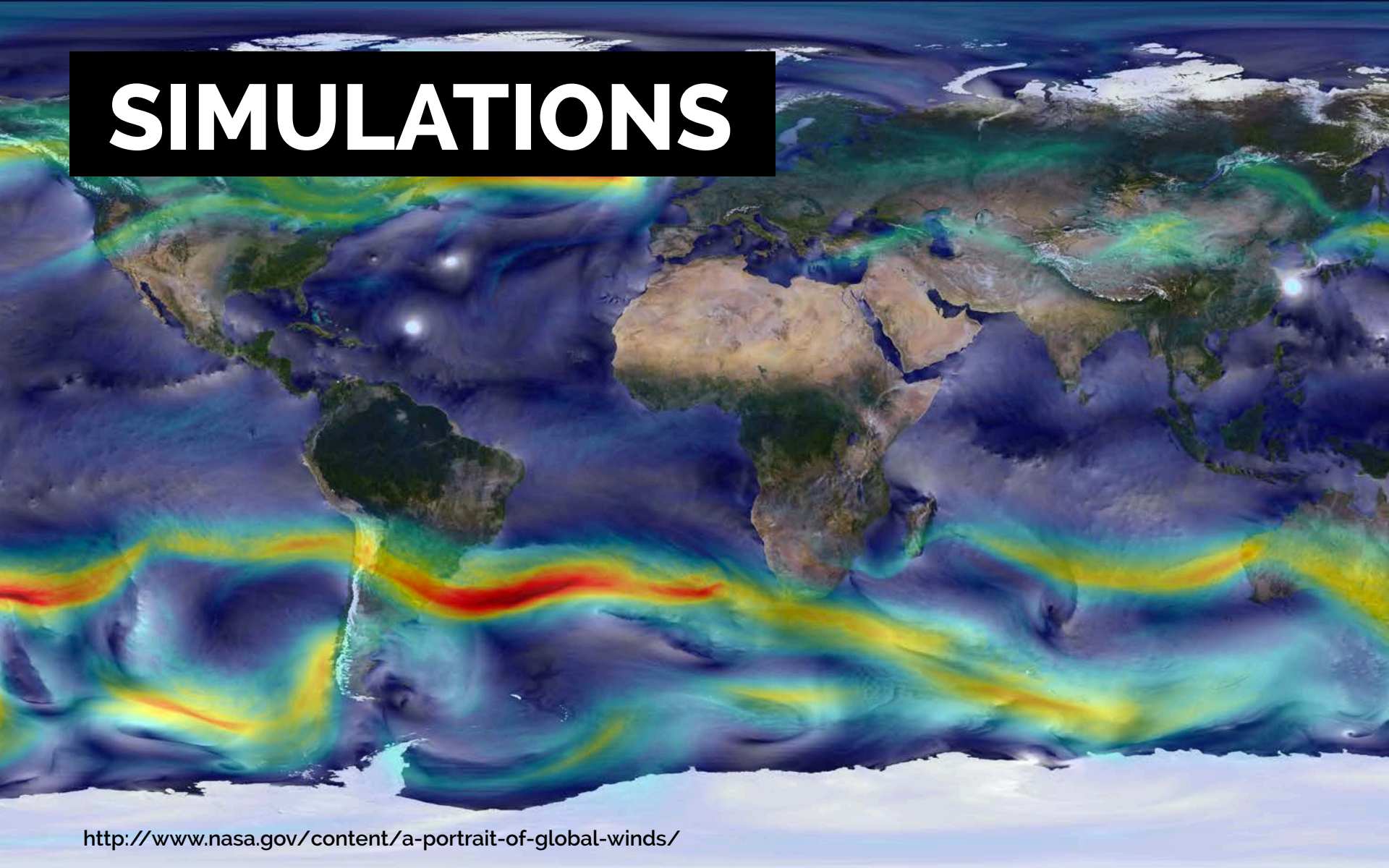
- OPEN CORPUSES
- DATA RETAILERS
- APIS
- SCRAPING THE WEB

## GENERATE IT

- SIMULATIONS

**GENERATING DATA**

# SIMULATIONS



<http://www.nasa.gov/content/a-portrait-of-global-winds/>



# The Upshot

EDITED BY DAVID LEONHARDT

FOLLOW US:   

GET THE UPSHOT IN YOUR INBOX

 SHARE

## Is It Better to Rent or Buy?

By MIKE BOSTOCK, SHAN CARTER and ARCHIE TSE

The choice between buying a home and renting one is among the biggest financial decisions that many adults make. But the costs of buying are more varied and complicated than for renting, making it hard to tell which is a better deal. To help you answer this question, our calculator takes the most important costs associated with buying a house and computes the equivalent monthly rent. [RELATED ARTICLE](#)

### Home Price

A very important factor, but not



If you can rent a similar home for less than ...



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FINDING AND EXTRACTING

EXISTING DATA

**LARGE OPEN CORPUSES**



# DBPEDIA



## About: Iceland

An Entity of Type : [place](#), from Named Graph :  
<http://dbpedia.org>, within Data Space : [dbpedia.org](#)

