

# Data Club IRE at UT Updates

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[Data Club](#) introduces students to professionals who work in data journalism along with training in data journalism practices. It is hosted by the Media Innovation Group and funded by the Dallas Morning News Journalism Innovation Endowment.

## Fall 2025

In Fall 2025 we will launch an IRE at UT student chapter, which we hope will have broad appeal among students while still serving the "news nerds", as it is IRE that runs the ultimate news nerd gathering, NICAR.

IRE: Investigative Reporters and Editors

NICAR: National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting.

## How to follow us

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## Previous meetings

Takeaways from 4/8/2025 meeting

MIG data fellows Olivia Dilley and Ali Juell led a hands-on training for Google Sheets using data from the Knight-Newhouse college athletics database, we'll be comparing sports revenue and expenditures from different universities and across conferences. ([Lesson details are here.](#))

Takeaways from 2/18/2025 meeting

Guest Speaker Caroline Ghisolfi – Houston Chronicle's Deputy Data Editor. Learn more about [her work here](#).

## Takeaways from the 11/16/2024 meeting

Professor McDonald led a hands-on tutorial on the chart making platform Datawrapper using a series of demonstrations and exercises with a charting tool used in newsrooms across the world ([The Datawrapper Academy](#), [Candy exercise](#), [Titanic exercise](#), [Locator map exercise](#)).

## Takeaways from the 11/02/2024 workshop

At this workshop, we introduced R and Rstudio through the online platform posit.cloud. You need a free account, but the lesson can be found here: [posit.cloud/content/9098983](https://posit.cloud/content/9098983)

## Takeaways from the 10/21/2024 meeting

Anastasia Goodwin of the Houston Chronicle will talked about how she uses data, public information requests and software development practices to report on public education, mainly around their [Principal Tracker](#) project.

## Takeaways from the 9/16/2024 meeting

At this session we explored the free tool Tableau Public, a data visualization tool by Salesforce. It's a great tool to explore and communicate with data.

- [Introduction to Tableau Public tutorial](#)

## Takeaways from the 3/26/2024 meeting

At this session we explored the popularity of baby names in the U.S. going back to the early 1900s. We used Google Sheets to sort, filter, pivot and use lookups to prepare and build charts exploring how name popularity has changed.

- The [Baby names material](#) has the material and a companion video walking through the exercise.

## Takeaways from the 2/27/2024 meeting

At this meeting we heard from Ryan Serpico, an AI & Automation engineer at Hearst Newspapers. He showed us various ways he uses generative AI for newsroom tools and showed us his recently-launched chatbot for San Francisco restaurant recommendations. If you have follow-up questions for Ryan, contact Prof. McDonald and he'll get you in touch.

## Takeaways from the 1/30/2024 meeting

At this meeting we had a hands-on experience where students used restaurant inspection data to find establishments that failed inspection over the past three years, then built an interactive map to share.

- Tips and instructions for creating the [Restaurant Inspection map](#)

## Takeaways from the 10/30/2023 meeting

Thanks to everyone who came out for the October meeting of Data Club. It seems like you enjoyed the Datawrapper demos, are interested in helping with future public information projects, and REALLY want to learn to code.

- Public information request [slides](#) and [more detailed lecture notes](#).
- Datawrapper [Academy](#) and [application](#).
  - [Tips on creating chart](#)
  - [Presentation on creating maps](#)

## Takeaways from the 9/25/2023 meeting

- [The Future Press](#) website is a MIG project to experiment with the use of AI tools in journalism.
  - [The Future Press Newsletter](#) signup
- [Google Sheets Tips & Tricks slideshow](#) from the meeting