

TipSheet

1. Infogr.am . This is a tool which allows one to make interactive infographics on the web. It is very simple and easy to use. It allows the user to choose from more than 30 chart types, like the basic pie charts, bar, scatter plots to making some fancy pictorials, tree maps or a Word Cloud. It also has a map section where you can upload country-wise data and make a world map or choose from its vast library of country specific maps. eg. the correct version of the India map as defined by the Govt of India. You can also add images, text, videos and slides to your visualization. It comes in handy when you are looking to create professional looking charts and infographics within a few minutes.

2. Table Capture - A major problem that journalists face here is the extraction of data from webpages. If you are ever caught in this situation and end up manually copying the nos from the site to the excel sheet, then this tool will really solve your problem. 'Table Capture' can be downloaded via Google Chrome Web Store and gives you the ability to easily copy HTML tables to the clipboard for use in a spreadsheet within minutes.

3. Tabula - is another blessing in disguise especially when you have to deal with data that is locked in pdfs. This tool allows you to extract data into a Comma Separated Value (CSV) or Microsoft Excel Sheet spreadsheet. All you have to do is upload the pdf file into tabula, highlight the table to extract and the program will convert it into a usable format. Download it here.

4. Piktocharts - This is a very useful tool that allows non-designers to create beautiful infographics. It has a very easy-to-use editor which allows one to select different types of icons. Also the very fact that they have more than 100 templates to choose from only makes your life that much easier. Apart from the large number of scalable vector icons, it also has interactive maps, bar charts, etc and allows the user to import data from csv files. Once you're done with the infographic, it can be exported as an jpeg/png, pdf or viewed, using a web link or simply inserting the HTML embed code in your website.

Overall, it is a very handy tool that makes your ideas/data look 'super cool'. Get it here.

5. Statistics Course - if you are looking to make a career in data journalism then you should consider signing up for one of the online statistics course. An introductory level course will help you get your basics right and will also give you confidence when it comes to inferring / understanding numbers. You can sign up with Coursera, Stanford, Udacity for their MOOC.

6. Knoema - a tool to make data viz.

7. timescape.io - to make awesome world maps

8. Explee - to make whiteboard videos. You do not need video experience to make animated infographic videos.

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