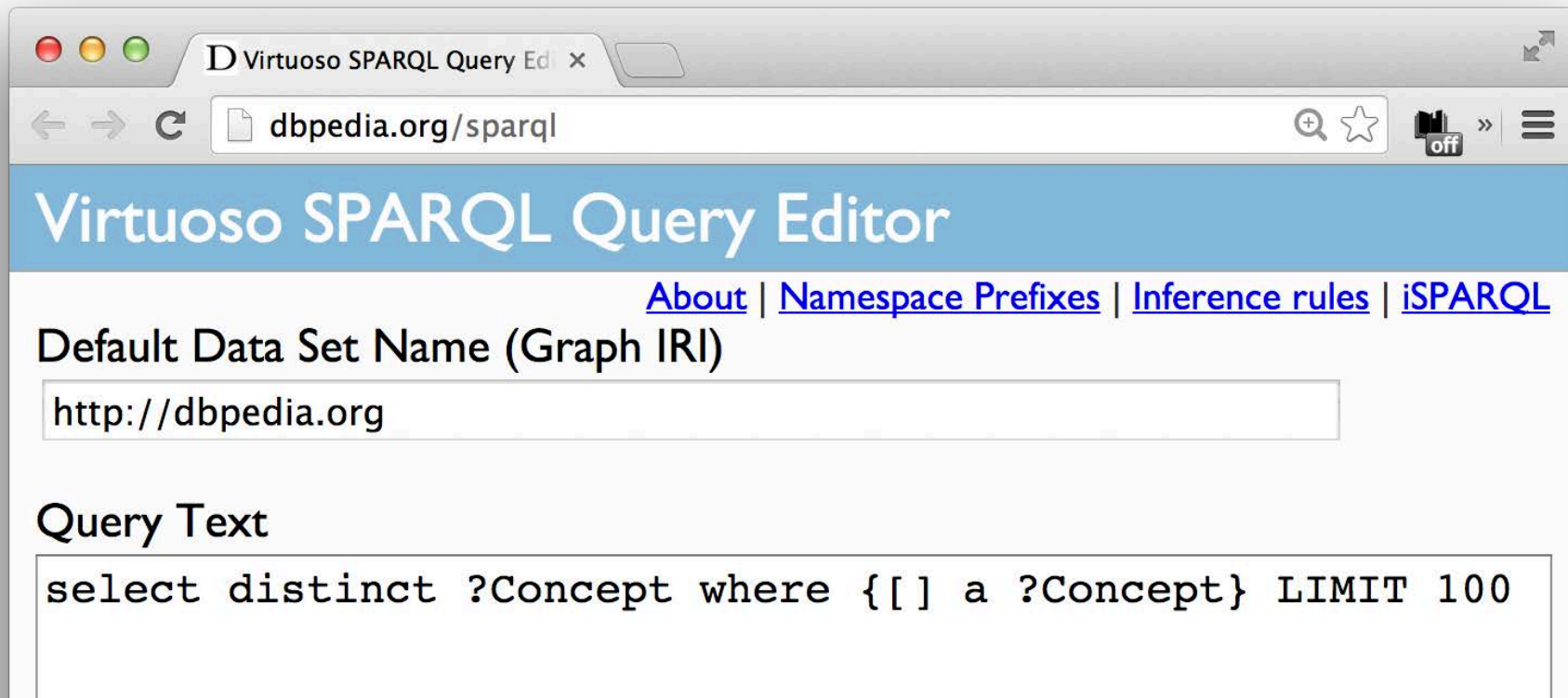


Iceland /ˈaɪslənd/ (Icelandic: Ísland [ˈistlant]), sometimes referred to in full as the Republic of Iceland (Lýðveldið Ísland), is a Nordic island country marking the juncture between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean, on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The country has a population of 325,671 and a total area of 103,000 km<sup>2</sup> (40,000 sq mi), which makes it the most sparsely populated country in Europe.

**Property**

**Value**

# QUERYING DBPEDIA



# FREEBASE

Freebase

https://www.freebase.com

Freebase Find... Browse Query Help Sign In or Sign Up English

2,653,581,676

Facts  
(and counting)

A community-curated database of well-known people, places, and things

Data

Schema

Queries

Apps

Loads

Review Tasks

Users

## Explore Freebase Data

Domain	ID	Topics	Facts
<a href="#">Music</a>	/music	29M	200M
<a href="#">Books</a>	/book	6M	15M
<a href="#">Media</a>	/media_common	5M	16M

## How can you get started?

### Learn how it works

Discover what kind of information Freebase contains, how it's organized, and how Freebase allows you to uniquely identify identities anywhere on the web




# PROJECT GUTENBERG

Project Gutenberg offers 46,845 free ebooks to download.

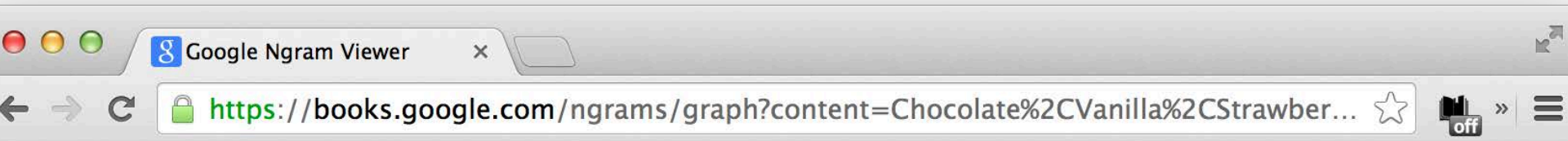
[Search](#) [Latest](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Bookmarks](#) [Donate?](#) [Mobile](#)

Search Project Gutenberg. <: Help

## All Books (sorted by popularity)

	<a href="#">Sort Alphabetically</a>		<a href="#">The Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana</a>
	<a href="#">Sort by Release Date</a>		Vatsyayana 13285 downloads

# GOOGLE N-GRAMS



## Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:  ☐ case-insensitive

between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of  . [Search lots of books](#)



# FINDING AND EXTRACTING EXISTING DATA

**GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
DATA INITIATIVES**



# DATA.WORLDBANK.ORG

THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD · IDA  
Working for a World Free of Poverty

English


Home About **Data** Research Learning News Projects & Operations

## Data

By Country By Topic Indicators Data Catalog Microdata

This page in English Español Français العربية 中文

**World Bank Open Data:** free and open access to data about development in countries and territories



**Launch of a live, interactive application for the India Country Partnership Strategy**  
Posted on 22 Sep 2014

**Global child mortality rate dropped 49% since 1990**  
Emi Suzuki | Posted on 16 Sep 2014

**Taking a closer look at youth-related data: regional trends, differences**  
Hiroko Maeda | Posted on 2 Sep 2014

[View all news](#) | [View all blogs](#) »

**Find an indicator**  
GNI per capita, Atlas method

**BROWSE DATA**

**By Country**

**Indicators**

**FEATURED**

**World Development Indicators**

**Open Finances**

**Projects & Operations**

**Open Governance**

**Toolkit**

[For developers](#)

Data Lab - OECD  
www.oecd.org/statistics/datalab/#d.en.227006

OECD  
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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Franglais

OECD Home About Countries Topics **Statistics** Newsroom

- > Agriculture and fisheries
- > Bribery and corruption
- > Chemical safety and biosafety
- > Competition
- > Corporate governance
- > Development
- > Economy
- > Education
- > Employment
- > Environment
- > Finance
- > Green growth and sustainable development
- > Health
- > Industry and entrepreneurship
- > Innovation
- > Insurance and pensions
- > International migration
- > Internet
- > Investment
- > Public governance
- > Regional, rural and urban development
- > Regulatory reform
- > Science and technology
- > Social and welfare issues
- > Tax
- > Trade

topics : all

Agriculture and fisheries  
Competition Development  
Economy Education  
Employment Energy  
Environment Finance Green  
growth and sustainable  
development Health Industry

