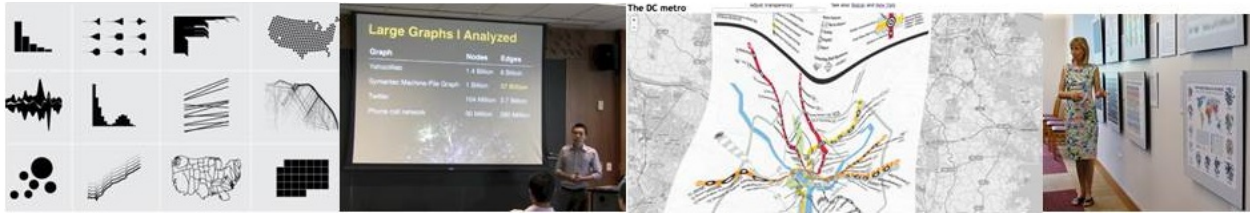


Annual Theme: Data Visualization



Data visualization is the graphic presentation of information which supports the exploration, examination, and communication of complex data (Few 2009). In short, it is a method by which scientists and researchers can transform data and evidence into explanations (Tufte 2006). Beyond serving as a means of effective and efficient communication, data visualization affords researchers and consumers alike the opportunity to process large quantities of data and develop a deeper understanding of the world in which we live. The unprecedented quantity and quality of data now available has created a renewed interest in and demand for data visualization techniques (Yau 2011). Recent advances in data visualization have made possible the analysis of such information which previously may have been too complex to uncover substantively important patterns and relationships. The applications and development of data visualizations techniques, which span nearly every field from the humanities to hard sciences, constitute an important and vibrant area of research highly relevant across academic disciplines and professions.