

The Intersection of Emoji and Data Visualization:  
*Creating Effective and Engaging Visualizations*

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A Master's Thesis

Presented to

Information Design and Technology

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Master of Science Degree

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### **Abstract**

The project delves into effective data visualization techniques to describe the story of emojis through data.

The current era is marked by an overwhelming amount of information, with data quality becoming increasingly complex. While the term big data has gained popularity in recent times, there is a growing desire to derive meaning from data.

Emoji have had a significant impact on how people communicate in digital communication. They serve as a visual communication system, allowing individuals to express themselves in a playful and intimate way. Over time, they have evolved to fill an emotional gap in the way we express ourselves online, allowing for greater nuance and depth in our digital conversations.

By exploring emotional iconography as emoji content, I aim to gain a deeper understanding of visualization and digital communication through the project. The project discusses the importance of data visualization in effective communication of insights and decision-making. Explore the need to choose the right tools to effectively communicate data through visualization, follow graphic design best practices, and create insightful stories.

It also highlights the role of well-designed representations in improving accessibility, and comprehension. By incorporating design methods that understand human interaction, such as affordance and universal design, it suggests that effective data visualization can be realized by incorporating design methods that understand human interaction, such as affordance and universal design, to support cognitive related processes.

The project explores that with a thoughtful and intentional approach, data can be transformed into an engaging and effective tool for communication, enabling the creation of data visualizations that are clear, engaging, and support messages.

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## Literature Review

Emoji and data visualization are two essential and interrelated concepts in the digital age. Emoji are depictions of human emotions, objects, and certain symbols. They are widely used in text messages, social media posts, instant messages, and other forms of digital communication. They have many advantages, including enhancing the continuity of individual communication, improving the quality of relationships, and strengthening emotional communication (Bai et al., 2019).

On the other hand, data visualization transforms data into visuals such as charts and maps. These are then used to explore or explain insights hidden in the data. The goal is to engage and assist the audience in an analysis and decision-making (Wiederkehr, 2022).

Emoji and data visualization are similar because they rely on visual representation to convey information. Emoji provide a simple and intuitive way to express emotions, while data visualization provides a clear and concise way to present data. Emoji and data visualization use visual cues and symbols to help the viewer quickly understand the presented information.

Data visualization is a powerful tool to show meaningful patterns in data and is becoming increasingly crucial for both the exploration and communication of data. While most past research in visualization has focused on finding effective visual representations and supporting rapid analysis and exploration of data, there is a growing need for visualization to communicate messages derived from data. The literature review discusses the ubiquity of data and the importance of understanding and communicating it effectively.

**Increased demand and needs: Transitioning from exploration to explanation visualization**

Technology has allowed us to accumulate vast amounts of data, with the estimated global volume of data created in 2022 reaching a staggering 97 zettabytes. Furthermore, the volume of data generated in 2023 is predicted to be almost three times that of 2019 (Statista, 2022). As a result, there is a growing desire to derive meaning from this abundance of data (Knafllic, 2015, p. 19).

However, while we are taught to construct sentences and stories and to comprehend numerical data in school, no one teaches us how to narrate stories with numbers. Adding to the challenge, very few people feel naturally adept in this space (Knafllic, 2015, p. 19).

Data visualization has become increasingly important in communicating complex information as it can help uncover patterns, trends, and outliers that may not be apparent when looking at the data alone.

Additionally, it enables you to better understand complex concepts and ideas by presenting information in a more accessible way. Besides, they can enhance your ability to act on data. This, in turn, facilitates more informed decision-making.

As Kim (2018) points out, the increased accessibility of data in the public sector has made visualization an increasingly popular means of communicating messages derived from data. This has opened up a broad audience, including journalists, designers, and even casual users, to visualization. Data is now ubiquitous and rapidly increasing in quantity and quality across various fields such as science, engineering, humanities, business, and daily life. As a result, it has become essential for individuals to be able to comprehend and convey data effectively.



Data-driven storytelling, which uses explanatory visualizations to communicate complex data in a clear and accessible manner, has emerged as a result of the growing demand for more understandable data (Kim, 2018). Explanatory visualizations are an effective analysis approach for understanding complex information quickly and easily. They help reveal patterns, trends, and outliers that may not be apparent when looking at data alone. Additionally, these visualizations aid in communicating complex concepts and ideas in a more accessible manner, enabling people to make more informed decisions.

### **Exploratory vs. explanatory visualizations**

There are two types of data analysis approaches. In order to visualize data, we need to understand the difference between exploratory visualization and explanatory visualization and know when to use each.

