

IMDB Data Visualizer User Guide

This user guide is intended to explain how to install and use all of the key features of my IMDB Data Visualiser, with the aid of diagrams.

Installation

Installing the IMDB Data Visualiser can be done in a few simple steps.

1. Ensure that you are connected to the Lancaster University VPN
2. Download the Data Visualiser from <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/ug/disleyj/IMDBDataVisualiser.zip> and extract to a known location e.g. 'My Documents'
3. Open the folder which named 'IMDB Data Visualizer' and double click on 'IMDB Data Visualiser' as below to open the **main view**.

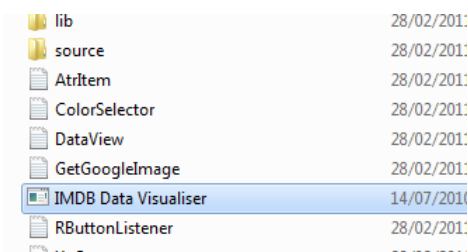


Figure 1

Initial MainView

The screenshot below shows the main visualiser view when it is initially loaded. As you can see no IMDB data is currently visualized as no query has yet been specified.

Queries can be specified which can be found by the top left of the view (see

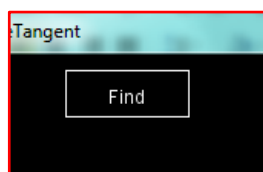


Figure 3

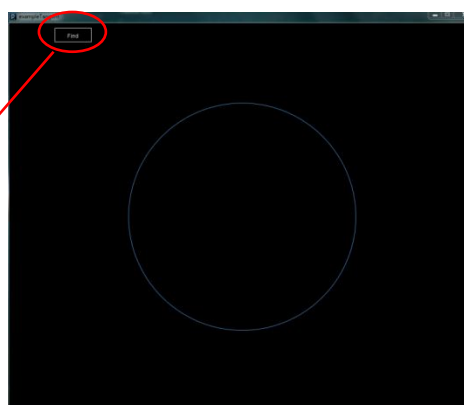


Figure 2

using the 'Find' tool clicking on 'Find' in below).

Using The Find Tool

The purpose of the 'Find' tool is to allow queries to be generated based upon a set of searches and options that can be selected by the user. When using the 'Find' tool you can perform one or more of the following functions to generate a query:

- Type a search such as 'Spielberg' on a number of fields such as Director, Title, Genre, Actress, Actor or Year.
- Select a year range to search within using the provided sliders.
- Select up to four different attributes and their locations around the circle to visualize within the main view.
- Operate the 'Clear' button to clear any selections / searches on the tool.
- Operate the 'Search' button to actually perform the search and visualise the results.

To setup and perform a search at any time using the 'Find' tool perform the following steps:

1. Open the 'Find' tool from the main view.
2. Input in the search boxes anything specific you would like to search for such as the name of a movie and / or director.
3. Select a year range by operating the sliders to indicate a minimum and maximum year.
4. Optionally select specific types to search for by clicking the tick boxes.
5. Select the attributes that you would like to see visualized within the main view by operating the drop down selectors and making a selection for each segment.
6. Finally click 'Search' to perform the actual query and visualize the results in the main view.

If you would like to clear the selection and begin again simply click 'Clear' and all selections will be reset.

The screenshot shows the 'Find Tool' window with the following sections:

- Enter Search Terms:** Input fields for Movie, Actor, Actress, Director, Genre, and Year.
- Choose Year Range:** Two sliders. The 'Min Year' slider is set to 1900, and the 'Max Year' slider is set to 2015. Both sliders have a scale from 1900 to 1990.
- Select Type(s):** Checkboxes for Movie, TV, and Video Game.
- Select Attribute(s):** Four dropdown menus labeled Segment 1 through Segment 4, with selections: Title, Year, Genre, and Rating.
- Buttons:** Search and Clear buttons at the bottom.

Figure 4

Main View

In order for data to be visualized on the main view, the 'Find' tool must first be used (see using the 'Find' tool above).

Once a search has been performed, the results will be displayed on the main view as shown below. Each relationship between attributes is represented as a separate arc. The attribute labels are displayed around the circumference of the circle and correspond to each the dots at the end of the arcs.

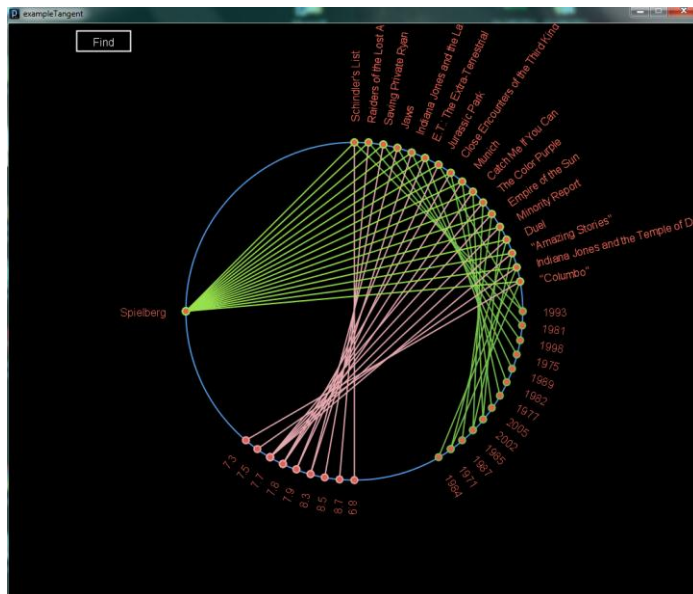


Figure 5

Manipulating the Main View

It is possible to directly manipulate the visualiser and further filter the data that is displayed, by highlighting then clicking on the arc of the relationship that you are interested in.

While highlighting / hovering over lines they will be highlighted in blue as in Figure 6 below. The movie title and attribute title is displayed in the status window in the bottom centre of the visualizer. You can see below that one of the lines leading to the movie 'Jaws' has been selected, which allows all of the related lines to be highlighted to show you that 'Jaws' was made in 1975, its genre is Thriller and has an IMDB rating of 8.3.

