Infographics and Data Visualization as a Communications Tool

Hiram Henriquez, H2H Graphics & Design Inc.



Agenda

- What is an infographic/data visualization?
- The elements of an infographic
- Understanding your audience
- Choosing graphic forms
- Conceptualization and design
- Selecting color
- Tools of the trade
- 508 compliance
- Additional resources

Source: Unless otherwise noted, all text and images are creations of Hiram Henriquez

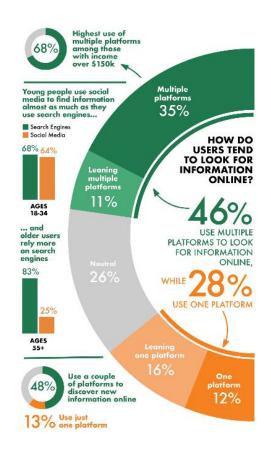
What is an infographic/data visualization?

An infographic or data visualization is any visual display intended to reveal evidence, making the invisible visible.

Good infographics/visualizations...

- show good information correctly,
- attract readers' attention,
- don't frustrate readers, and
- show the right amount of data.

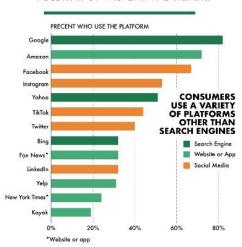
This is a good infographic.



USE OF PLATFORMS/APPS

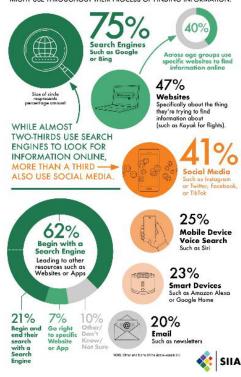
How Users Search Online

LOREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET,
CONSECTETUER ADIP SCING ELIT, SED DIAM
NONUMMY NIBH EUISMOD TINCIDUNT UT
LAOREET DOLORE MAGNA ALIQUAM ERAT
VOLUTPAT. UT WISI ENIM AD MINIM.



WHERE DO USERS TEND TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION ONLINE?

NUMBERS REFLECT ALL THE ONLINE PLATFORMS OR DEVICES UESRES MIGHT USE THROUGHOUT THEIR PROCESS OF FINDING INFORMATION.

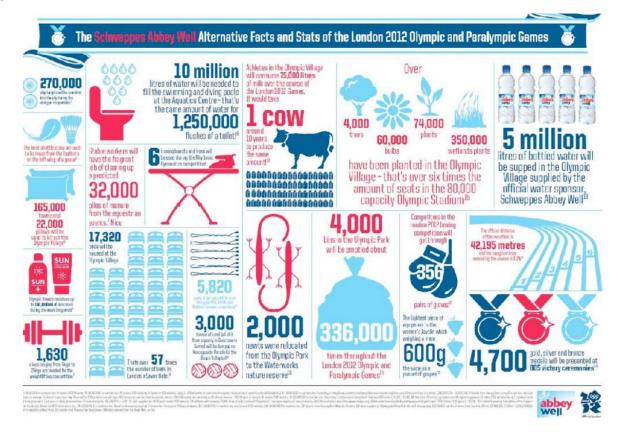


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This is NOT a good infographic.

Data dump



Source: Abbey Well British Spring Water

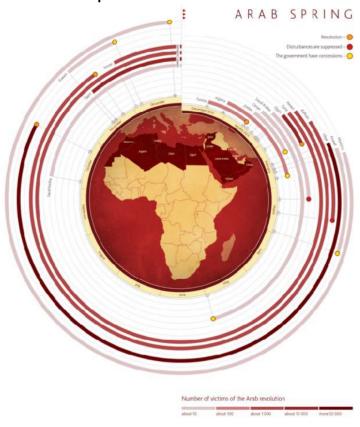
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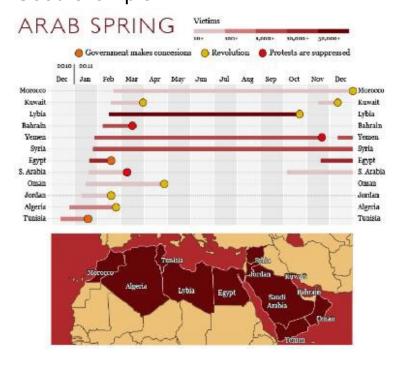
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Bad versus good