<b>Exploratory visualization</b>	<b>Explanatory visualization</b>
For expert user group	For non-expert audience
Represents complexities of big data	Represents understandable visual data
Purpose: analysis	Purpose: explanation

### ***1. Exploratory visualization***

Exploratory visualizations are the process that involves a discipline expert visualizing graphics while dealing with data. These visualizations are generally for purpose and function as an expedient in the expert's attempt to analyze data and identify a problem. It is an essential data investigation process before the formal analysis to spot patterns and anomalies, discover trends, and test hypotheses with summary statistics and visualizations (Telang, 2022). Therefore, it is designed to support domain experts in performing analytics.

Cairo noted that graphics, charts, and maps aren't just tools to be seen but are there to be read and scrutinized (Cairo, 2012, p. 24). Representations designed for data visualization replace complex cognitive calculations with simpler perceptual interpretations. This can improve accessibility and comprehension. Therefore, such data visualization allows readers to dig into the information, explore, and come up with their own stories. (Cairo, 2012, p. 263)

### ***2. Explanatory visualization***

Explanatory visualization, on the other hand, is aimed at a broader audience and is intended to allow audiences to find their own narratives in the data. It can help to engage and inform audiences, making complex information more accessible and easier to understand.

Knafllic noted that the most beautiful data visualization runs the risk of falling flat without a compelling narrative to go with it (Knafllic, 2015, p. 156).

Therefore, someone communicating via explanatory visualization needs to define objectives, understand the audience, and incorporate key elements of analysis storytelling

into the data story. To effectively communicate data through visualizations, we must choose the right tool, follow the best graphic design practices, and make an insightful and human story. Adding supporting, self-explanatory graphics to conceive a consistent storyline adds interest and increases engagement (Raquib, 2022).

### **The intersection of human interaction and data visualization: hints at creating engaging visualizations**

Creating explanatory visualizations needs to consider more than perceptual effectiveness but also other design factors such as aesthetics, engagement, and memorability (Kim, 2018).

Lidwell et al. argues that a deeper understanding of human interaction and a scholarly approach to design was almost entirely overlooked. In contrast, the Universal Principles of Design have been identified as fundamental to good design. These principles, which include repetition, alignment, and proximity, are crucial for creating a visual hierarchy that organizes information in an easily understandable way. When applied to data visualization, these principles can structure the display of data to make it more interpretable and effective in communicating insights. By revealing the driving forces behind human motivation, the Universal Principles of Design help designers gain an understanding of the intuitive, as highlighted by Lidwell et al.'s study.

In contrast, the Universal Principles of Design have been identified as fundamental to good design. These principles, which include repetition, alignment, and proximity, are crucial for creating a visual hierarchy that organizes information in an easily understandable way. When applied to data visualization, these principles can structure the display of data to make it more interpretable and effective in communicating insights. By revealing the driving forces behind

human motivation, the Universal Principles of Design help designers gain an understanding of the intuitive, as highlighted by Lidwell et al.'s study.

Affordances are visual clues in design that suggest how we can use it (Krug, 2023). They will guide audiences through visuals and provide a visual hierarchy of information. So they know where to direct their attention. When a designer incorporates affordances into data visualization, users are provided with a more interactive and engaging experience, which can help to increase their understanding of the data.

Therefore, the Universal Principles of Design that understand human interaction and affordance design elements are critical to creating effective and engaging visualizations.

In summary, there are two types of data visualization approaches, exploratory and explanatory visualization, with the latter being designed to tell a story to a broader audience. How data is visualized changes depending on its purpose, and it is essential to do exploratory analysis before getting to the explanatory phase. Being able to visualize data and tell stories with it is key to turning it into information that can be used to drive better decision making (Knaflic, 2015, p. 19).

Through my research and discovery process, I have learned well-designed representations replace complicated cognitive calculations with simpler perceptual interpretations. They can thus improve accessibility, comprehension, and memory (Wiederkehr, 2022).

It is essential to choose the right tool, follow graphic design best practices, and create an insightful story to communicate data effectively through visualizations. These can be effectively achieved by incorporating design methods that understand human interaction, such as affordance and universal design.

## Methodology

The project aims to successfully tell the story of emojis through data in visual communications. To achieve this, user interactions that support visual representations, such as hover effects, pop-ups, and highlights, are considered. A simple scrolling website that focuses on data visualization can effectively represent this story.

