

JULY 2024

ANALYTICS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Happy Summer, Analytics

Community of Practice Members!

Our quarterly newsletter is back, following the recent announcement of a new community chair. Read on for a fun community member spotlight - who will be leading some of the events available to you.

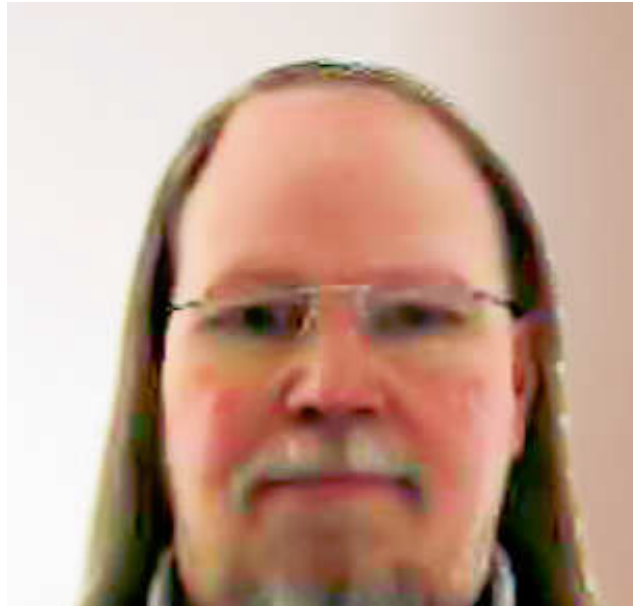
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Community Member Spotlight

Glenn Bunton

Meet Glenn Bunton, Data Visualization Librarian for the University Libraries.



As the Data Visualization Librarian for the University Libraries, Glenn's responsibilities include presenting instruction sessions on various aspects of data visualization and assisting University students, faculty, and staff with data visualization-related questions. In a broader context for the University Libraries, they, like other academic units, are heavily involved with data gathering, analysis, and reporting. We use analytics for internal decision making, University reporting, and national accreditation as just some examples.

What role does analytics play in higher education, and what advents/technologies do you see on the horizon?

We live in a world of data and higher education is no different. From teaching about data and data analysis to research using small and big data to data-driven decision making, every area of higher education is both impacted by data analysis and using data analysis to better meet our mission and goals.

As with everything else in the current world of technology, artificial intelligence and generative AI tools are, and will more profoundly impact the arena of data analysis and data visualization. Microsoft's Copilot AI capabilities are being integrated into Office 365 applications such as Excel.

I've recently been exploring a generative AI tool named Julius that is specifically focused on data analysis and data visualization. We will need to learn about these tools, understand where they succeed, where they fail, and how to use them most effectively.

Favorite data visualization and/or analytics tools and why?

At this time, I suppose I would say Tableau simply because it is the tool I currently know the most about. As I work with other tools and learn more, I find strengths in all of them. I've been pleasantly surprised at some of the in-built capabilities of Microsoft Excel that I had not been aware of. I am a big believer there is rarely one tool that does everything and I enjoy learning new and different tools and techniques.

In your job, are you limited on tool and/or programming languages?

One of the great things about having instructional responsibilities as part of my job is that I am free to discover, explore, and share information about any data visualization tool and/or language (assuming it doesn't cost a fortune, of course). We do try to tailor our support and instruction to those tools and languages most likely to be used by USC students, faculty, and staff. I do think, however, one of the things I can bring as data visualization librarian is discovery and awareness of other options that may not be widely known.

If you have used other analytics tools in the past, how do they compare to your current environment?

My previous professional experience has been in the information technology area. In that setting, my involvement with data analysis was limited to basic data handling and assessment for administrative and managerial purposes. I was familiar with data analysis and visualization tools from a technical support position but limited in my knowledge of using them. My current role and environment has opened a whole new awareness of what these tools can do, how they can be used, as well as a broader understanding of data analysis and data visualization concepts, principles, and practices in general.

