

Humanities and New Technologies: Tools and Methodologies

DH6114 ***Final Portfolio***

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Module: 2022-DH6114 Humanities and New
Technologies: Tools and Methodologies
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I had many thoughts in my mind while figuring out a research topic and question. At first, I thought about the Cultural Sector of Egypt and how I feel like it is disassembled because of my Fine Arts background, I know this is happening. I thought of how every year hundreds of graduation projects are wasted, and they are of no-good use because there is no place for curation.

I thought of, if the **Cultural Sector** is connected, maybe we would have new art every year collected and displayed at our museums and historical palaces, also I believe this art describes our current culture. We already have historical museums, why don't we make our modern ones as well? We also need to have an archive for our presence for future generations.

So, I looked at it from different perspectives, a student's perspective, my own point of view and a wider perspective. I started to figure out an achievable solution to connect most/all the Cultural Sector all over Egypt together, whether it is Arts Faculties or different museums and exhibitions.

I thought of collecting the data of graduate students of every year from the last few years, to include:

What were the types of the projects? What were the grades of the students? Were those projects sold or not?

Where the graduates work now? **and** whether they have portfolios of their work or not, I had an idea of doing an online platform, a crowdsourcing application or website and I can introduce the method of **Photogrammetry** for them to put their graduation projects and data there so when they graduate they would already have their online appearance and portfolios, the college would have archived datasets of those students and projects, and future generations may find those datasets as well so they would have an idea of what is happening at this period of time.

However, I couldn't achieve that because I couldn't find any data related.

I started to develop the idea into a wider one, so I started to think about the museums and exhibitions of Egypt, why don't they curate the graduates' projects? But when I searched, I found out that the museums themselves are not connected, there were not any full list of the available museums of Egypt even on the website of Ministry of Antiquities even though there are 72 museums all over Egypt and 24 museums in Cairo.

I tried to find a map or a visualization of a full list, but I couldn't find any. Moreover, I searched for datasets that includes the Cultural Sector of Egypt, but I couldn't find any data except data about the pyramids.

I had to ask, why aren't our other historical monuments and artefacts not as popular or known as the pyramids?

However, I am the kind of person who progress things in my mind visually, I always think with visuals in my head, so I started to get out my thoughts on paper (Fig.1) until I achieved the **research question**:

What are the museums of Egypt? What is popular in Egypt other than the Pyramids?

I believe getting the data together can also help the Ministry of Antiquities have a clear view on every year's profit and loss as well as the number of visitors of different museums.