Excellence in statistical graphics consists of complex ideas communicated with clarity, precision, and efficiency (Tufte, 2001). However, if the data visualization fails, the following problems can occur.

- **Misinterpretation of data:** If the data is not presented clearly, accurately, or effectively, viewers may misinterpret the information, resulting in incorrect conclusions and decisions.
- **Confusion:** Poorly designed visualizations can confuse, making it difficult for viewers to understand the presented information..
- **Overemphasis on design:** Important information can be lost or misrepresented when visual design elements are prioritized over data accuracy and clarity.
- **Failure to communicate effectively:** When data is not presented in a clear and effective manner, it can fail to communicate the intended message to viewers.
- **Lack of engagement:** If the visualization is not engaging or visually appealing, it can fail to capture the audience's attention and fail to convey the message effectively. Knaflic (2017) argues that the more complicated it looks, the more time your audience perceives it will take to understand and the less likely they are to spend time to understand it (Knaflic, 2017, p. 129).

- ***Lack of context:*** Data visualization can fail to communicate the significance of the presented data, leading to misunderstandings or incorrect conclusions.

Ineffective data visualization can result in misinterpretation, confusion, disengagement, lack of trust, overwhelming information, and bias. These problems can lead to poor decision-making and hinder effective communication of insights. Addressing these problems requires careful consideration of the audience, purpose, and the presented data.

## **Preparing for Process**

Before considering a design plan, there is an important process to follow.

### **1. Clarify objectives**

- a. ***Identify the purpose:*** It is essential to understand the goal or purpose of the visualization.
- b. ***Identify the audience:*** It is essential to understand who the audience is and how they perceive it. This can help to identify common ground that will help you ensure they hear your message (Knafllic, 2017, p. 38).
- c. ***Identify the key message:*** Identify the key message the visualization wants the data to convey. This message should be clear and concise. This is the point where you think through how to make what you communicate relevant for the audience and form a clear understanding of why they should care about what you say (Knafllic, 2017, p. 38).

2. **Credible source:** It is important to consider the quality of the data to use. Because if the data is accurate, complete, and consistent, it can lead to correct conclusions and decision-making. To evaluate the credibility of a source, it is important to consider factors such as authorship, publication, bias, currency, consistency, and citations. By doing so, readers can make informed decisions about the credibility of a source and whether it is appropriate to use in their research or decision-making processes.
3. **Consider the storytelling:** Begin by framing the story around a question you want to answer with the data. Use a narrative structure to guide the audience through the story. The story should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Use storytelling techniques such as anecdotes or examples to make the data more relatable and engaging. Another central component to story is the narrative, which we should consider in terms of both order (chronological or lead with ending) and manner (spoken, written, or a combination of the two) (Knafllic, 2017, p. 195).

### **Planning the Design**

The following outlines the design plan of the visualization and website.

1. **Choose the right visual display:** There are many visualizations. For example, if it wants to show trends over time, a line chart may be the most appropriate. If it wants to compare different categories, a bar chart may be more effective. Additionally, use the principles of design from Lidwell et al. (2010) and affordance to ensure that the visualizations are effective and easy to understand. They can help create visuals that are intuitive and easy to use. Krug (2023) also says that the appearance of things (like size, color, and layout),

their well-chosen names, and the small amounts of carefully crafted text should all work together to create a sense of nearly effortless understanding (Krug, 2023, p. 76).

2. **Use effective labeling:** Labeling should be clear, concise, and positioned close to the relevant data. Avoid abbreviations or acronyms that may be unclear to the reader. Use an easily readable font size.
3. **Highlight key features:** Use visual cues to highlight key data elements. For example, use color, size, or shape to draw attention to particular data points or trends. Avoid using too many colors or shapes, which can create confusion. To ensure that key data stand out is to apply more than one visual distinction—for instance, a different color and bold text (Krug, 2023, p. 77).
4. **Choose colors:** Use color conservatively. Limit the palette to what the eye can process at one glance, which is about five colors (Lidwell et al., 2010, p. 46).
5. **Design the layout:** The website is designed to be scrolling, following the flow of the story as it scrolls down because the scrolling site offers a bounty of opportunities for storytelling (Team, 2020).
6. **Simplify the design:** Aim for simplicity and clarity. Because the more complicated it looks, the more time your audience perceives it will take to understand and the less likely they are to spend time to understand it (Knafllic, 2017, p. 129). Simplifying the design respects the reader's intelligence, reducing clutter and increasing elegance (Cairo, 2012, p. 104).