Bad example



Good example



Source: Alberto Cairo

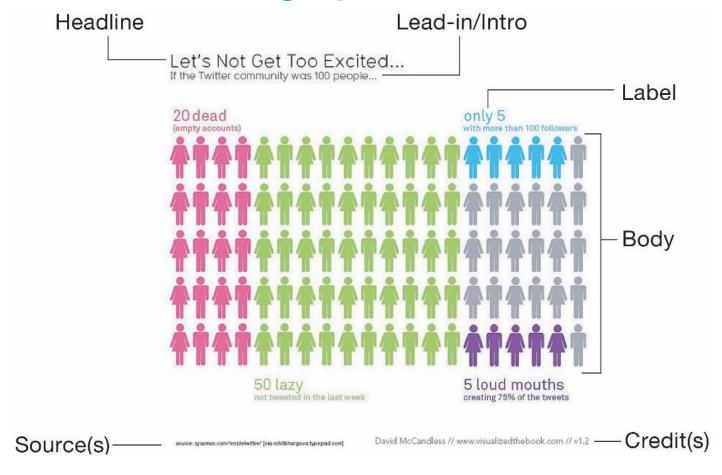
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Elements of an infographic

Elements of an infographic



Source: Alberto Cairo

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Sources Credit

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Body

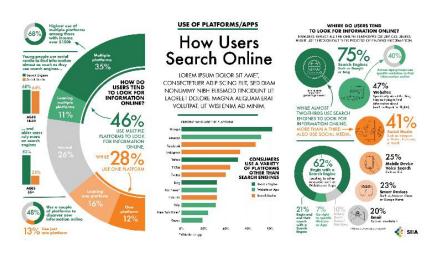
Understanding your audience

The complexity of your infographic or data visualization should be based on your audience's experience.

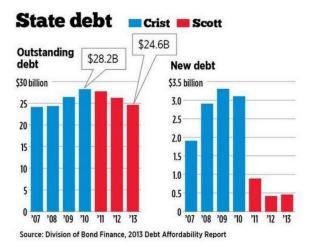
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Complex versus simple

Complex example



Simple example



Also remember...

- If you need a Spanish version of your graphic, Spanish translations are usually longer.
- Not all Spanish/Latino cultures speak the same iteration of Spanish, so use phrases common across all versions of the language as much as possible.
- Scientific words may need to be replaced by more common ones.

Choosing graphic forms

At the core of data visualization lies the idea of "visual encoding."

Choosing graphic forms

- Charts, graphs, or maps
 - Present statistical data or show location.
- Infographics (illustrated)
 - Show how something looks or works or depict a process.
- Data Visualization/Data-Driven Story
 - Visualize statistical data in a creative manner.

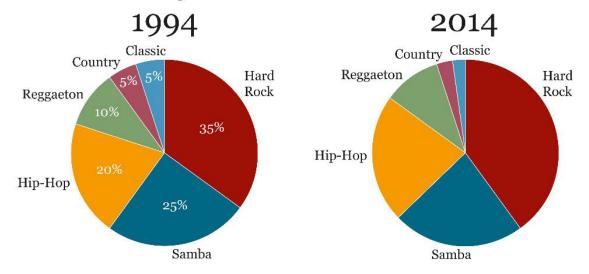
Misusing graphic forms

Incorrect example

Although your data might work with multiple chart types, it's up to you to select the one that ensures your message is clear and accurate.

How Music Preferences Have Changed in Two Decades

Music styles preferred by University of Miami students. Survey based on interviews with 1,000 students. **SOURCE: WishfulThinkingData Inc.**



Source: Alberto Cairo

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Using graphic forms

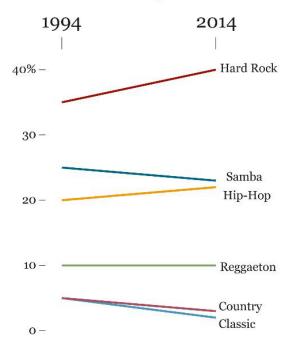
Correct example

Data is only accessible if you know how to visualize it and give context.