How did you learn about the ACP?

I learned of ACP early in its development. My interest at the time was to discover what software university personnel were using in this area so that the University Libraries could provide access and support where appropriate. As Data Visualization Librarian, my current interest is more as practitioner but still a focus on how we can support other practitioners.

What other reporting software are you interested in learning?

While not necessarily reporting software, I am early in my knowledge gathering for mapping tools such as ArcGIS and QGIS which are key to certain types of geospatial data visualization activities. As mentioned, I'm also very interested in what develops in the AI and Gen AI areas that will relate to data analysis and visualization.

What/who inspires you?

On a profound level, the world inspires me. On a more practical, though perhaps related level, what inspires me is all that I don't know. I have always been a curious person and one outgrowth of curiosity is the discovery and recognition of all the things I was not aware of and don't know. There is always something new to learn.

Book recommendations (work related or not):

Right now, it's not a book but an online blog/journal called Medium. While not limited to specific topics, I have found a wealth of interesting items related to data visualization as well as artificial intelligence. If those are areas of interest to others, I would highly recommend it.

TRANSFORM YOUR DATA STORIES - LIVE WEBINAR

JULY 17TH 12:00PM - 1:00PM

LOCATION: Online Event

Join upcoming webinar to unlock the full potential of Tableau and transform your data into compelling visual stories. Dive deep into the powerful features of Tableau and learn the secrets behind creating visually stunning and engaging data visualizations.

[Register now](#)

SEE WHAT I MEAN? DATA VISUALIZATION FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDAMENTALS

SEPT 10TH 10:05AM - 11:20AM

LOCATION: Online Event

A picture may be worth a thousand words but are they the words you want to say? During this session, we will define data visualization, describe its primary uses, briefly review where some of the ideas came from, and explain the scientific basis underlying what makes data visualization work. We share basic principles of effective and ineffective data visualization, tips for success, and effective color use. We will discuss issues of ethics and accessibility. Finally, we explore choosing different data visualization types and tools.

[Register now](#)

GENERATIVE AI FOR EVERYONE: TERMS, CONCEPTS, PROMPT ENGINEERING, & ISSUES

SEPT 12TH 10:05AM - 11:20AM

LOCATION: Online Event

Talk of AI (artificial intelligence), particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT, is everywhere these days. This session focuses on some basics. Basic terminology to understand what is being discussed. Basic understanding of prompts and prompt engineering to get the best from the tools. Basic overviews of some of the most common tools such as ChatGPT, Bing Copilot, Gemini, Claude.ai, and Perplexity. A look at some developing research-focused tools. And finally a quick glance at the myriad of developing gen AI tools currently available.