In summary, effective data visualization is crucial for successfully communicating insights and decision-making. Poorly designed visualizations can lead to misinterpretation,



confusion, disengagement, and even bias, hindering effective communication of insights and decision-making. Therefore, before considering a design plan, it is essential to clarify objectives, identify the purpose and audience, determine the key message, use credible sources, and consider storytelling.

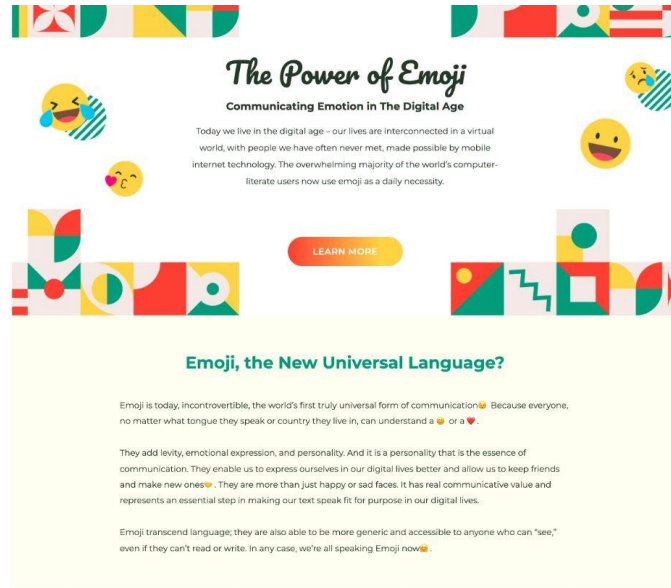
Therefore, before proceeding with the design plan, it is essential to clarify objectives, identify the purpose and audience, etc. and consider the most suitable design.

By following these steps, it can help to communicate data insights through data visualization. Thus, the methods outlined can help create data visualizations that are clear, engaging, and support messages.

## Project Outcomes

Project (Link1): <http://people.sunyit.edu/~tomonom/Emoji2/>

(Link2): <https://maitomono.github.io/emoji-website/>



### Emoji, the New Universal Language?

Emoji is today, incontrovertible, the world's first truly universal form of communication. Because everyone, no matter what tongue they speak or country they live in, can understand 🍌 or 🍎.

They add levity, emotional expression, and personality. And it is a personality that is the essence of communication. They enable us to express ourselves in our digital lives better and allow us to keep friends and make new ones. They are more than just happy or sad faces. It has real communicative value and represents an essential step in making our text speak fit for purpose in our digital lives.

Emoji transcend language; they are also able to be more generic and accessible to anyone who can "see," even if they can't read or write. In any case, we're all speaking Emoji now.

### The History of Emoji



The original set of 176 emoji, acquired by NEMO.



Shigetaka Kurita/AP by Getty Images

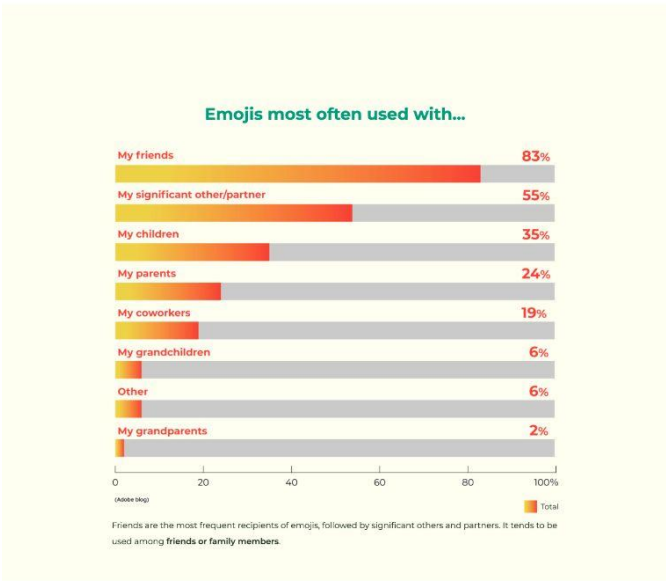
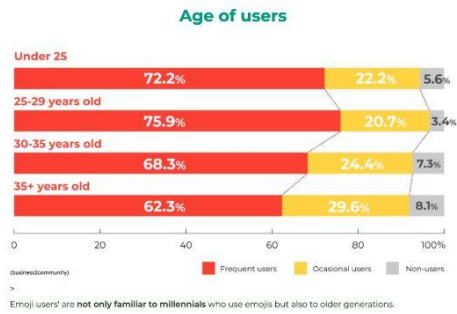
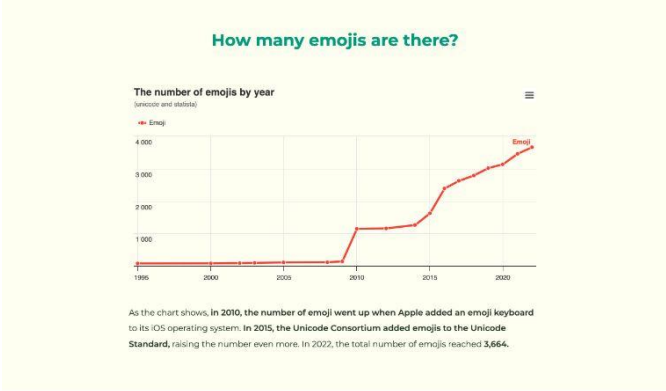
Emoji was created in 1999 by Japanese artist Shigetaka Kurita. Kurita worked on the development team for mobile internet platform from Japan's primary mobile carrier, DOCOMO.