How Music Preferences Have Changed in Two Decades

Music styles preferred by University of Miami students. Survey based on interviews with 1,000 students.

SOURCE: WishfulThinkingData Inc.



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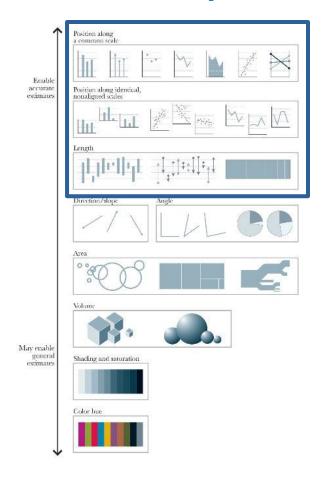
Source: Alberto Cairo

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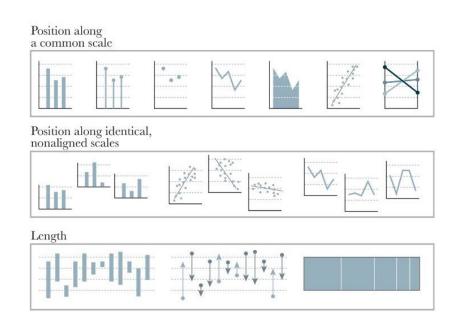
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Accurate representation of data



 Based on William Cleveland and Robert McGill's research



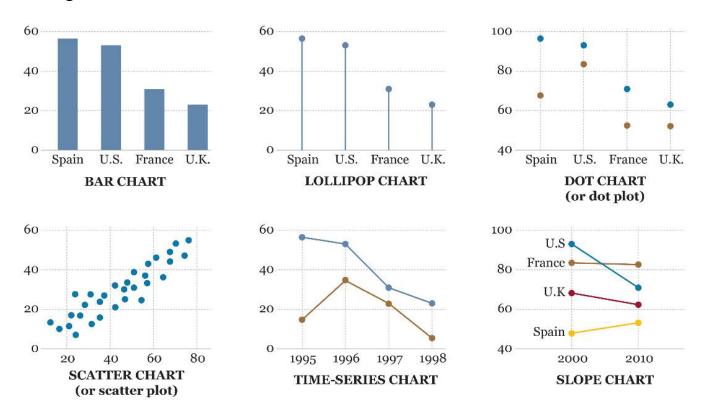
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Source: Cleveland, W., & McGill, R. (1984). Graphical perception and graphical methods for analyzing scientific data" Journal of the American Statistical Association.

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Accurate representation of data

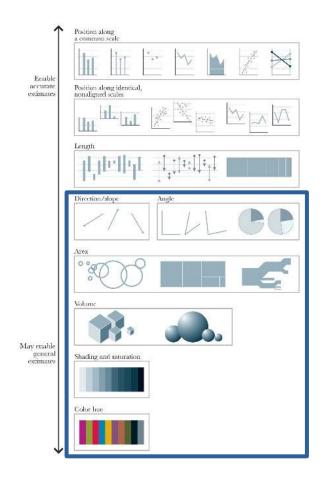
Present straightforward statistical data or show location.



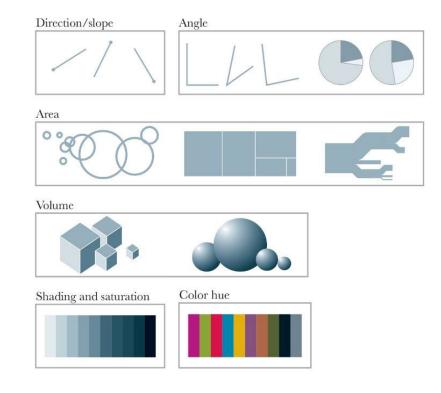
Source: Alberto Cairo

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General representation of data