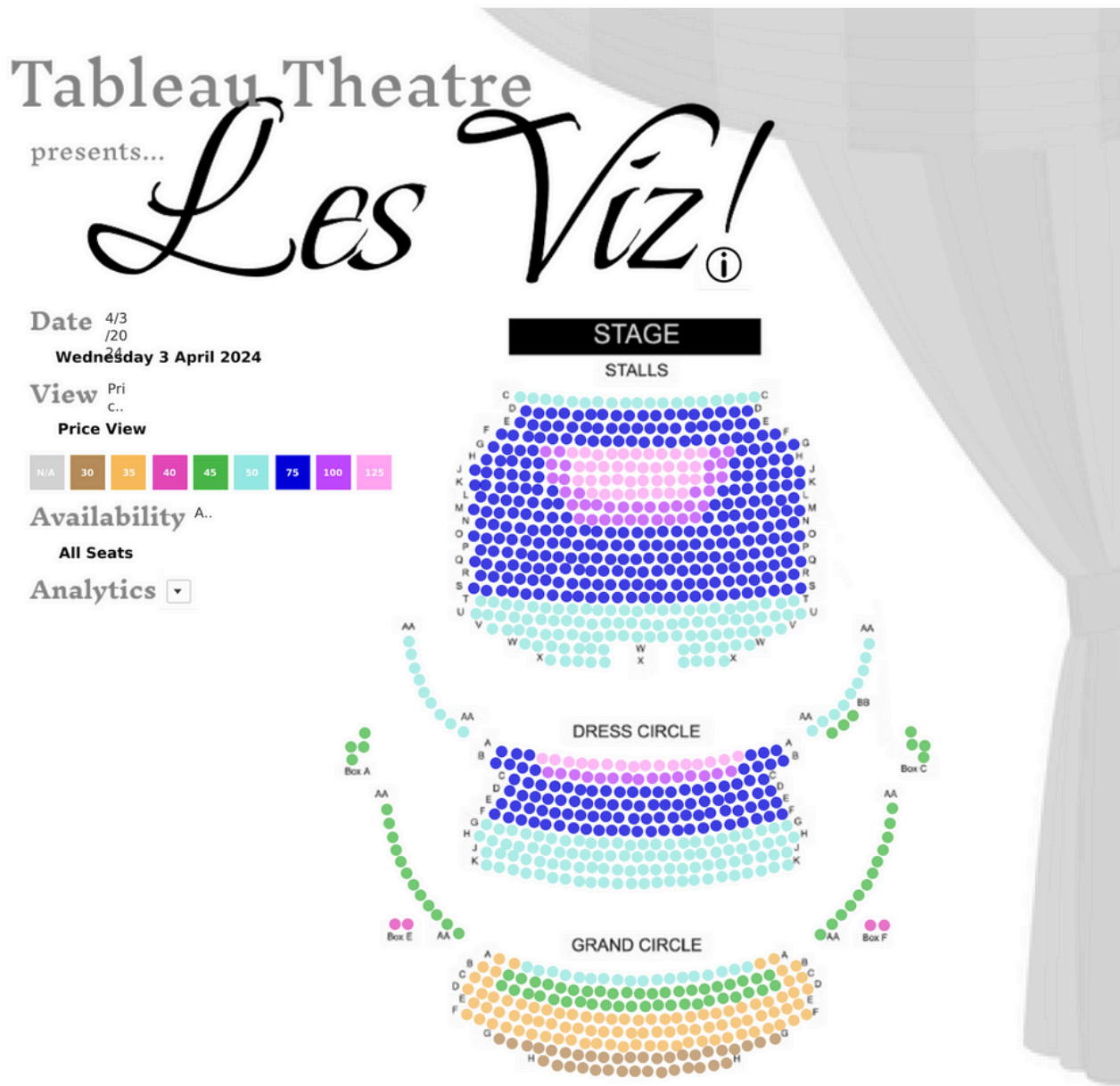
[Register now](#)



VIZ OF THE MONTH

Les Viz | Fictional Theatre Seating & Sales Dashboard

Author: Nadia



Click [here](#) to explore!

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Did You Know?

The new ACP [Microsoft Teams Site](#) is a great way to spread the word about coming events and opportunities! In an effort to reduce email traffic, we encourage you all to send communications via the Microsoft Teams Site. All events shared will also be included in the newsletter, which will continue to go out via the listserv.

As always, the following links and email addresses can be used for the specified purposes:

- To contact the list owner: ANALYTICS-request@LISTSERV.SC.EDU
- [Click here](#) to join the Analytics Community of Practice

Please send us visualizations suggestions for the viz of the month!

If you would like to suggest a visualization for next months viz of the month be sure to share it with us at any one of our communication channels! We are software and tool agnostic so you can send us vizzes from across the spectrum of BI technologies. The visualization can be something you created, a coworker, or something you found. We look forward to seeing your suggestions!

If you'd like to be featured in our next newsletter - please reach out to cmaulana@mailbox.sc.edu!

LOOKING FOR MORE EVENTS?

University Libraries offer students, faculty, staff and the entire community opportunities to engage with data. The University Library workshops are a great way to further your knowledge - check them out through the link below!

[Click here for more events](#)