Envisioning Information
Visualization: “Map/schedule for the Czechoslovakia air transport company in 1933” and “China Railway Timetable”

I chose two visualizations for this book because it might be a good comparison of two different types of schedules.

By employing the circle to indicate the destinations and drawing a line, I thought it was easier to see and understand the route. I never saw such a schedule even though I fly a lot. Nowadays, there are only small circles with same radius to indicate the city and a long line and which airline is flying. Sometimes, it is even harder to understand and get the sense of from which city the flight goes. Also, it doesn’t provide a spatial experience to realize how large the city is. However, with the airplane map/schedule from Czechoslovakia air Transport Company, it provides most of the information and sense of the flights.

Plus, by specifying the size of the circle to indicate how big the city is gave me the sense of the size and also how many air routes that city is holding. Compared to nowadays display screen in the airport or routes, this map and schedule provides more easily to understand and give more sense of understanding the flights. But it has a drawback of displaying many destinations, because some cities can hold more cities compared to the ones we saw in middle Europe.

If there is one thing that I didn’t like about the air schedule/map of Czechoslovakia Air Transport Company, it is the time schedule. It was hard to read what time the flight leaves because it was written around the circle. Also, if the flights increase, then I got the sense of feeling that if the circle method would be sufficient to display the time schedule. Also, I didn’t fully understand the lines. Some lines were thick and dotted and some were just thin line. It would have been nice if there was an explanation of the lines.

Likewise, “China Railway Timetable” reminds me of the metro system route that we can easily see in the subway. It was quite amazing that even nowadays, in Korea; we use similar visualization to show the routes. However, like nowadays flight map, it didn’t give me the sense of how large the station is. Also by looking at how many lines that one station connects to other, it made me think that this is station is larger compared to other stations but didn’t give that sense by just looking at the small circle. With small circle with many lines, it was easier to see the big picture of the railway system of China, however, it was still hard to get the sense of understanding the spatial experience of the stations and imagining the real route of the China railway system.

I think each visualization has its own advantage and disadvantage. However, I felt more comfortable and friendlier to the Czechoslovakia air transport route visualization because by just looking at the circle with different radius, it gave me the sense of how large the city is and also relative location of cities in middle Europe, compared to the small circle of China railway system which does not give any sense of the largeness of the stations and the relative locations within China.
The Visual Display of Quantitative Information
Visualization: New York City’s Weather for 1980

I liked the idea of seeing the graph of New York City’s low and high temperature around 1980. By looking at the graph which shows the high and low temperature of each month, it gave me the sense of which month had a highest temperature even though I didn’t have to read the value of temperature. Nowadays, it is easy to see the graphs; however, I think around 1980s, it might be hard to actually draw the graph and seeing the visualization.

It was also interesting to see the overall temperature of the 1980s, from low temperature to high and the variation of temperatures in the range of months. Even though we are living in Champaign, where I think the temperature varies a lot: one day snowing, the other day raining, I never thought of seeing the graph of different temperatures of the months. By looking at this graph, it is rather interesting to see the variation of temperature from difference of almost 30 degree in some months.

Another thing that I think it was interesting to see in this graph was the lowest and the highest temperature of the year. By knowing which day and the temperature, it reminds some people of how that particular day was extremely hot or cold.

Also the bar graph located in the bottom of the temperature graph shows how normal and actual precipitation of each month. By having information related with the weather, the readers can see the overall weather during the year of 1980.

If there is one thing that can be improved in this graph might be also include “feels like” temperature where it shows how people felt about the temperature. It could be interesting to see the difference of actual temperature compare to “feels like” temperature to compare the distinction of each month and how it varied over time. By comparing the “feels like” temperature, it could be a good indication if there is a lot of wind or rain that can actually decrease or increase “feels like” temperature compared to the actual temperature.
The Visual Display of Quantitative Information
Visualization: OPEC Oil Prices: After 18 Months of Stability, Prices Are Due to Rise Again

I really didn’t like the design of this graph. I really didn’t see the point of having a different type of somewhat 3D bar graph in the quarterly section of 1979. It could have been better if there is a different graph of yearly and quarterly graph rather than creating a different type of graph in one whole graph. I really didn’t see the point of actually having it together in different way.

Plus, by their method of displaying the graph, it was harder to understand the difference amongst different years. If it was just displaying the annual amount then it is much easier to compare and understand what the author of the graph was intending to make. However, with Quarterly graph it even makes me harder to understand about the increase compare to other years.

I didn’t like the way that they visualize in the graph. It must be nice if it was in pie form rather than the bar graph to see how the oil price increased. Plus, it might be much better if the graph that displays the increase in quarterly base in different formats compared to yearly base. I didn’t see the point of having the graph of quarterly base coming out of the graph from yearly based. I thought it should be vice versa because the graph of quarterly base has to be small compare to the yearly base.

One improvement that can help this visualization might be creating a different graph to see the yearly or quarterly base rather than showing it together. By having two different types of graph, it might be easier to actually see the increase. Another possible idea is to have one large yearly graph and within the yearly graph display the quarterly based graph. That way, the reader can understand the graph easily and also get better sense of increase of oil price within that year and within the year’s quarter base.