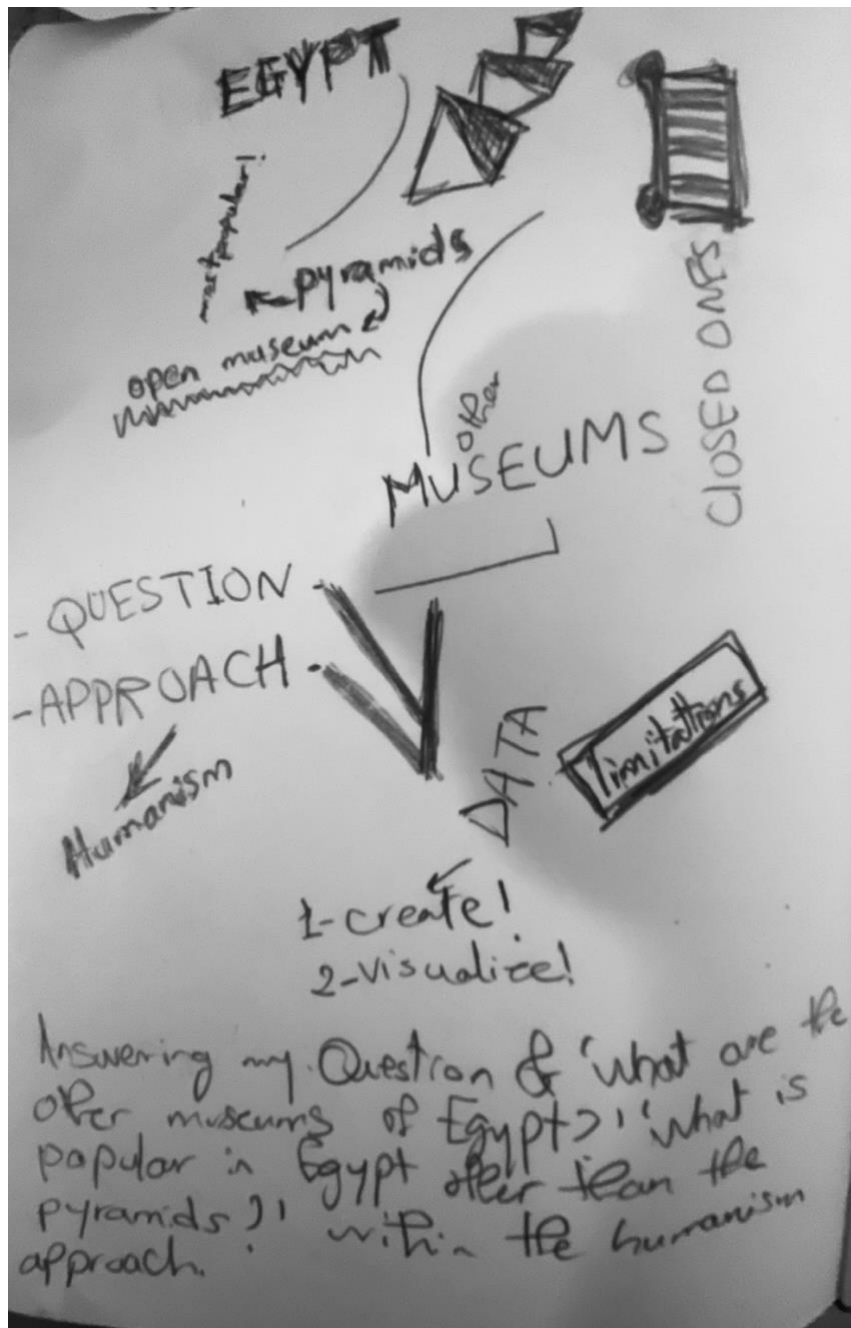
So, one of the **relevant approaches** I have found is a project of Data Visualization of Top Museums Worldwide on Behance,

https://www.behance.net/gallery/138572657/Top-Museums-Worldwide?tracking_source=search_projects%7Cmuseums%20visualization

I like how the designer illustrated the data in a simple clean way, the information is clear, and the design looks good. I find his way of visualizing the visits of the museums every year can be useful for the different museums to have a look at.

Nonetheless, this brought me another thought and a more developed idea, if this project is to be developed by the Ministry, then the method of Photogrammetry can be used for using the figures and shapes of different museums into the data visualization as well as using these Photogrammetry models into making a timeline of the different museums available in Egypt to include onto every museum's website and application.

This timeline can be interactive, and I imagine it can be viewed as a 360-degree visual on the museums' applications so visitors can have an idea of what collections they are going to see at this specific museum and if the rest of this collection is available at another museum that they might want to visit too.



(Fig. 1)

Here, **the activity of searching for data** started, the process perhaps took time, I have worked on collecting this data around total of 30 hours. Sometimes I felt like giving up, sometimes I felt angry that I started to think of making a dataset of my own feelings towards this topic specially after going into videos and projects of 'Giorgia Lupi', I felt inspired by her work and her love for data.

