**ANALYSING DATA USING BLOCK-BASED PROGRAMMING**

When teaching topics from the field data, rich data sets are often necessary. Twitter data, one of the richest data sources on the internet, can be used in school.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Recognise the value of metadata
- Conduct simple data analysis
- Estimate the validity of data analysis

**ACTIVITY 1: NAME AND TIMING** 20 MINUTES

Give students the most simple task to get started with Snap!Twitter:

“How many meta attributes does a tweet contain in addition to its text? What can you find out about the user who wrote a tweet?”

As this task can be mastered using just two blocks, ‘tweet as table’ and ‘single tweet’, from a technical perspective it fulfills the goal of letting students explore the tool and the data source, ‘Twitter’.

The results of this activity should be summarised in plenary.

Twitter is a rich data source, as each tweet brings with it up to 160 meta attributes.
DIFFERENTIATION

In the lesson plan described, we’ve focused on students who have basic experience with block-based programming. If this isn’t the case, then students will need more detailed tasks at the beginning. Experienced students should then be able to explore the tool further.

In the main activity, students can follow their own interests, either by selecting a research question that is interesting for them or by pursuing a question of their own. Since most questions at this stage cannot be fully answered in the short time available, there is always room for further improving the analyses, so even confident students have something useful to do, while those who struggle a little can at least get some basic results.

RELEVANT LINKS

The Snap!Twitter tool is available at: snaptwitter.dataliteracy.education.

As this is released as open source software, you may set up your own server or use our server. However, for legal and technical reasons, we have to restrict access to the tool. Therefore, to get access to the Twitter area, please contact us via e-mail (see the website above).

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