 Based on William Cleveland and Robert McGill's research

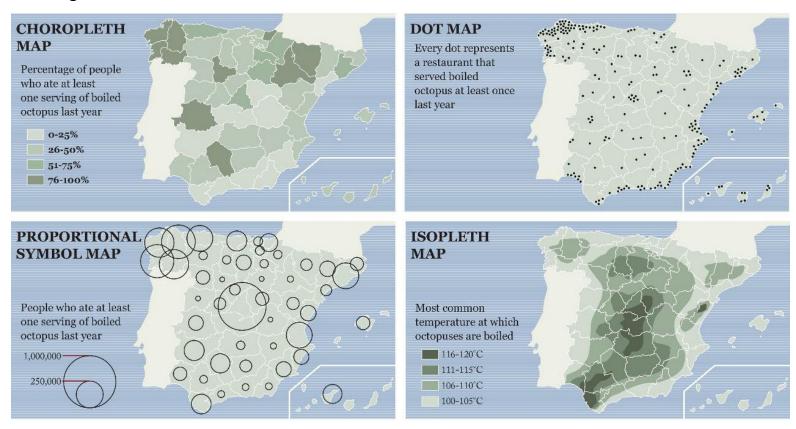


Source: Cleveland, W., & McGill, R. (1984). Graphical perception and graphical methods for analyzing scientific data" Journal of the American Statistical Association.

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General representation of data

Present general statistical data or show location.



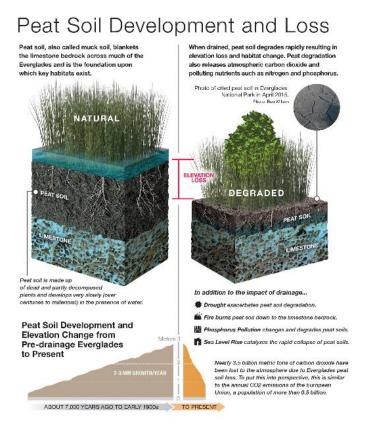
Source: Alberto Cairo

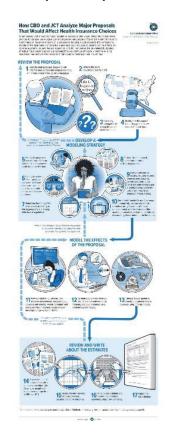
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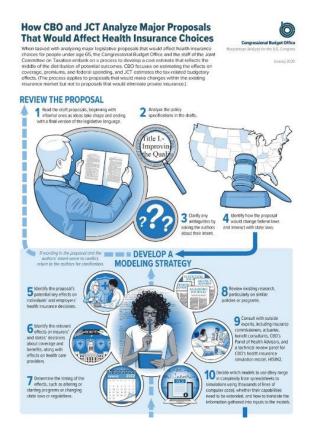
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Infographics (illustrated)

Show how something looks or works or depict a process.







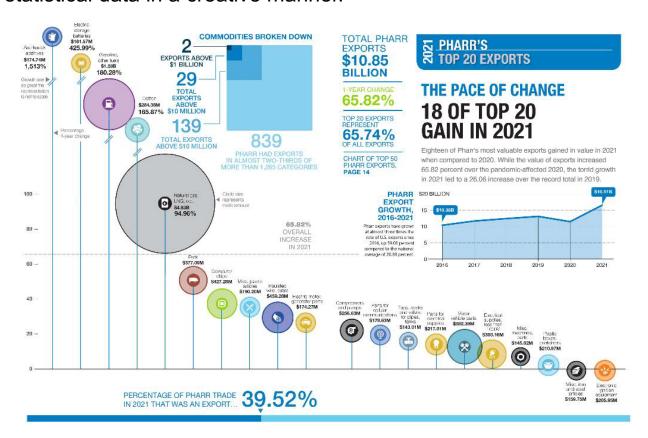
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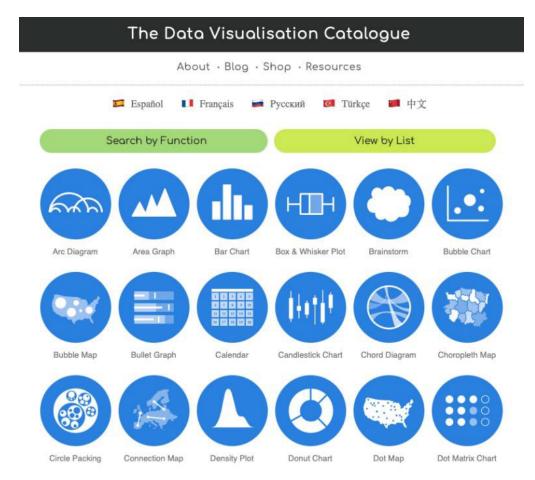
Data visualization/data-driven story

Visualize statistical data in a creative manner.