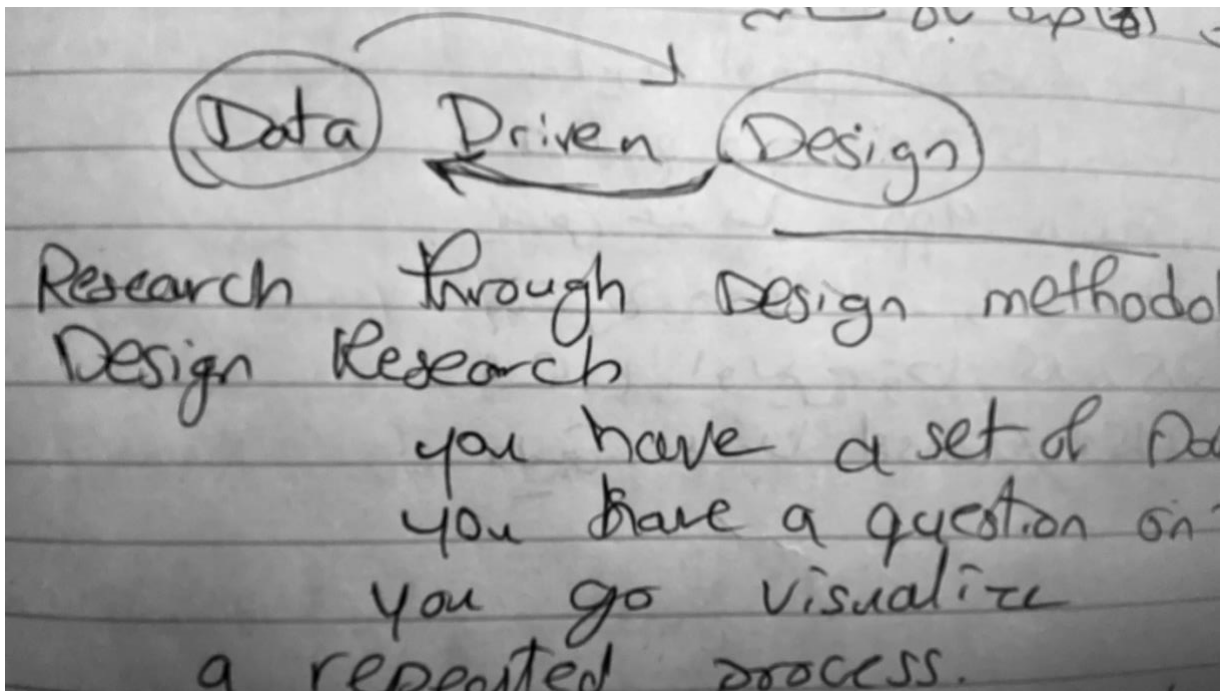
I started to like this field more, I found many infographics and visualization projects that are very inspirational and look perfect. I am not sure about this field here in Egypt, starting to go into it would be challenging but achievable I believe. Nonetheless, I am just starting.

Moreover, I wanted to include the lines of the water around the map (inspired by Waterlines project that was done by Olivia Vane) and I was also inspired by her project of "Faces of Sweden" that I thought of relating the dataset I have into asking a new question and that is "Who was the president of Egypt in the time of opening this museum?" and I thought of visualizing that on a timeline.

The methodology of Data Humanism is my approach here and it is my favorite way while working with data because it gives me a better understanding of my research question as well as giving me the idea of the hidden information. I believe it is a theoretical concept that has been there from the different trials and outcomes of people working with data.

However, as I am more of visual person, I can imagine myself working with Data Driven Design and I can visualize this methodology in my mind (Fig. 2) so I believe I can approach data with the Research through Design methodology as well. Perhaps in the next projects.

Nevertheless, I collected the data from different websites and added them to an excel sheet. While collecting the data, I figured out some data that I can use, and it helped me to figure out new questions and had some visualizations in my head about the relations between those data. Perhaps, I had a pencil and a paper to sketch out my thoughts, so I put down the questions I got from the new information. (Fig. 3)



(Fig. 2)

- visitors / year?
 - How many in Cairo? (24)
 - How many in Egypt? (72)
 - How do they appear? Art movements?
 - when did they appear?
 - locations.
 - sites.
 - How many monuments are there?

