

Once Upon a Data Visualization: Visual datasets for SimpleChartsRI

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We present our work on our data visualization web tool, SimpleChartsRI, which is an HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP written tool that is free to all users. This tool creates visualizations from CSV files, typed up data through our embedded table, or through text in three simple steps. The tool was created in 2020 and it was presented and written about several times before our work was done on it. We continued to expand on our tool by adding additional features that we thought would benefit our targeted users which are high school STEM teachers and students. What we worked on was the new sample selection page which includes 60 samples, the metadata, CSV file, and the XLSX file of the data. Other tools lack samples, include very complicated samples, or have samples that aren't relatable to the user. Our tool has both simple and complex samples that have been hand-picked for our alias, RI residents. These samples, which are mostly based on data of RI or New England, have already been cleaned up and can be accessed with a simple click. They will not only help teachers create quick visualizations in the classroom but also resonate with the students. By doing so, students would be more inapt to paying attention and being engaged. They can also learn to create narratives by picking apart data, choosing which data are displayed, and creating their own data visualization story. High school STEM teachers who have used the new version of our tool admit that it's a simple tool that is both easy to use and helpful to use in the classroom.