Exploring graphic forms: https://datavizcatalogue.com

Cleveland and McGill's scale is usually a good starting point, but you'll need to try different graphic forms, then choose the most appropriate one.



Source: https://datavizcatalogue.com

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Conceptualization and design

The key to any visual design is the presentation of a cohesive, structured, readable, and understandable composition.

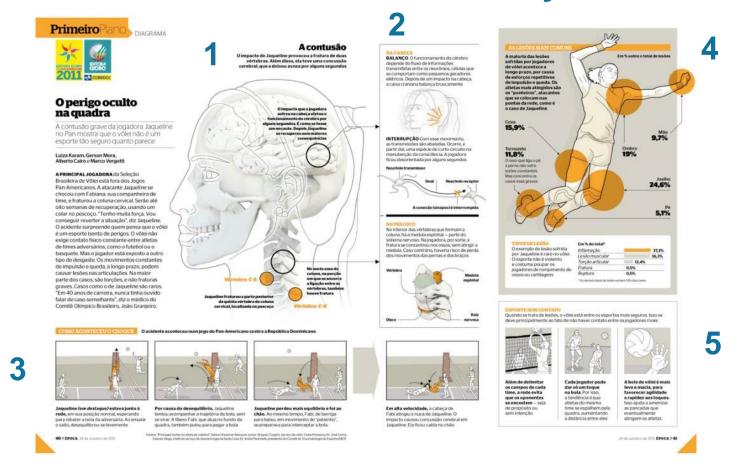
Main things to consider

- Think about the audience and the publication—that is, user experience.
- Think of the questions your graphic should help readers answer: what, when, why, and how.
- The nature of the information can guide you when choosing the most appropriate ways of telling the story.
- Visualization doesn't simplify. It clarifies.
- Don't use too many different fonts.

Steps in designing your graphic

- Research.
- Write the main headline and main introduction first. That should be your guide to what you really need to show and what you can leave out.
- Have a dominant element and establish hierarchy so the audience reads the content in the order you want.
- Separate graphics into block sections.
- Line up elements and use unity and variety.

Have a dominant element and establish hierarchy so the audience reads the content in the order you want.



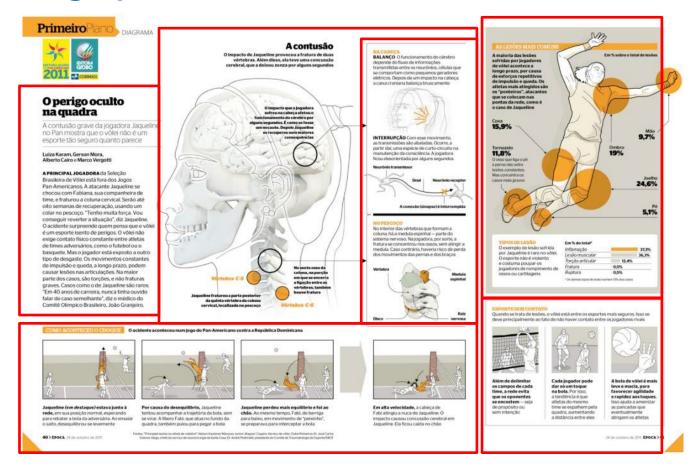
Source: Alberto Cairo

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Separate graphics into block sections.