Telling the Story through Data

The thoughts in my head, sketching the ideas, then visualizing

+ Preparing the Data!

- near river

(Fig. 3)

While thinking of the **digital tool** to use for the visualization of the dataset, I felt like drawing and adding the details within a well-designed visual, as a result of my inspiration of “Cartographies of Time” but I knew this would have taken much time. So, I thought of using the digital tools of programs like Tableau Public to have the data visualized there then I would take the outcome and work on it with adding more design and colors using other programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign.

I imagined the outcome to be a storytelling visualization of all the information and data that I have gathered and prepared. One thing I was not sure of was doing an interactive map. While searching, I found out that there were methods and ways to do so using some coding programs like Python but in the extent of time and assignments going on, unfortunately I wasn't able to try it but might give it a try later on.

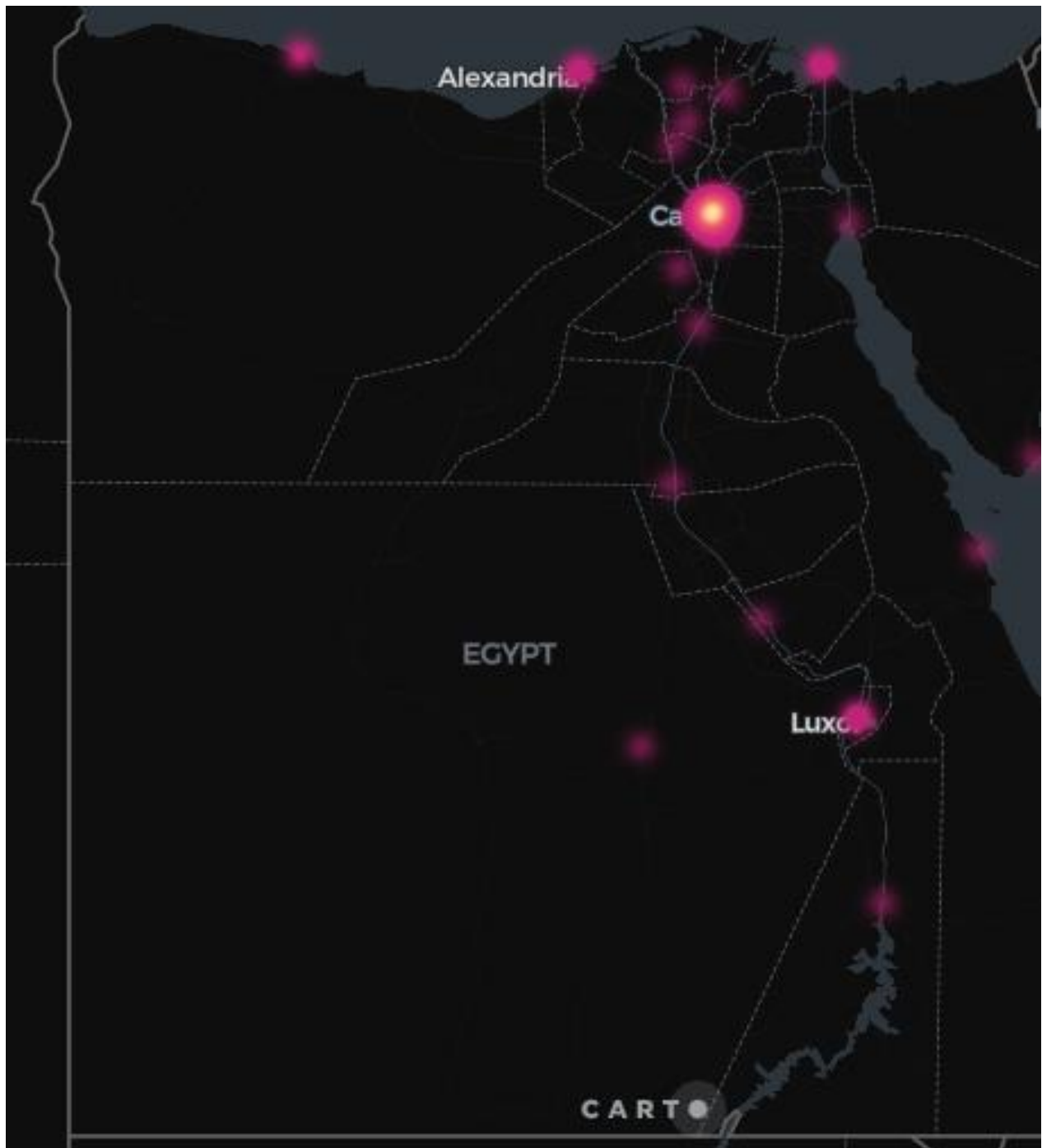
While working with the excel sheets, I chose to analyze data from the home ribbon, and it gave me various of ideas for the questions I might ask and the visualizations I can get.