**Product Market Regulation**

**OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook**

**Environmental Outlook**

**Climate Change**

**Economic Outlook projections**

**Employment Outlook**

**Adult Skills**

**Urban Explorer**

**Facebook on iPhone**

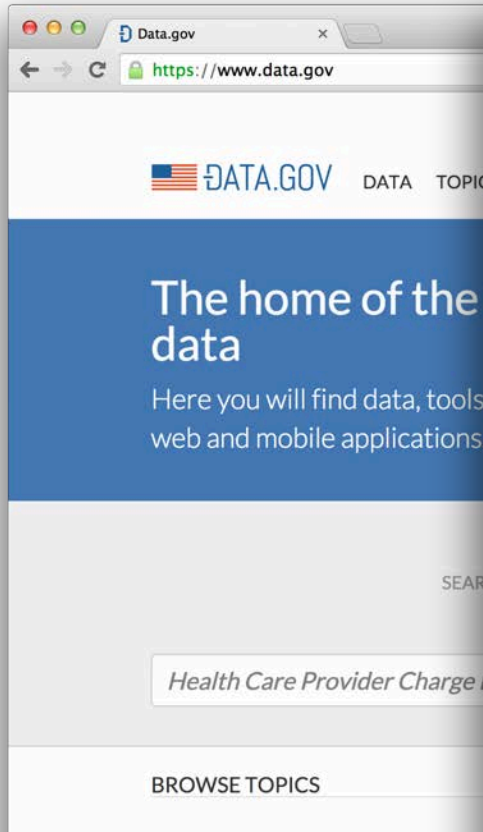
# DATA.OECD.ORG

# GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

WWW.DATA.GOV (US)

DATA.GOV.UK

DATA.GOV.BE



Browser: Data.gov  
URL: https://www.data.gov

DATA.GOV DATA TOPICS

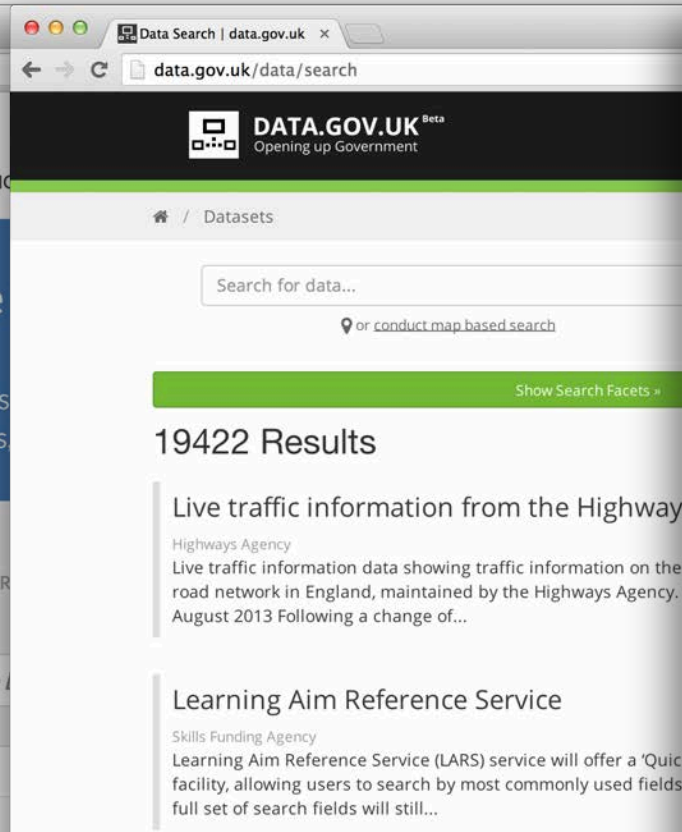
The home of the data

Here you will find data, tools, web and mobile applications

SEARCH

Health Care Provider Charge

BROWSE TOPICS



Browser: Data Search | data.gov.uk  
URL: data.gov.uk/data/search

DATA.GOV.UK Beta  
Opening up Government

/ Datasets

Search for data...

or [conduct map based search](#)

Show Search Facets »

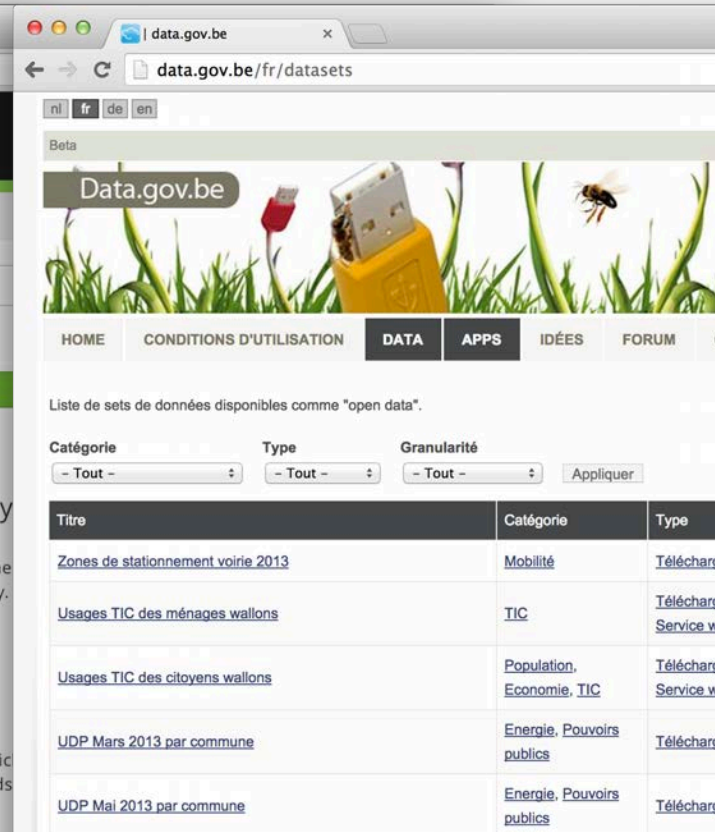
19422 Results

Live traffic information from the Highway

Highways Agency  
Live traffic information data showing traffic information on the road network in England, maintained by the Highways Agency. August 2013 Following a change of...

Learning Aim Reference Service

Skills Funding Agency  
Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS) service will offer a 'Quick facility, allowing users to search by most commonly used fields full set of search fields will still...



Browser: data.gov.be  
URL: data.gov.be/fr/datasets

fr de en

Beta

Data.gov.be

HOME CONDITIONS D'UTILISATION DATA APPS IDÉES FORUM

Liste de sets de données disponibles comme "open data".

