

29th April 2015

Research IT, University of Manchester

Visualisation and analysis of datasets – invitation to participate in evaluation

Visualisation of datasets and the creation of attractive representation of datasets providing insights and better understanding of data is becoming increasingly important in research. Excel is one of the basic tools used to create graphs and analytics of datasets, whilst at the other end of scale of complexity is the use of more sophisticated and complex software like Matlab, Python, R, Mathematica, and STATA.

The University has identified a need for an application that falls in between the basic visualisation tool and the more complex ones as part of the overall strategy to improve capabilities in this area and to this end Research IT will be coordinating an evaluation of candidate applications. The objective of this evaluation is to select an application and make it available for wide adoption across the University, along with training, support and centrally funded & managed licencing.

These capabilities are delivered by a number of different software applications and from an initial scan of market capabilities we have selected Tableau, Qlikview, Spotfire and IBM Watson analytics for more detailed evaluation.

Scope of the evaluation process.

This evaluation is necessary in order to find the best fit for our varied visualisation needs at the university. We would like to see as many use cases as possible at the university and therefore using the software to visualise your own data and reporting your findings is highly desirable in this exercise. However, if you would like to participate in the evaluation process without having a suitable dataset, we can recommend some sources of data that can be used.

The evaluation will last for 2 months commencing in mid-May. A set of evaluation criteria have also been created which will be supplied to all participants.

How to get involved

Please respond to this email or send a note to ITS-research@manchester.ac.uk and let us know you'd like to participate in this evaluation. We'll then send out detailed instructions which will include information on how to get access to the software. We'll also run initial information sessions to outline the evaluation process and will invite you to attend these. If you have any questions at all about the evaluation process or scope please also get in touch.

A chance to win!

In appreciation to your participation, Research IT will be presenting three prizes for the best evaluation reports we receive. These prizes will be £250, £150 and £100 in Amazon Vouchers.

Kurt Weideling
Head of Research IT
29th April 2016

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

<http://www.qlik.com/products/qlikview>

<http://spotfire.tibco.com/>

<http://www.ibm.com/analytics/watson-analytics/us-en/>