However, the final digital tools I used for visualization is Carto, Flourish and Tableau Public.

I also tried to work with Numbers application on my macbook and hopefully the shared link will work fine. The best thing about Numbers application is that there are different 2D and 3D and interactive charts and bars to choose from. The worst thing is that it is easier to work with on macbook/iphone only.

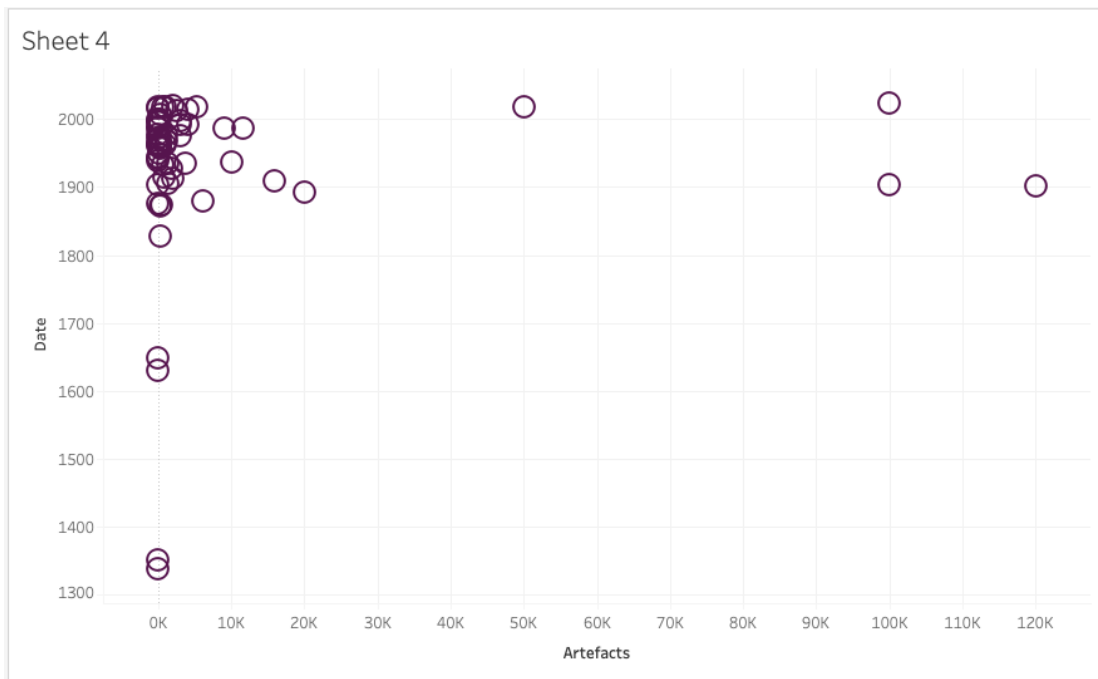
My first visualization is done by Carto:

It represents the geo map using the latitude and longitude. I can tell easily from the map that the most museums are in Cairo and Luxor. However, there are many other museums in other places all over Egypt.