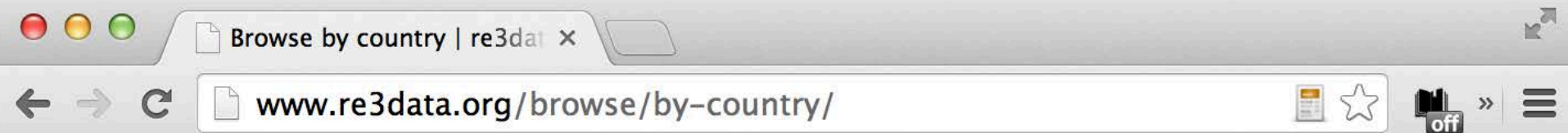
Catégorie Type Granularité

- Tout - - Tout - - Tout - Appliquer

Titre	Catégorie	Type
<a href="#">Zones de stationnement voirie 2013</a>	Mobilité	Téléchargement
<a href="#">Usages TIC des ménages wallons</a>	TIC	Téléchargement Service web
<a href="#">Usages TIC des citoyens wallons</a>	Population, Economie, TIC	Téléchargement Service web
<a href="#">UDP Mars 2013 par commune</a>	Energie, Pouvoirs publics	Téléchargement
<a href="#">UDP Mai 2013 par commune</a>	Energie, Pouvoirs publics	Téléchargement



# NEW DATA INITIATIVES JUST TO TRACK ALL THE DATA INITIATIVES

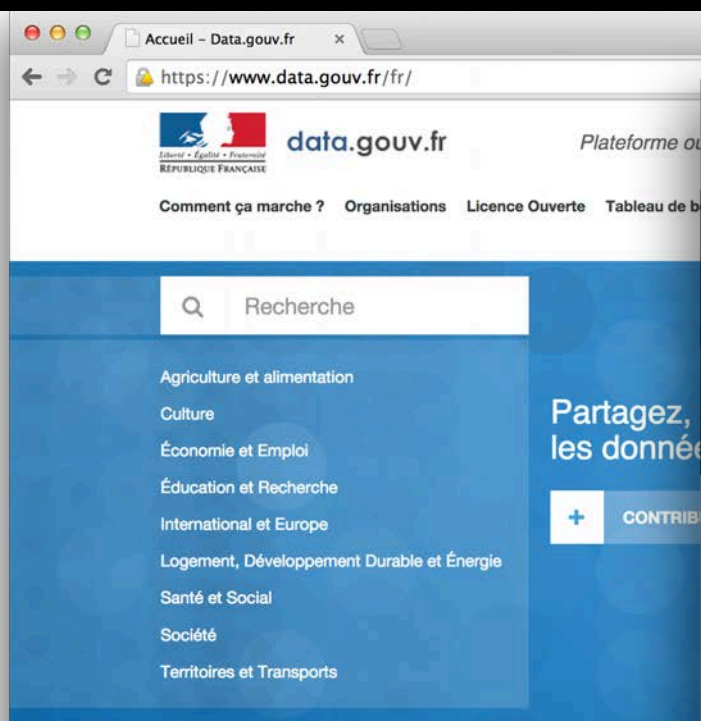


**re3data.org**  
REGISTRY OF RESEARCH DATA REPOSITORIES

Home Search **Browse** Suggest FAQ  
About Schema Contact Imprint

# INITIATIVES IN FRANCE

**HTTP://DATA.GOUV.FR**



**HTTP://OPENDATA.PARIS.FR/EXPLORE/**

# FINDING AND EXTRACTING EXISTING DATA

**OTHER PUBLIC DATA REPOSITORIES**

# MORE REPOSITORIES

**VISUALIZING.ORG**

<http://visualizing.org/data/browse>

**AMAZON PUBLIC DATA HOSTING**

<http://aws.amazon.com/publicdatasets/>

**GOOGLE PUBLIC DATA**

<http://www.google.com/publicdata/directory>

# FINDING AND EXTRACTING EXISTING DATA

**DATA RETAILERS**

# DATA RETAILERS

**AZURE DATA MARKET**

<https://datamarket.azure.com/browse/data>

**FACTUAL**

<http://www.factual.com/>

AND AGAIN, THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE...

# FINDING AND EXTRACTING EXISTING DATA

**APIS**

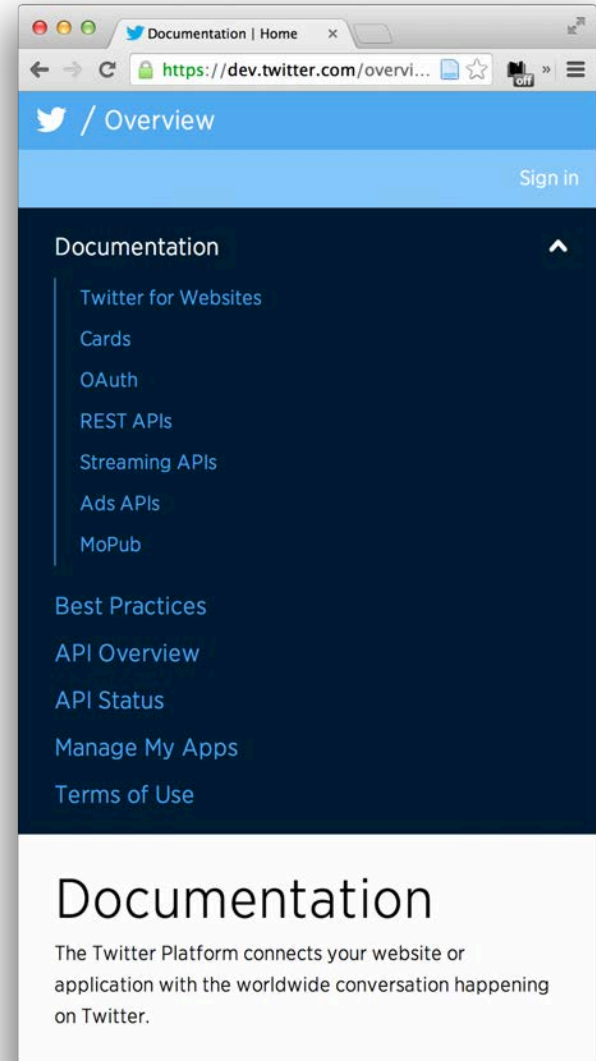
# TWITTER

**Streaming APIs** (live data by users and by topics)

**The “Firehose”** (all of live twitter)

**Complete Archives** via “Gnip” and eventually the US Library of Congress

[HTTPS://DEV.TWITTER.COM](https://dev.twitter.com)





# CNN #COP17 ECOSPHERE PROJECT

The CNN #COP17 ECOSPHERE  
Project launched on 14  
November 2011.

This is a timeline of how the  
ECOSPHERE develops in the  
build-up to the COP17  
Conference in Durban.

◀ Back to ECOSPHERE



1276 tweets

[HTTP://CNN-ECOSPHERE.COM/](http://CNN-ECOSPHERE.COM/)

◀ 14 Nov 2011 ▶

ECOSPHERE TIMELINE

Learn More  
about the project

CNN.com

# Tottenham Riots

402 sources sharing 551 tweets matching "tottenhamriots" or "tottenham"

## Search

## Sort

## Show Sources (showing 8 of 10 sources loaded)

All Ordinary People Journalists / Bloggers Organizations Uncategorized Eyewitnesses

 Daniel Carr, @daniel\_carr (2 years, 3 months old)



Myself in 160 characters: Schizophrenic. Also a criminologist

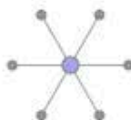
NETWORK SKETCH

213

Followers

163

Following



FRIENDS' LOCATIONS



London, GB  
34.48%



Glasgow, GB  
5.17%



Manchester, GB  
3.45%

TOP ENTITIES MENTIONED HISTORICALLY

Bruce Grove, Tottenham Hale, London, BBC, Haha,

London, United Kingdom



Journo/Blogger

41

RTed

56

Klout

## Show Tweets

All Exclude RTs Images & Videos

31 Tweets

#tottenham #tottenhamriots Fire near Bruce Grove Station, larger one towards Lordship Lane  
Aug. 6, 2011, 11:27 p.m.