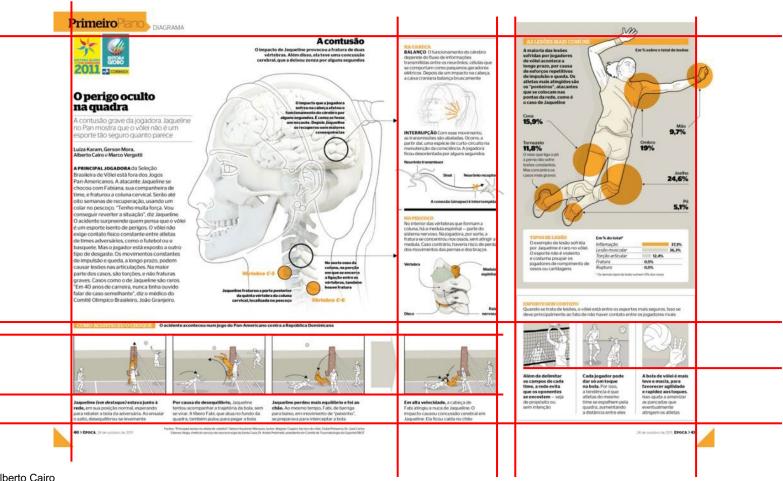
Source: Alberto Cairo

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Line up elements.

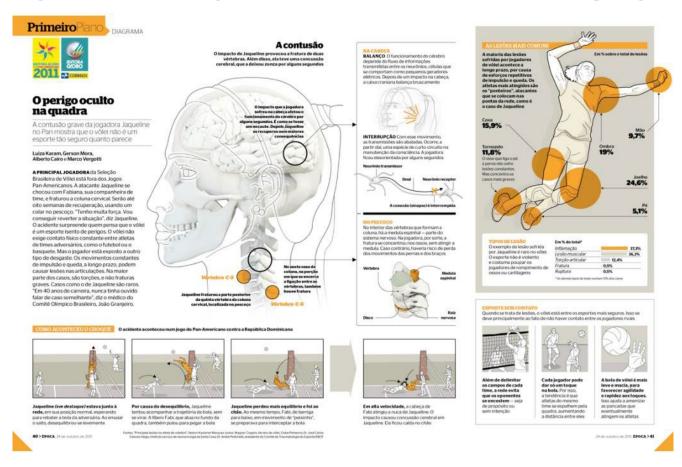


Source: Alberto Cairo

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Use unity and variety in colors, text, and imagery.



Source: Alberto Cairo

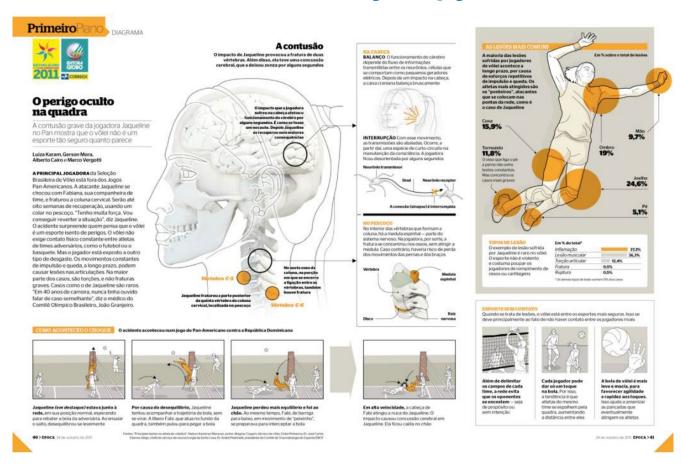
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Stick to three fonts at most: one for main headline, one for subheads, and one for body copy.