The second visualization is done by Tableau Public:

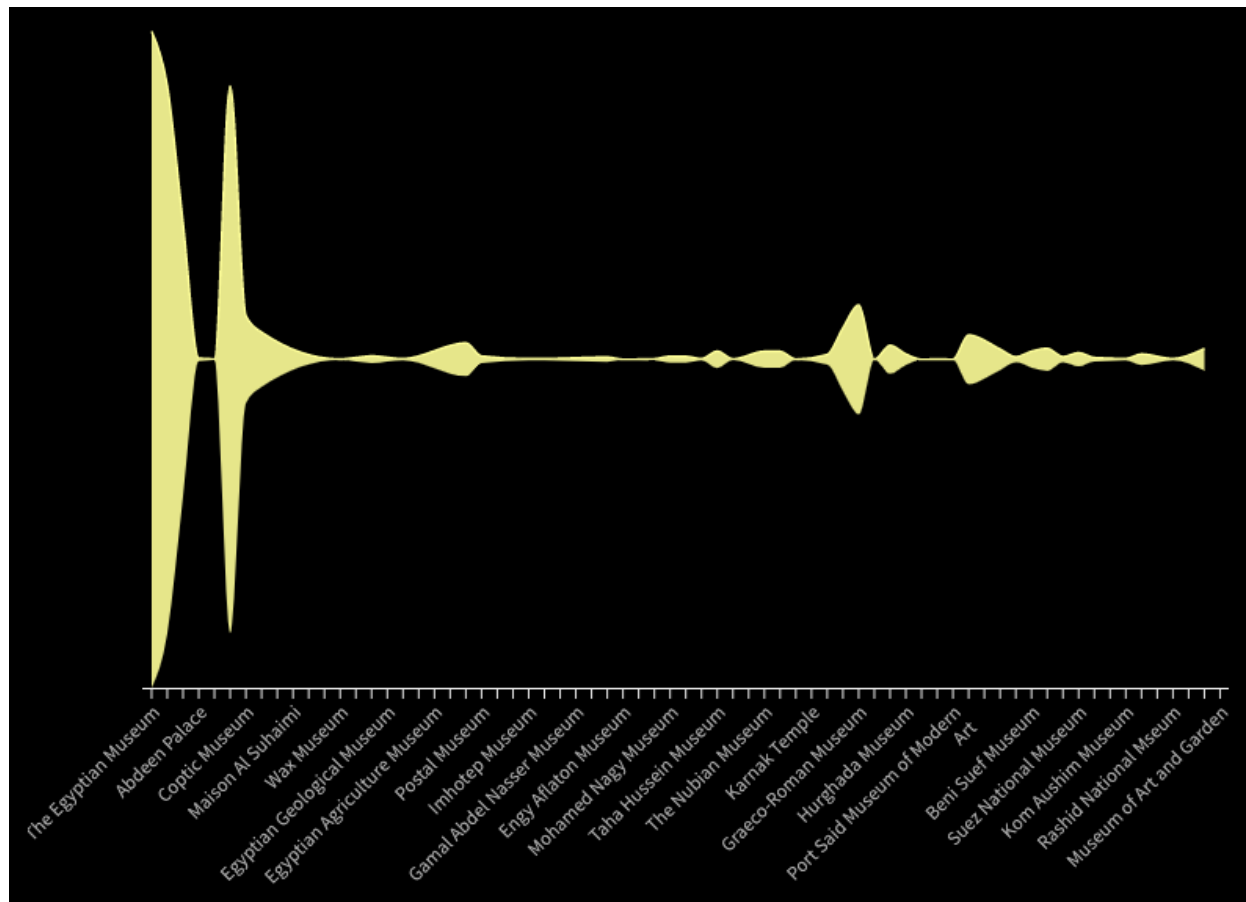
It represents the year when the most artefacts were done.
And I can get a clear conclusion that the most artefacts of the museums were done through the year 1800-2000.
I am not sure of this result though.