#tottenham #tottenhamriots @MrsCheddies by Bruce Grove I mean north of previous fires, on High Rd towards Lordship Lane  
Aug. 6, 2011, 11:24 p.m.

@hackneyhive yeah around that area there are 2 fires, one small now, one very large #tottenham #tottenhamriots

Aidan Rowe, @Aidan\_Rowe (1 year, 2 months old)



Post-punk, proto-utopian, anarchist, activist, musician, blogger, student, failed comedian.

<http://redwriters1.blogspot.com>

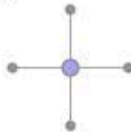
NETWORK SKETCH

215

Followers

395

Following



FRIENDS' LOCATIONS



Dublin, IE  
43.48%



London, GB  
4.35%



Cork, IE  
1.74%

TOP ENTITIES MENTIONED HISTORICALLY

Oslo, BBC, Dublin, Dermot Mulqueen, Johann Hari,



Ordinary Person

23

RTed

49

Klout

5 Tweets

"Why couldn't the people in #Tottenham just have held a nice dignified protest for us to ignore?" - Liberals #tottenhamriots

Aug. 7, 2011, 12:49 a.m.

Any reports of arrests? #tottenham #tottenhamriots Hope everyone is safe. #acab

# SRSR

[DIAKOPOULOS ET AL. 2012]

# GOOGLE EARTH ENGINE

[HTTPS://EARTHENGINE.GOOGLE.ORG/](https://earthengine.google.org/)



1984

2012

# MORE APIS

## (APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACES)

### NEW YORK TIMES APIS

<http://developer.nytimes.com/>

(Archival news articles from 1851, books, movies, geographical, and political data)

### ECHONEST APIS

<http://developer.echonest.com/>

(Incredibly detailed Song, Album, Artist data for millions of musicians)

### OPEN STREET MAP

<http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/API>

(Detailed location and map data for the whole world)

# AND THE LIST GOES ON!

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the ProgrammableWeb website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `www.programmableweb.com/category/all/apis?order=field_popu...`. The website header features the ProgrammableWeb logo, which consists of a blue puzzle piece icon and the text "ProgrammableWeb". Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search Over 12,008 APIs" and a blue "Search APIs" button. Under the search bar, there is a "Filter APIs" section with two dropdown menus: "By Category" and "By Protocols/Formats". To the right of these dropdowns is a checkbox labeled "Include Deprecated APIs". At the bottom of the page, there is a section for "API Name" and "Google Maps".

Medical, Education, Health x

www.programmableweb.com/category/all/apis?order=field\_popu...

Search Over 12,008 APIs Search APIs

Filter APIs

By Category By Protocols/Formats Include Deprecated APIs

API Name Google Maps

**(PROGRAMMABLEWEB.COM IS  
A GREAT REFERENCE)**

Mapping

12.05.2005

# FINDING AND EXTRACTING EXISTING DATA

**SCRAPING THE WEB**

# WHY SCRAPE?

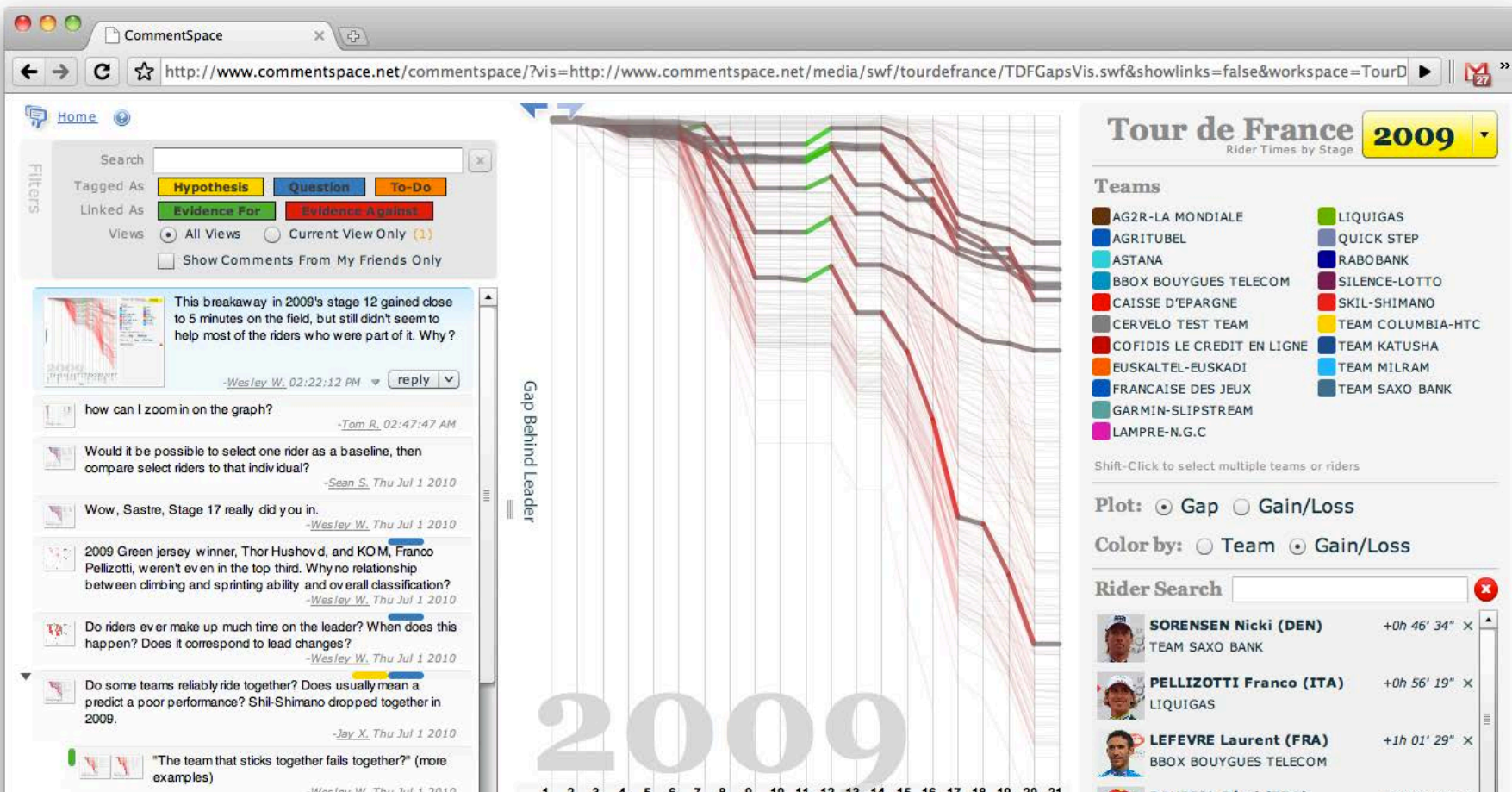
No API exists for the data you want  
(can't access the right data, wrong format, etc.)

