

Blank Spots (Jan 28)

Thorp writes, “Whenever you look at data—as a spreadsheet or database view or a visualization, you are looking at an artifact of ... a system.” For this entry, I’m asking you to devise a system in the absence of data. Please review Onuoha’s list of missing datasets (github.com/MimiOnuoha/missing-datasets) and imagine another dataset for it. Here, you’ll be making an argument for something that *could* or *should* exist. In your log, use 50-150 words to:

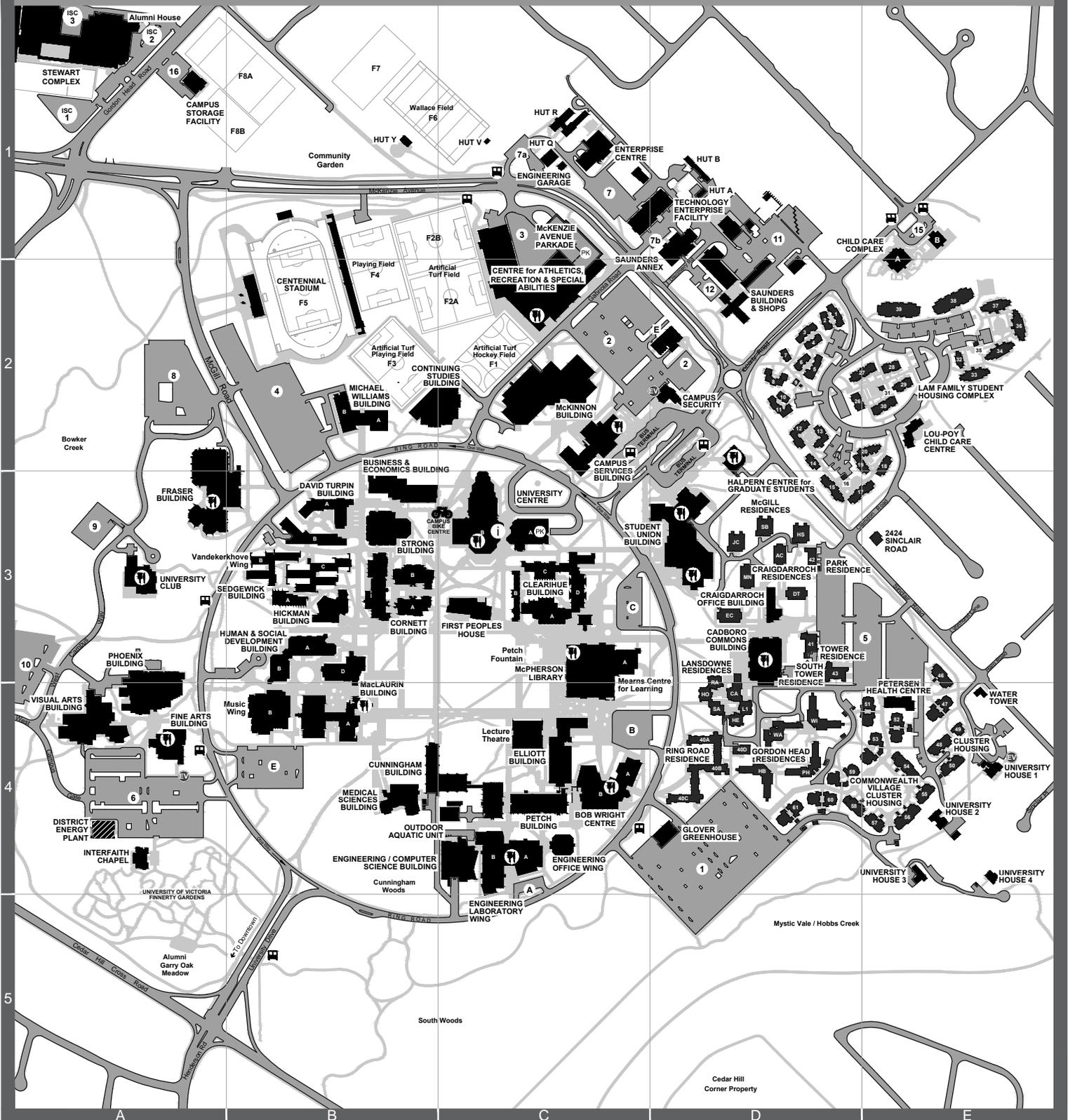
- Name the missing dataset,
- Describe its data types (integer, Boolean, character, time or location, e.g.),
- Identify its intended audience (be specific),
- Identify its form of expression (graph, map, chart, or sculpture, e.g.), and
- State its primary purpose (be specific).

Feel free to sketch or diagram these components (as images in your log), and to note where applicable any obstacles to your missing dataset’s existence. To get started, you might begin with an issue for which data is needed and then work backwards, reverse-engineering its use to articulate its components or “ontology.” *Also feel free to link this prompt with the prompt below.* You could, for example, identify a dataset that UVic students are missing and then express it through a choropleth map. One of your data types would be location (e.g., 48.464184 [latitude], -123.310443 [longitude] for our Clearihue classroom).

Traces and Overlays (Jan 31) (please bring pencils to class)

Imagine a map of UVic that you believe should exist, and for whom it should exist. During workshop, you’ll use tracing paper (that I’ll provide) to sketch data overlays (with legends) that turn UVic campus maps (that I’ll provide) into choropleths, which express data variables through shaded or patterned geographic areas. For an example, see this choropleth map (at <http://bit.ly/150map>) of median household total income in Canada in 2015. You’ll pair up to exchange and compare your overlays. As you make your choropleth maps of UVic, please document the process by photographing the overlays made with tracing paper. With the overlay, please provide one sample data record and include it in your log. (I’ll help you to structure and populate a sample record.)

Then, in 50-100 words, use your overlay to tell a very brief story about how you or someone else navigated the campus with it. You can tell your story in the past tense, in either first- or third-person (e.g., “I moved” or “They searched”). Don’t forget to give your story a title.



-  Buildings
-  Residences
-  Buildings Under Construction

-  General Pay Parking
-  Reserved Parking
-  Parkade
-  Electric Vehicle Charging Station

-  Bus Stop
-  Food Service Outlet
-  Welcome Centre

