

ICT for Civic Data — Turin University 2025–26



# Refining Your Story

Crash Course — Day 5

**Day 5**

# > Today's plan

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## **Morning:**

- > Data visualisation principles
- > Individual work: refine your artifacts

## **Afternoon:**

- > Peer review in groups
- > Exam briefing
- > Course retrospective
- > What's next

# Data Visualisation Principles

## > Choose your chart by task

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The chart type depends on **what you are trying to show**, not on what data you have.

Task	Chart type
Show change <b>over time</b>	Line chart
<b>Compare</b> categories	Bar chart
Show <b>parts of a whole</b>	Pie or donut (use sparingly)
Show <b>distribution</b>	Histogram
Show <b>relationship</b> between variables	Scatter plot
Show <b>geographic</b> patterns	Map

If you are unsure, a **bar chart** is almost always a safe default. Pie charts are hard to read with more than 4–5 slices.

## > Storytelling vs exploration

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### Storytelling

For your **proposal** and presentations.

- > Simple, one message per chart
- > Understandable in one glance
- > Minimal interactivity
- > Title states the **finding**, not the topic

"Flood events have doubled since 2000"

For the proposal: **storytelling**. For your data portal: exploration is fine.

### Exploration

For your own **analysis** and data portal.

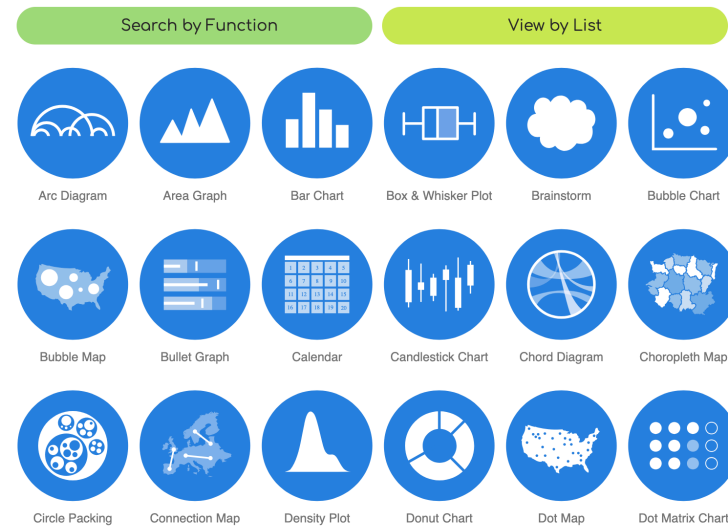
- > More complex, multiple dimensions
- > May need legends, tooltips, filters
- > Interactive (zoom, filter, hover)
- > Title describes the **data**, not the conclusion

"Flood events by country and year"

## > A useful reference

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[datavizcatalogue.com](https://datavizcatalogue.com) organises chart types by function: comparison, distribution, composition, relationship.



Browse by function when you are not sure which chart type fits your data.

## > Apply it to your work

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Look at your current artifacts. For each chart or map, ask:

1. **What is this trying to show?** Can you state it in one sentence?
2. **Is the chart type right for the task?** (comparison → bar, trend → line, geography → map)
3. **Would a funder understand it in 5 seconds?** If not, simplify.
4. **Does the title state the finding?** "Health facilities cluster in urban areas" beats "Health facility map."

# Individual Work

## > Refine your artifacts

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### Individual work until lunch

Focus on **storytelling**, not on adding more data:

- > Improve your chart titles to state findings
- > Simplify visuals that are too complex
- > Update your landing page to tell a coherent story
- > Make sure your data sources are documented

Use the **chatbot for thinking**, the **CLI for building**. Ask for **simple** outputs.

If you are stuck: ask yourself "what would a funder need to understand in 30 seconds?"

## > What we covered this morning

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- > How to choose charts by task
- > Storytelling vs exploration
- > The Data Visualisation Catalogue as a reference
- > Individual time to refine artifacts

**This afternoon:** peer review, exam briefing, retrospective, and what's next.