Simplicity – Usually don't need to  
authenticate, no rate-limiting, etc.

Want to capture context of pages or  
relationship between them.



# FOR EXAMPLE...





le  
TOUR  
de FRANCE

07/05 > 07/27/2014



EN

Sunday July 27th, 2014

## Stage 21 Évry / Paris Champs-Élysées

STAGE FINISHED



19:16 Top 5



19:14 The winner is... Marcel Kittel



19:10 All together with 3km to go

THE RACE

ROUTE

CLASSIFICATIONS

TEAMS

VIDEOS & PHOTOS

HISTORY

STORE

Search



PARIS  
TOURS

12/10/2014

PREVIOUS

SUNDAY, JULY 27TH - STAGE 21 137.5km  
Évry / Paris Champs-Élysées

NEXT



Individual



Points



Team



Climber



Youth



Combative

## Overall individual time classification

Total distance covered: 3660.5 KM



RANK	RIDER	RIDER NO.	TEAM	TIMES	GAP
1.	NIBALI Vincenzo	41	ASTANA PRO TEAM	89h 59' 06"	
2.	PÉRAUD Jean-Christophe	81	AG2R LA MONDIALE	90h 06' 43"	+ 07' 37"
3.	PINOT Thibaut	127	FDJ.FR	90h 07' 21"	+ 08' 15"
4.	VALVERDE BELMONTE Alejandro	11	MOVISTAR TEAM	90h 08' 46"	+ 09' 40"
5.	VAN GARDEREN Tejay	141	BMC RACING TEAM	90h 10' 30"	+ 11' 24"
6.	BARDET Romain	82	AG2R LA MONDIALE	90h 10' 32"	+ 11' 26"
7.	KONIG Leopold	201	TEAM NETAPP-ENDURA	90h 13' 38"	+ 14' 32"
8.	ZUBELDIA AGIRRE Haimar	169	TREK FACTORY RACING	90h 17' 03"	+ 17' 57"
9.	TEN DAM Laurens	67	BELKIN PRO CYCLING	90h 17' 17"	+ 18' 11"
10.	MOLLEMA Bauke	61	BELKIN PRO CYCLING	90h 20' 21"	+ 21' 15"
11.	ROLLAND Pierre	151	TEAM EUROPCAR	90h 22' 13"	+ 23' 07"
12.	SCHLECK Frank	161	TREK FACTORY RACING	90h 24' 54"	+ 25' 48"
13.	VAN DEN BROECK Jurgen	131	LOTTO-BELISOL	90h 33' 07"	+ 34' 01"
14.	TROFIMOV Yury	29	TEAM KATUSHA	90h 35' 47"	+ 36' 41"
15.	KRUIJSWIJK Steven	64	BELKIN PRO CYCLING	90h 37' 21"	+ 38' 15"
16.	FEILLU Brice	211	BRETAGNE - SECHE ENVIRONNEMENT	90h 43' 05"	+ 43' 59"
17.	HORNER Christopher	114	LAMPRE - MERIDA	90h 43' 37"	+ 44' 31"
18.	NIEVE ITURRALDE Mikel	5	TEAM SKY	90h 45' 37"	+ 46' 31"
19.	GADRET John	13	MOVISTAR TEAM	90h 46' 36"	+ 47' 30"

# **SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NEED A SCRAPER!**

**A few tips and tricks...**

# PULLING DATA TABLES FROM THE WEB

Google



Sheets

## IMPORTHTML

Imports data from a table or list within an HTML page.

# Demographics of India

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the people from India. For other uses, see [Indian \(disambiguation\)](#).*

The **demographics of India** are inclusive of the [second most populous](#) country in the world, with over 1.21 billion people (2011 census), more than a sixth of the [world's population](#). Already containing 17.5% of the world's population, India is projected to be the [world's most populous country](#) by 2025, surpassing [China](#), its population reaching 1.6 billion by 2050.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Its population growth rate is 1.41%, ranking [102nd](#) in the world in 2010.<sup>[6]</sup> Indian population reached the billion mark in 2000.

Demographics of India	
<b>Population</b>	1,236,344,631 (July 2014 est.) <sup>[1]</sup> ( <a href="#">2nd</a> )
<b>Growth rate</b>	1.51% (2009 est.) ( <a href="#">93rd</a> )
<b>Birth rate</b>	20.22 births/1,000 population (2013 est.)
<b>Death rate</b>	7.4 deaths/1,000 population (2013 est.)
<b>Life expectancy</b>	68.89 years (2009 est.)
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>male</b>	67.46 years (2009 est.)
<span> </span> <span>•</span> <b>female</b>	72.61 years (2009 est.)
<b>Fertility rate</b>	2.44 children born/woman (SRS 2011)
<b>Infant mortality rate</b>	44 deaths/1,000 live births (2011 est.)
Age structure	



Population distribution in India by states

Rank	State / Union Territory	Type	Population	% [18]	Area [19] (km <sup>2</sup> )	Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )	Males	Females	Sex Ratio [20]	Literacy	Rural [21] Population	Urban [21] Population
1	Uttar Pradesh	State	199,812,341	16.50	240,928	828	104,480,510	95,331,831	912	67.68	131,658,339	34,539,582
2	Maharashtra	State	121,455,333	9.28	307,713	365	58,243,056	54,131,277	929	82.34	55,777,647	41,100,980
3	Bihar	State	103,804,637	8.60	94,163	1,102	54,278,157	49,821,295	918	61.80	74,316,709	8,681,800
4	West Bengal	State	91,276,115	7.54	88,752	1,030	46,809,027	44,467,088	950	76.26	57,748,946	22,427,251
5	Madhya Pradesh	State	72,626,809	6.00	308,245	236	37,612,306	35,014,503	931	69.32	44,380,878	15,967,145
6	Tamil Nadu	State	72,147,030	5.96	130,058	555	36,137,975	36,009,055	996	80.09	34,921,681	27,483,998
7	Rajasthan	State	68,548,437	5.66	342,239	201	35,550,997	32,997,440	928	66.11	43,292,813	13,214,375
8	Karnataka	State	61,095,297	5.05	191,791	319	30,966,657	30,128,640	973	75.36	34,889,033	17,961,529
9	Gujarat	State	60,439,692	4.99	196,024	308	31,491,260	28,948,432	919	78.03	31,740,767	18,930,250