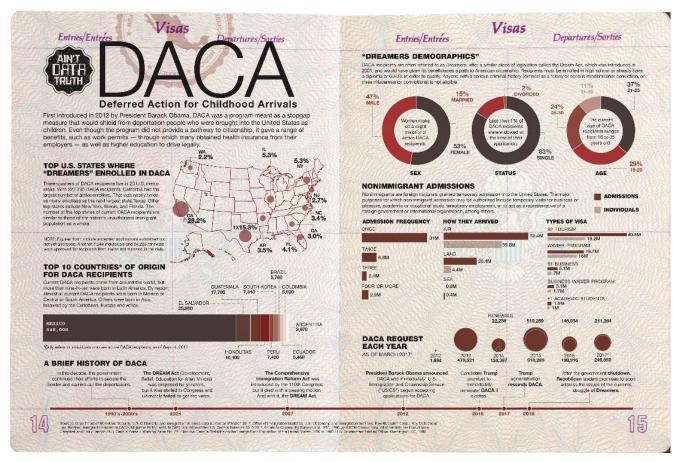
Source: Alberto Cairo

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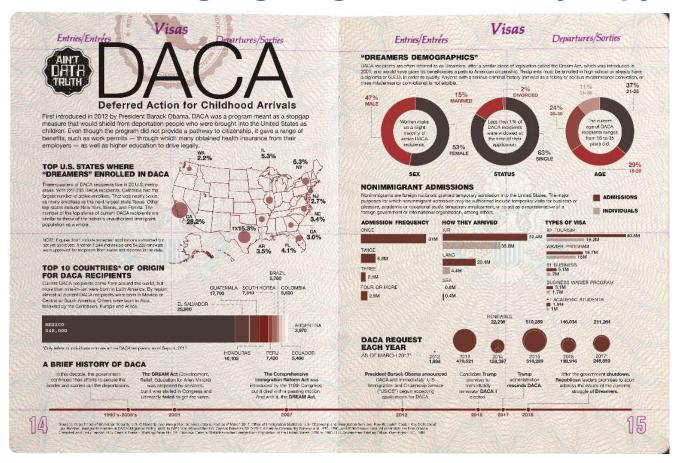
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Selecting color

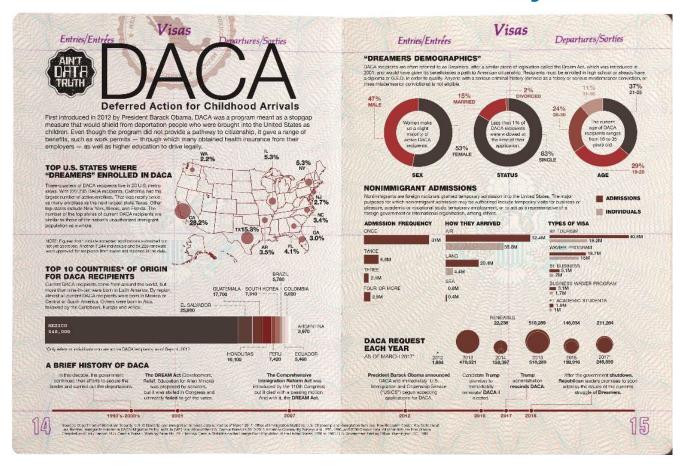
If using a photo in the design, the best bet is to use a few colors from the photo for your charts or maps.



Color should be used mostly for charts, maps, and illustrations. Only use color in text for main headline, subheads, or for highlighting words in body copy.



Black can be a color as well if used boldly.

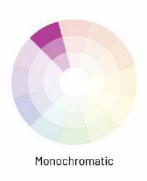


Six basic color schemes

COLOR WHEEL

THE 6 COLOR SCHEMES





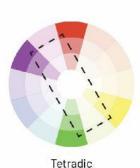




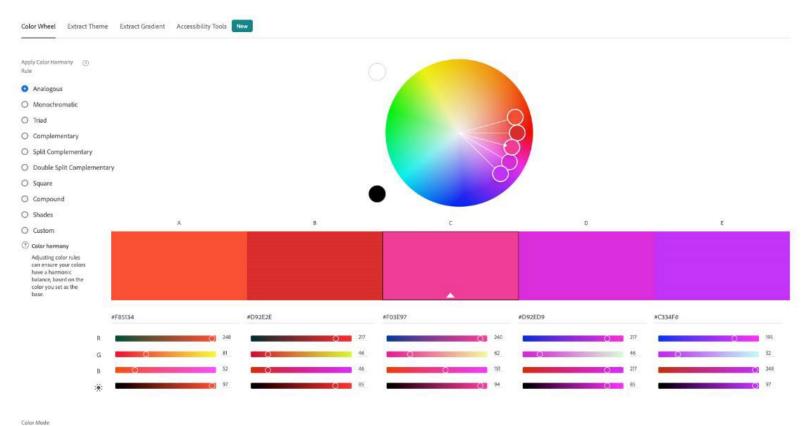
Complementary







Adobe's color tool https://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel



Generate stunning palettes with Adob Color Wheel Use the Color Wheel to create

Use the Color Wheel to create harmonious colors that make a palette. Choose your base color, then select fror a variety of color harmonies like analogous, triadic, complementary, and more to create beautiful designs.