The third visualization I did using Flourish:

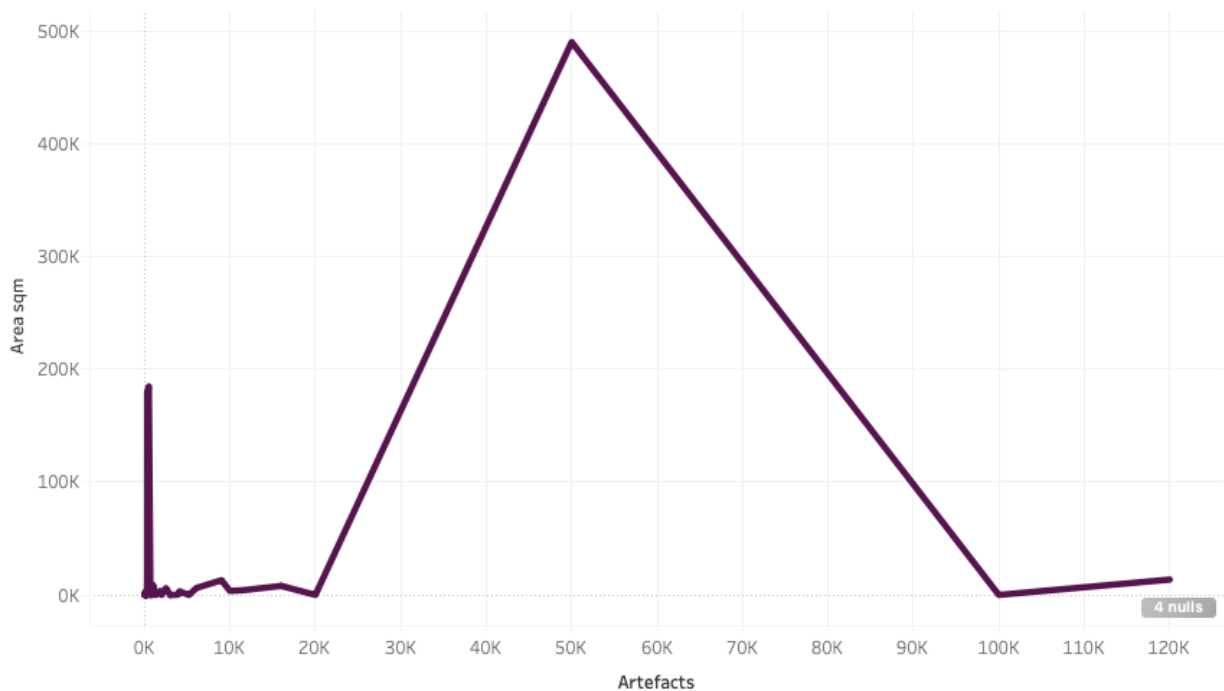
It represents the number of artefacts of each museum.

I can get a clear conclusion that the Egyptian Museum has the greatest number of Artefacts.



The fourth visualization I did on Tableau Public:
It represents the number of artefacts presence into the different areas of Egypt. Some areas are really small despite the number of artefacts available there, but I do agree with that because there are many small items that does not require big space.

Sheet 4



The link to my visualizations on Flourish:

<https://app.flourish.studio/story/1667364/preview/#slide-0>

The link to my visualizations on my WordPress:

<https://www.raghdamawlana.org/portfolio/humanities-and-new-technologies/>

Citations: (Egyptian Antiquities n.d.) (Cairo n.d.) (Museum n.d.) (Civilization n.d.)