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$f_x$  | =ImportHtml("http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics\_of\_India", "table",4)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Rank	State / Union Territory	Type	Population	% [18]	Area [19] (km <sup>2</sup> )
2	1	Uttar Pradesh	State	199,812,341	16.5	240,928
3	2	Maharashtra	State	121,455,333	9.28	307,713
4	3	Bihar	State	103,804,637	8.6	94,163
5	4	West Bengal	State	91,276,115	7.54	88,752
6	5	Madhya Pradesh	State	72,626,809	6	308,245
7	6	Tamil Nadu	State	72,147,030	5.96	130,058

# PARSING PDFS

Tabula



Tabula is a tool  
locked inside P

## Extracted tabular data

2		
All Students	79,858	99%
Gender		
Male	40,492	98%
Female	39,134	99%
Ethnicity		
White	10,665	99%
Black	49,379	99%
Latino/Hispanic	13,717	98%
Asian	4,746	100%
Native American	132	99%
Multiracial	941	98%
Other Groups		
IEP	11,471	98%

☐ Use row/columns separators ?

Close

Copy to clipboard as CSV

Download data ▾

# **BUILDING A WEB SCRAPER**

**FETCHING DATA + PARSING DATA**

**YOU SHOULD SEPARATE THESE  
PROCESSES WHENEVER POSSIBLE!**



# FETCHING DATA

## DON'T DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE

Download complete pages and save them locally before you process them.

## DEALING WITH PAGINATION

If results or records are spread across multiple pages, you may need to parse the page to find the link to the next page.

# PARSING DATA

SERIOUSLY, DON'T DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE!

Processing data from local files means you don't have to get it right the first time.

USE YOUR BROWSER'S DEVELOPER TOOLS

All modern web browsers have built-in tools that let you inspect web pages.

# **BE CAREFUL - YOU CAN GET YOURSELF BLOCKED**

Many sites will try to slow or block heavy access (both to prevent scraping and DoS attacks)

To get around this... You can introduce delays in your scraper or scrape from multiple locations.

# **A FEW MORE NOTES ABOUT DATA MANAGEMENT**

**FORMATS AND BEST-PRACTICES**

# DATA FORMATS

## STRUCTURED vs. UNSTRUCTURED

STRUCTURED DATA is more like what you'd find in a traditional spreadsheet or database.

UNSTRUCTURED DATA can include raw text, streaming data, even images or video.

SEMI-STRUCTURED DATA is more organized, but doesn't follow a fixed schema (e.g. DBPEDIA data)

# CSV

## (Comma-Separated Value)

```
1 firstName,lastName,age,streetAddress,city,state
2 John,Smith,25,21 2nd Street,New York,NY,10021,2
```

firstName	lastName	age	streetAddress	city	state	postalCode	homePhoneNumber	faxPhoneNumber	gender
John	Smith	25	21 2nd Street	New York	NY	10021	212 555-1239	646 555-4567	male

# XML

## (eXtensible Markup Language)

```
<person>
  <firstName>John</firstName>
  <lastName>Smith</lastName>
  <age>25</age>
  <address>
    <streetAddress>21 2nd Street</streetAddress>
    <city>New York</city>
    <state>NY</state>
    <postalCode>10021</postalCode>
  </address>
  <phoneNumbers>
    <phoneNumber type="home">212 555-1234</phoneNumber>
    <phoneNumber type="fax">646 555-4567</phoneNumber>
  </phoneNumbers>
  <gender>
```

firstName	lastName	age	streetAddress	city	state	postalCode	homePhoneNumber	faxPhoneNumber	gender
John	Smith	25	21 2nd Street	New York	NY	10021	212 555-1239	646 555-4567	male

# JSON

## (JavaScript Object Notation)

```
{
  "firstName": "John",
  "lastName": "Smith",
  "age": 25,
  "address": {
    "streetAddress": "21 2nd Street",
    "city": "New York",
    "state": "NY",
    "postalCode": "10021"
  },
  "phoneNumber": [
    {
      "type": "home",
      "number": "212 555-1239"
    },
    {
      "type": "fax",
      "number": "646 555-4567"
    }
  ]
}
```

firstName	lastName	age	streetAddress	city	state	postalCode	homePhoneNumber	faxPhoneNumber	gender
John	Smith	25	21 2nd Street	New York	NY	10021	212 555-1239	646 555-4567	male



# YAML

## (YAML Ain't Markup Language)

```
---
firstName: John
lastName: Smith
age: 25
address:
  streetAddress: 21 2nd Street
  city: New York
  state: NY
  postalCode: 10021

phoneNumber:
  -
    type: home
    number: 212 555-1234
  -
    type: fax
```

firstName	lastName	age	streetAddress	city	state	postalCode	homePhoneNumber	faxPhoneNumber	gender
John	Smith	25	21 2nd Street	New York	NY	10021	212 555-1239	646 555-4567	male

# HANDLING DATA

## STORING DATA

- Always keep backups
- Password protect or encrypt any data with personal or sensitive information

## PROVENANCE

- Keep track of where/when data was collected
- Record any data processing steps so you (or others) can repeat them if necessary

# IP, COPYRIGHT, AND (RE)SHARING DATA

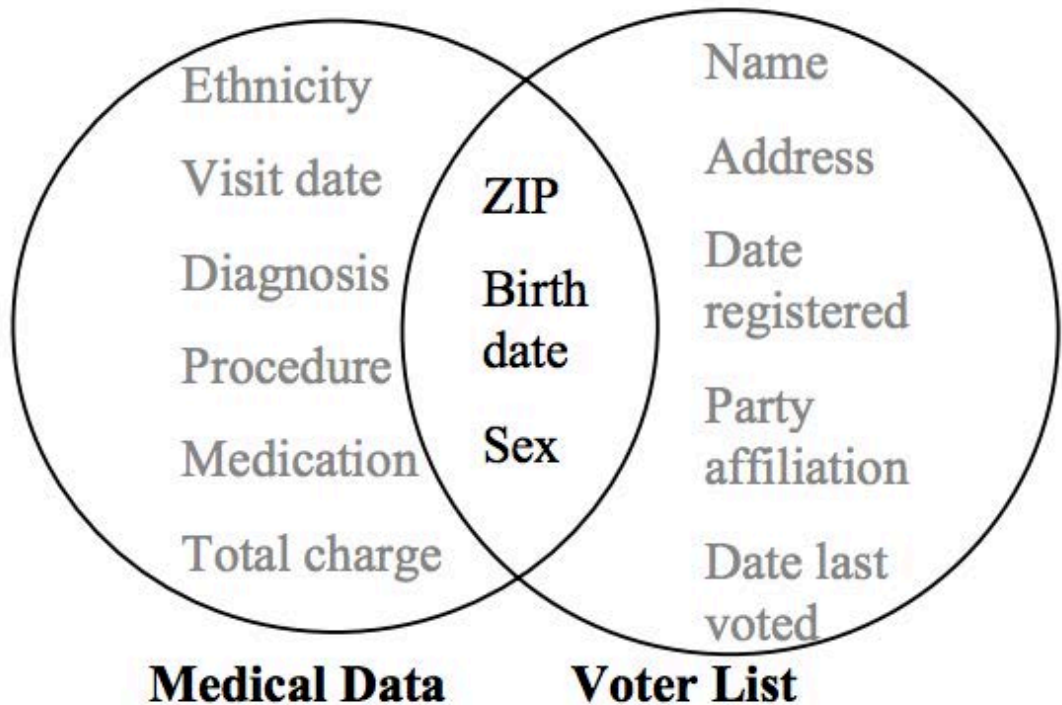
- Be sure you know who owns the data.
- Think early on about whether or not you'll need to publish or (re)share data.
- Be careful you aren't violating copyright, especially when scraping.