Save

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Source: https://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel

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Tools of the trade

Tools of the trade

Common software includes:

- Adobe Illustrator (charts, maps, vector illustrations)
- Adobe InDesign (publication design)
- Adobe Photoshop (photography, photo illustrations)
- Adobe Acrobat (print setup, 508 compliance)
- Flourish or Tableau (interactive graphics for web)

508 compliance

508 compliance

- Web accessibility, or eAccessibility, is the inclusive practice of ensuring there are no barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to, websites on the World Wide Web by people with physical disabilities, situational disabilities, and socio-economic restrictions on bandwidth and speed.
- A brief tutorial on how to use Adobe InDesign and Acrobat for eAccessibility design:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/765bnmyonikpkzf7qca2l/Fact-Sheets Video4.mp4?rlkey=3kkm9tilo9dbzvzlx92d29o1s&dl=0

Source: Wikipedia

Additional resources

Additional resources

Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop video tutorials are available at the Dropbox link below. They cover the creation and stylizing of

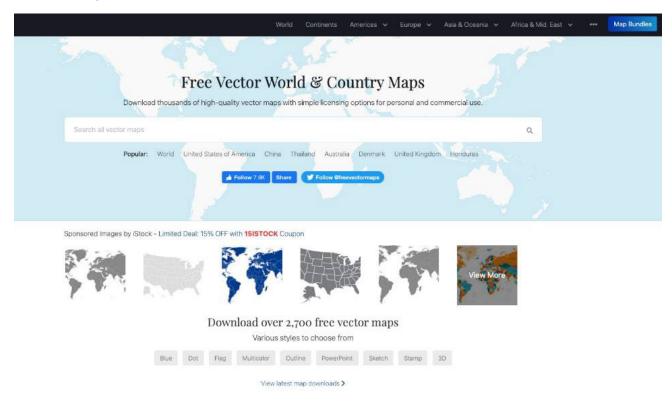


13 different chart forms, three styles of maps, and illustrations of animals, people, and things (Illustrator), as well as fact sheet design (InDesign).

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/gfrwx3flito9c37tsnroc/h?rlkey=2tidk55t2r78 auwqadp6cmhdy&dl=0

Freevectormaps.com

Download thousands of high-quality vector maps with simple licensing options at https://freevectormaps.com.



Source: https://freevectormaps.com

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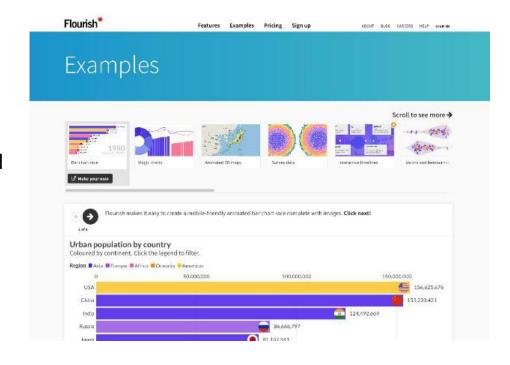
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Flourish

A series of training videos guide you through Flourish's templates and features to help you become successful with this platform. The Flourish beginner series is available to all users for free and is suited to anyone who is new to Flourish or would like to refresh their skills.

https://flourish.studio

https://flourish.studio/resources/training/



Source: https://flourish.studio

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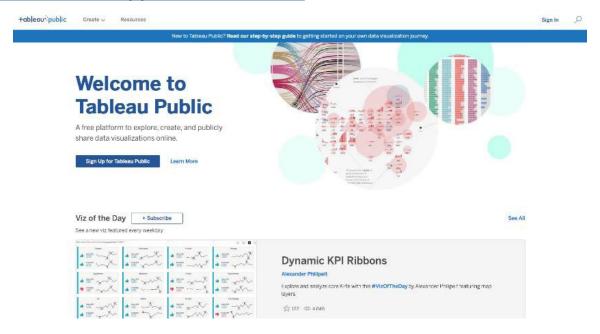
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Tableau Public

Tableau Public is a free platform to explore, create, and publicly share data visualizations online.

https://public.tableau.com/app/discover

https://public.tableau.com/app/resources/learn



Source: https://public.tableau.com/app/discover

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Questions?





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