The first emoji was designed on a twelve-by-twelve-pixel grid, the emoji—a portmanteau of the Japanese words e, or "picture," and Moji, or "character"—enhanced the visual interface for NTT DOCOMO's devices and facilitated the developing practice of text messaging and mobile email.

The use of emojis became popular in Japan, and eventually spread to other countries. In 2010, Apple added an emoji keyboard to its iOS operating system, making it easier for users to access and use emojis on their iPhones and iPads. Since then, emojis have become a ubiquitous part of digital communication, used to express emotion, convey humor, and even replace entire phrases or sentences.

The Unicode Consortium added a set of emojis to the Unicode Standard in 2015, making it possible for emojis to be displayed consistently across different devices and operating systems.

Today, there are thousands of different emojis available, representing a wide range of emotions, objects, and concepts. They show how new forms of communication can evolve and become an integral part of our daily lives.

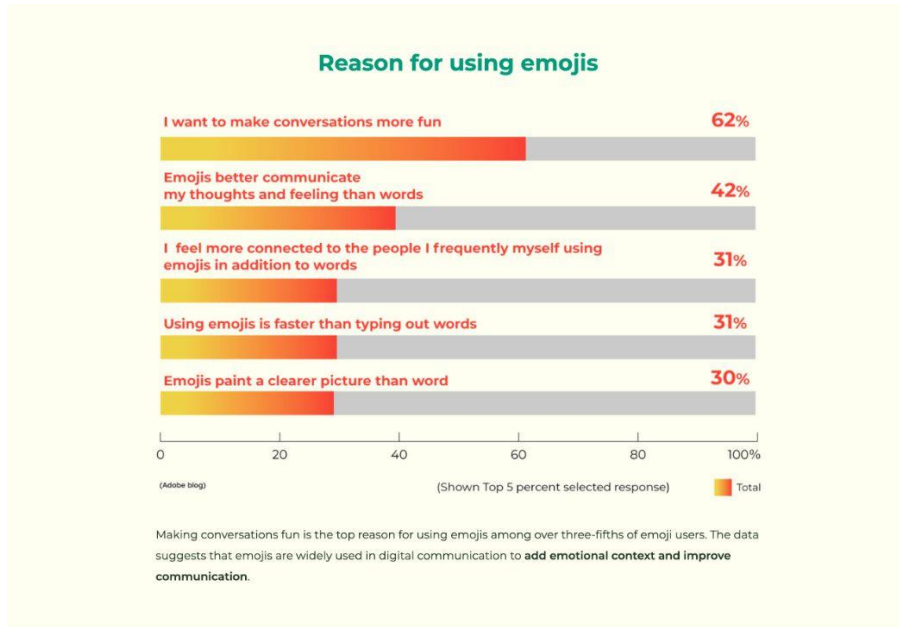


### The most used emoji when we talk about how we feel

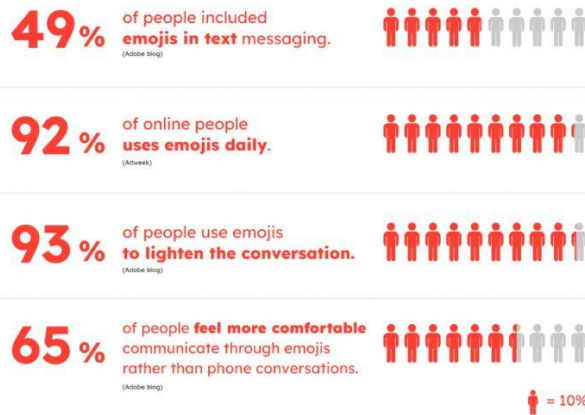
This chart shows which emojis are used the most for each of the 9 emotions analyzed.

