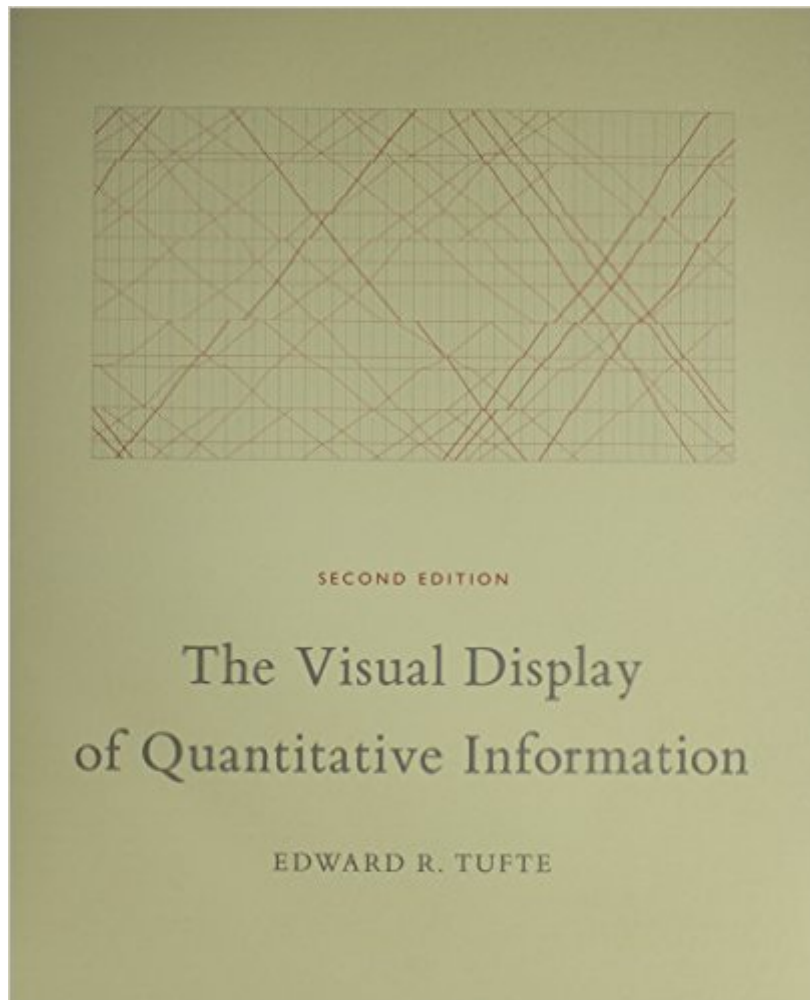




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# **The Visual Display Of Quantitative Information**



## Synopsis

The classic book on statistical graphics, charts, tables. Theory and practice in the design of data graphics, 250 illustrations of the best (and a few of the worst) statistical graphics, with detailed analysis of how to display data for precise, effective, quick analysis. Design of the high-resolution displays, small multiples. Editing and improving graphics. The data-ink ratio. Time-series, relational graphics, data maps, multivariate designs. Detection of graphical deception: design variation vs. data variation. Sources of deception. Aesthetics and data graphical displays. This is the second edition of *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Recently published, this new edition provides excellent color reproductions of the many graphics of William Playfair, adds color to other images, and includes all the changes and corrections accumulated during 17 printings of the first edition. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a prologomena to the visual arts, this book cannot be underestimated. Anyone, especially in the age of instant information, who posts graphics to support an argument, should probably have a look at this book. The advent of social media should be a mustering point for all those who attempt to explain life and especially measurements to their friends and family.

If you're interested in data visualization careers, or simply want to expand your skill set, Tufte is an author that just needs to be studied. Job interviewers will be looking to see that you understand the philosophy behind developing awesome visualizations, and Tufte is where they usually begin. My

only gripe with this book is that Tufte seems to be a little too extreme with his suggestions. For example, he introduces the data-to-ink ratio that simply does not apply to every single visualization out there. But I know, his ideas should be treated as simple guidelines, not laws. But there are also other aspects of the content that irks me - the "Lie Factor" formula that he provides, for instance, does not actually work. I did this with my instructor and classmates in the classroom! But, as I said, you can't ignore Tufte. It's too much of a legend in the field and whatever he says needs to be taken seriously if you're serious about information visualization.

I read this book as a preparation before designing dashboarding tools and systems for an analytics product. It was astonishing how much thought Edward Tufte has put into his data graphic design theories and how the principles in this book still hold strongly to this day. Absolutely recommend this book to anyone who wants to be better at visualizing data in a useful way to their users/customers/management.

This is the bible for people interested in presenting information in visual format. Where he shorts the reader, I believe, is that he is marvelous in his discussions of the technical side, he isn't as strong on the rhetorical side. That is, he tells us all about the "how" of visual presentation, but almost nothing of how to be effective communicators. Still, it's the best book on the block.

This book established Tufte as the authority on the subject of graphs, charts, tables, indeed the display of data by any means. The book is readable by most anyone and will add to your library and your ability to make your way intelligently and critically through the flood of statistical and graphical arguments and pitches placed before us every day. Simply and confidently Tufte lays out the basics of the right and the wrong, the good and the bad (and occasionally ugly) regarding graphical depictions of data and information. This book (The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, 2nd edition) is the first and the foundation of four books by Tufte (I. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, 2nd edition. II. Envisioning Information. III. Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative. IV. Beautiful Evidence.) that should be read in the order of publication. You will be a wiser person for the effort. His short book, "The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint: Pitching Out Corrupts Within", while not part of the "four volume set" is a withering attack on the ubiquitous software program, an attack based on the fact that it encourages the user to break nearly every principle that Tufte has spent the last 20 years elucidating in his books regarding the reading and the writing and presentation of well thought out and presented arguments and reports. I've read it

and was convinced; PP constrains complex thought, argument, and statistical (indeed any form of) reasoning with its "bullet points", and is a very inefficient means of depicting information as well, cluttering the display space with useless clip art, huge fonts, and often misleading cookie-cutter graphs. (His satirical PP presentation of the Gettysburg Address humorously makes his points, while his analysis of a very real NASA PowerPoint slide from the decision-making meetings regarding the danger to the Space Shuttle Columbia before its destruction on re-entry makes his points in a very sobering manner.) All this being said, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information* is a Great Book. In the internet age we all spend many hours per week looking at visual depictions of information. Tufte's book will make you a more critical user of nearly everything, from the newspaper, to websites, to work presentations, the sports pages, and even your car's speedometer and other gauges. It is the foundation to all of his published work from the last two decades. Buy this book!

I took a class based on this book over 20 years ago and the information in it has been helpful ever since. I purchased this copy for the engineers in my group.

the '1984' of charts? okay not really, but its some illuminating s\*\*\*; its an amazing text that can turn what you might have thought of as one of the dumbest most banal subjects in the history of creation into something interesting and exciting. it not only conveys information, but can stoke the fires of passion for a subject. which is good. it didnt fix my poor grammar, which is bad. it wasnt supposed to fix my poor grammar, which sort of negates the previous point. im going to stop now, for the fear that i have made myself appear a fool.

The book is worth buying even if you just read the passages dedicated to William Playfair.

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