# PRIVACY AND ANONYMIZING DATA

- Any information that could be used to identify individuals is sensitive!
- There may be legal repercussions for releasing it.
- In some cases you might need to anonymize data before sharing.

**JUST REMOVING NAMES IS  
OFTEN NOT ENOUGH!**

# OTHER INFORMATION CAN STILL BE UNIQUE

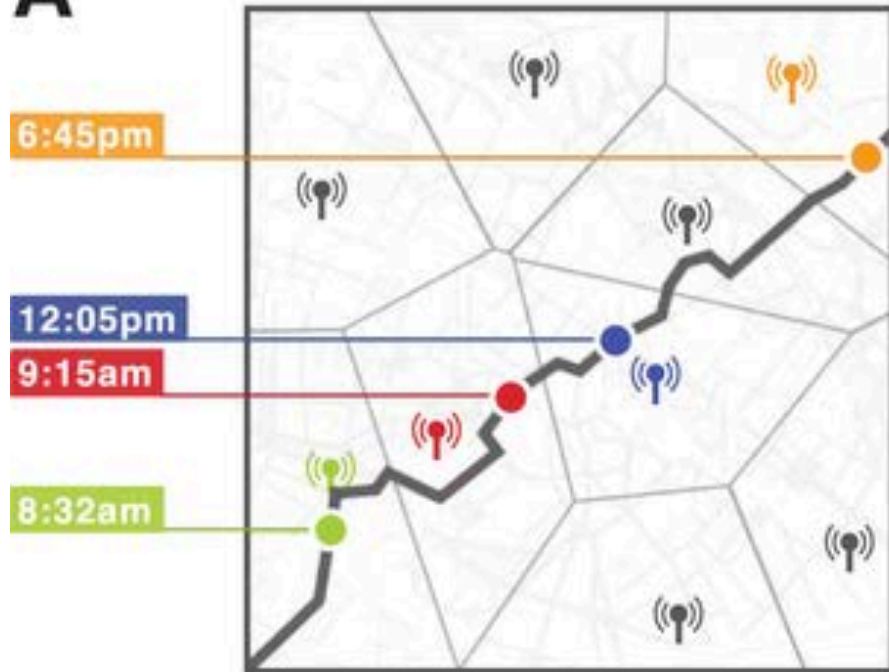


[L. Sweeney. 2002]

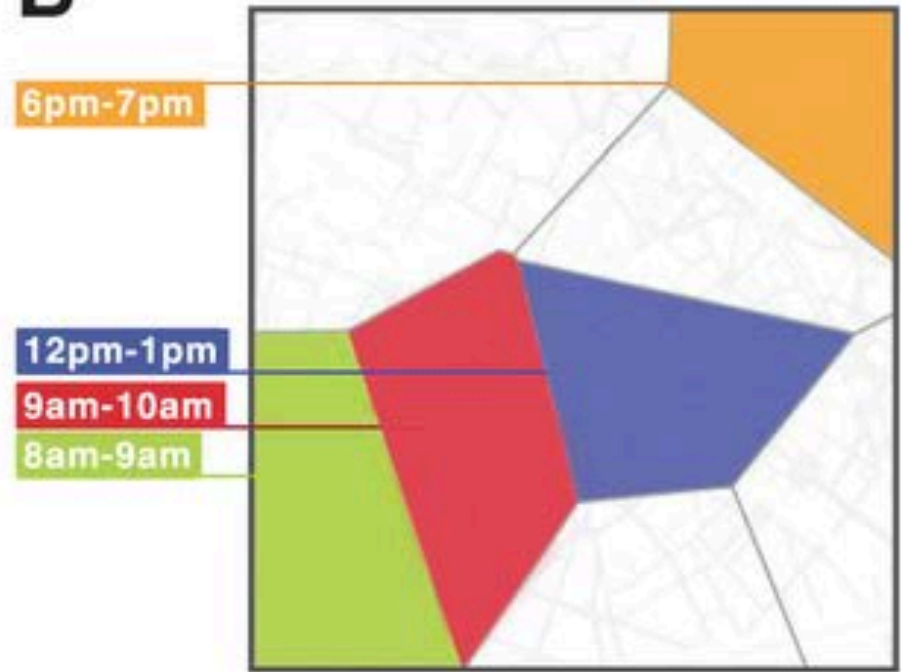
[k-ANONYMITY: A MODEL FOR PROTECTING PRIVACY](#)

# LOCATION DATA IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE

A



B



[de Montjoye et al. 2013]

[Unique in the Crowd: The privacy bounds of human mobility](#)

# **REGULATIONS (ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH)**

Institutional Review and Ethics Boards may need to approve experiments or data collection before it happens.

Studies involving people may need informed consent.



# REGULATIONS (INDUSTRY)

Some governments have placed limits on how long user data can be kept.

Some kinds of tracking (e.g., cookies) may now require opt-in or notifications.  
(However this varies by country).

# IN SUMMARY: THERE ARE LOTS OF TOOLS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

## COLLECT IT

- OBSERVATION
- SURVEYS
- LOGGING
- SENSORS
- CROWDSOURCING

## FIND OR EXTRACT IT

- OPEN CORPUSES
- DATA RETAILERS
- APIS
- SCRAPING THE WEB

## GENERATE IT

- SIMULATIONS

(...AND WE'LL  
BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS  
OR SUGGEST MORE)

# NEXT UP

**THIS AFTERNOON**

**TUTORIAL 1 – BUILDING A WEB SCRAPER**

**NEXT WEEK**

**DATA CLEANING & STATISTICS**

# BEFORE NEXT WEEK'S CLASS

INSTALL BOTH:



**OpenRefine** (formerly Google Refine)

<http://openrefine.org/>



**R**

<http://www.r-project.org/>