I'm feeling...	#1	#2	#3
Happy	😄	😁	😍
Excited	😄	😁	😆
Sad	😞	😓	😔
Scared	😱	😨	😰
Angry	😡	😠	😤
Stressed	😞	😓	😔
Annoyed	😞	😓	😔
Anxious	😞	😓	😔
Relaxed	😌	😏	😎

The loudly crying face and the face with tears of joy emoji are so versatile: **One emoji has many uses.**



### Emoji Facts



This is a high number and suggests that **emojis are a widely accepted and commonly used** form of communication.

Emojis have become integral to our digital conversations, allowing us to convey emotions and express ourselves in ways that text alone cannot. People think emojis can convey tone and emotional reactions better than words alone. As we continue to communicate more online, emojis will likely continue to evolve and play a significant role in how we express ourselves and connect with others.

**Emoji is the new universal language beyond the language barriers in the age of digital communication era 🗨️**

### References

- |            |                      |            |
|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Unicode    | Emojipedia           | MoMA       |
| Adobe blog | Adweek               | Statista   |
| Linkedin   | Business 2 Community | Brandwatch |



In this section, I will describe the process of creating a work of art using the methodology described in the previous section.

## Preparing for Process

### 1. Objectives

- a. ***The purpose:*** The project focused on emojis and explored ways to use data effectively to tell stories in visual communications. The website was designed to use interactivity and responsiveness to enhance the user experience and was created with the best visual displays to communicate information effectively. The content of the website examined how to effectively use data to communicate information and how to create graphics that encouraged decision-making.
  - b. ***The audience:*** The intended audience for this project is elementary school students studying digital communications, and anyone interested in the historical development of emoji.
  - c. ***The key messages:*** Emojis are the new universal language beyond language barriers in the age of digital communication era.
2. **Credible source:** Data on emojis were selected from authors and publications that were considered reliable authorities. To evaluate the credibility of a source, it considered factors such as authorship, publication, bias, currency, consistency, and citations.
- In order to maintain transparency of the data, the source was described at the end of the page. Transparency ensured that decisions were made with full knowledge of the facts and a clear record of what had been done.
3. **The storytelling:**

- a. **Introduction:** In the digital age, mobile internet technology has enabled us to interconnect with people we have never met before. Emojis have become a daily necessity for the overwhelming majority of computer-literate users and are considered the world's first truly universal form of communication. Emojis allow for emotional expression, add personality to our digital lives, and enable us to express ourselves better. They can transcend language barriers and be more accessible to those who cannot read or write. In summary, emojis have real communicative value and are essential in making our textspeak fit for purpose in our digital lives. Emojis have become essential to communication in the digital era.

The introduction grabs the reader's interest and facilitates entry into the story.

- b. **Learn the history:** Emoji was created by Japanese artist Shigetaka Kurita for a mobile internet platform in 1999. The first emoji was designed on a 12x12 grid and became popular in Japan, spreading to other countries. Apple added an emoji keyboard to its iOS operating system in 2010, making it easier for users to access emojis. The Unicode Consortium added emojis to the Unicode Standard in 2015, and today, thousands of emojis are available, representing various emotions, objects, and concepts.

Knowing history helps deepen the audience's understanding of the data presented.

- c. **Statistics:** As of March 2022, the Unicode Standard boasts an impressive 3,664 emojis, a number that has risen over the years. In 2010, Apple added an emoji

keyboard to its iOS operating system, causing the number of emojis to increase. In 2015, the Unicode Consortium followed suit and added even more emojis to the standard.

Interestingly, the most frequent users of emojis are millennials between the ages of 25 and 29, accounting for 75.9% of all users. However, emojis are prevalent across generations, with more than 60% of all age groups using them frequently. Emojis are often used among close friends and family members, highlighting their personal and intimate nature.

Emojis have gained popularity due to their ability to convey various emotions with a single symbol. They are not a replacement for letters but rather a tool that adds emotional context to texts. Most emoji users use them to make conversations more engaging and fun. These data suggest that emojis are widely used in digital communication to add emotional nuance and improve communication.

In summary, the high number of emojis indicates that they are widely accepted and commonly used. Emojis have become a vital component of digital communication, enabling us to express ourselves in new ways.

