BBC answers

Suzana Guedes <suzanagc@gmail.com>   Wed, Jul 13, 2016, 11:19 AM

to George, me

Dear friends

Please, see the answers for my inquires bellow.

1.   Is the database journalism considered actual News by BBC?
R/If the story is good enough, it's news whether there was database journalism involved or not.

2.   Is the data journalism activity distributed to all the sections in the Newsroom (economy, sports, local News...) or is it concentraded in one and only section?
R/Mainly in one section, although that is changing, but not many sections have people with the necessary expertise.

3.   What's the Data Journalism's main goal?
R/The BBC's mission is to "Inform, Educate and Entertain" Our data journalism should have the same goals as all our journalism. Trust is the most important value.

4.   What software do you use to scratch and clean the databases?
R/Journalists will use spreadsheets. Developers use R and Python

5.   Did BBC develop its own software to clean and scratch the database?
R/No. Although we do write custom code for specific projects – normally in R or Python

6.   Does BBC use data mining to extract/scratch data from the database?
R/Not that I'm aware

7.   Data mining is made by robots? Who programs the bots?
R/ N/a

8.   What professional background must the journalist have to work with data journalism?

R/So far all the people I am aware of started their careers as journalists and became interested in data. We have developers/data-scientists who work with the journalists on the harder data work.

9.   Does the journalist that works with data journalism need to have a graduation or background knowledge in Programming and Statistics?
R/No. But they tend to work alongside people who do.

10.   What was the process involved in arranging the experts team?
R/There is a data journalism team that grew from the "Visual Journalism" team. Most of the journalists in that team were recruited from the existing team of journalists based on their interest and experience with data.

11.   Which are the main products resulted by the data journalism?
R/I'm not sure I understand the question. Most of the output would be expected to go on our digital output. The bigger stories would also be used on related TV and/or radio packages.

12.   Does BBC use any data visualization technology?
R/Yes

13.   Which software do you used for data vizualization?
R/Excel, Photoshop, Illustrator, Qgis, R, GoogleMaps, Tableau, CartoDB, D3.js, Charts.js – internal tools built with css, html, and JavaScript. Others

14.   Where does the data come from?
R/Most of what we use in this team is NOT what you'd call "Big Data". Generally we are working with Academics who will provide us with data as spreadsheets.

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to Maria, George, Edgard, edison.ishikawa@gmail.com, Gislane

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