### **Regarding the Designing**

- ***Project Platform:*** The website was created using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The advantages of representing data visualization on a website included accessibility and

interactivity. The websites allowed data visualizations to be easily accessed and shared with a broader audience.

- **Project tools:** The website was coded using the Webstorm Integrated Development Environment. The supporting tools were Photoshop and Illustrator.
- **Typefaces:** Montserrat, regular and bold.

Montserrat is a geometric sans-serif typeface. A geometric yet rounded typeface gives a friendly impression.

Using the same font throughout a design created a cohesive and consistent look. This helped tie different design elements together and made it easier for viewers to read and understand. Using different weights of the same font could help create a visual hierarchy within the design. Bold or heavier weights could be used for headlines or essential information, while lighter weights could be used for body text or less important information.

1. **The visual display:** I will explain each section of the website.
  - a. **Emoji Facts:** Since the data was simple, with only one value, it was presented numerically instead of with charts. Knaflic (2017) said that a simple text could be a great way to communicate when you have just a number or two to share. By incorporating a pictogram of a human figure, pictograms can help make simple data more memorable and engaging. Cairo (2012) said graphics encode easily digestible messages by incorporating friendly-looking pictograms. It also can make your data more memorable.

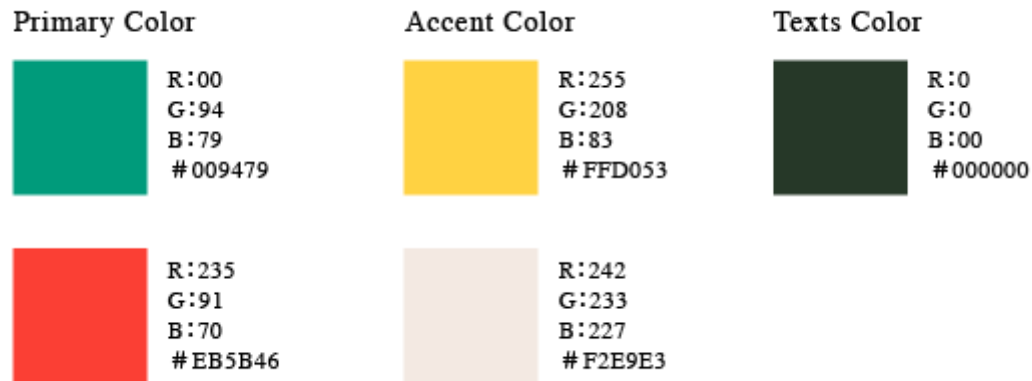


- b. ***How many emojis are there?:*** A line chart is suitable for identifying the impact of a particular event on a variable over time. Therefore, events between 2010 and 2015 impacted the number of emojis, so I chose a line chart to highlight them.
  - c. ***The most used emoji when we talk about how we feel:*** Knaflic (2017) argued that table charts are great for communicating to look for their particular row of interest. When you need to display multiple different units of measure, this is also easier with a table than a graph. A table chart is a useful way to present information in a clear and organized manner. It helps easier for audiences to navigate and find the information they need.
  - d. ***The reason for using emoji:*** I chose the bar chart because a bar chart is always superior to a bubble chart or a heat map if the goal of the graphic is to facilitate precise comparisons (Cairo, 2012, p. 174). The horizontal bar chart is especially useful if your category names are long, as the text is written from left to right, making your graph legible for your audience (Knaflic, 2017, p.61).
2. **Labeling:** First, labels were listed in an easy-to-read, concise manner. Data labels on the bar chart used bold letters for easy reading. Therefore, I changed the font's weight and added a hierarchy to the information to be read. The eye naturally drifted to larger, thicker fonts and smaller, thinner fonts.  
  
Second, I used the tooltip feature in the line chart, because it could help to reduce clutter. Rather than having all of the information visible at once, the user could choose to explore additional information as they needed it.

3. **Highlight key features:** In order to make key data stand out, I applied a different color and bold text on the statements. It can help communicate the key points to audiences more effectively.
  - a. In the section on *Emoji facts*, increasing the font size of each value made the information presented more easily scannable. Therefore, this allowed us to get the gist of what we wanted to say to the audience.
  - b. In the section *How many emojis are there?* which was represented in a line chart, highlighting the parts of the event that impacted the data made it easier to understand the most important insights and trends that the data revealed. Highlighting key features could also help communicate the main points of a data visualization to others more effectively. It could make it easier to convey complex information and help ensure that important insights were not missed.
4. **Colors:** Colors were chosen for primary colors and accent colors, respectively. I had decided on the emoji color yellow for the accent color because yellow was difficult to read for text. For this reason, I chose a color that matched yellow as the primary color and used it for the headline.

The combination of black text color in a white background for the paragraphs was chosen because it was the standard for legibility.

Regarding the color palette, primary and accent colors helped create a visual hierarchy in our design. The primary color was used for larger elements, while the accent color was used to draw attention to important details. Consistency while using these colors enhanced recognition, communicated membership, and set emotional expectations. (Lidwell, 2010, p. 56).



5. **Designing the layout:** The website had divided the content into ten sections using the single-page design pattern. This visually clearly separated the content. Cairo (2012) had said using white space when different instead of overusing background boxes when sections needed to be distinguished. Overusing background boxes would make the graphic look cluttered. Besides, the vertical scrolling website design allowed us to use the same layout at different resolutions.

The top section navigation included buttons for each topic so the user could jump into them without scrolling. By employing the “top” button on the right side, the user could quickly jump back to the top of the page without having to scroll up the whole page. The website layout implemented a grid system that created a consistent layout, which helped establish identity and made the website look professional.

6. **Simplifying the design:** In the section *How many emojis are there?* The line chart was initially a simplified version of what we wanted to convey, only after the user hovered on individual data points, more context was shown. This functionality simplified and better organized our design.

I tried to avoid unnecessary embellishments to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio (Lidwell, 2010). A simplified design helped to communicate the message clearly and

concisely. It reduced visual clutter, making it easier for the audience to understand the message's key points.

In summary, through practice, I have examined effective data visualization. Emphasizing the importance of storytelling shows how data visualization can go beyond mere charts to become a compelling narrative that engages the audience and drives action.

Choosing the appropriate chart is crucial as it can highlight the key insights and trends in your data, making your message more impactful. With a well-designed chart, you can tell a story with your data and engage your audience in a way that wouldn't be possible with just numbers or text.

Furthermore, by applying fundamental design principles, data visualizations can enhance usability, aesthetic appeal, and overall audience perception. With a thoughtful and intentional approach, your data can be transformed into an engaging and effective tool for communication.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, there are two types of data visualization approaches, exploratory and explanatory visualization that serve different purposes. Exploratory visualization is used during the early stages of data analysis to explore patterns and generate insights, while explanatory visualization is used to communicate insights and findings to an audience in a compelling and understandable way.

During this project, I learned that it is crucial to define the process before designing data visualizations. One of the crucial steps in this process is to clearly define the purpose of the visualization, along with the target audience and the intended storytelling. By identifying what we want to communicate and to whom, we can create a powerful narrative that resonates with our audience and drives action.

By emphasizing the importance of storytelling, we can create compelling visuals that engage viewers and help them relate to the information. This enables them to better understand the data and its implications, making it more likely they'll act upon the insights presented.

Furthermore, it is crucial to use credible sources to build trust with the audience. If the data is unreliable or misrepresented, the visualization loses credibility and will not be effective in achieving its goals. Therefore, it's essential to carefully vet the data sources and ensure that the information presented is trustworthy and accurate.

In the production of explanatory visualizations, it is crucial to consider several key elements to ensure that the design is effective in communicating the intended message. Firstly, selecting the appropriate type of visualization for the data being presented is vital to ensure that the information is clearly understood by the audience. Secondly, the use of appropriate colors can help to emphasize important information and create a visual hierarchy. Additionally, simplifying

the design and focusing on the most important information can help to avoid clutter and allow the audience to easily interpret the data. Providing context and highlighting important information can be achieved through the use of labels and annotations. Furthermore, incorporating interactive features in the visualization can enhance audience engagement and promote a deeper understanding of the data. By taking these design elements into consideration, a successful explanatory visualization can be produced, effectively communicating the intended message to the audience.

Lastly, utilizing a single-page web layout can effectively draw attention to the content. Clever use of white space visually distinguishes each section and prevents visual clutter. Additionally, the incorporation of navigation buttons dramatically improves the user experience. Furthermore, the grid system implemented for the website layout ensures a consistent and professional appearance, ultimately enhancing the website's overall identity. Overall, the design of the website layout effectively shows engagement and clarity.

The main idea of this project is to create expressive, explanatory, and personal visual stories. In this way, presentation and storytelling become a key part of visualization. Storytelling tightly couples exploring data to discover insights with arranging the insights to tell stories as a process. The resulting systems are more expressive and effective.

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## **Cataloging Worksheet**

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