



Advanced Online Media

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Google Fusion Tables

A Simple Example

Google Fusion Tables offer a powerful way to work with data and present it on the Web. You can upload data tables (like .csv) and then work with the data to make charts and maps.

Start with a new table. (File, New Table or New Table, Import). We just exported a table of numbers of genres from SQLite Manager. Upload it. Go through the import wizard until you see the table.

Under Edit, Modify Columns, you can give the columns a name, if that was not included in the csv that you imported.

Under View, you can Filter the file. Let's reduce the number of items we want to chart. Make it Filter to Count > 2. This way, we only have 80 records to plot.

Now let's Visualize this as a Pie Chart. You can choose the Entity of Genre, so when we work with the chart, you can hover over it to see the genre name and the count.

You can embed the chart after you share it and make it public or listed. Choose the Share button in the top right.

Using Fusion Tables to Merge Data

Although we merged the data in SQLiteManager, you can also do that work in Fusion Tables.

If we export the main tables from SQLiteManager for bands_genres, bands and genres, we can choose to import them each into a New Table in Fusion Tables.

First, let's Merge the bands and bands_genres tables, to get the names of each band in the file with the genre_id. Open the bands_genres table. Then merge with the bands table, choosing only to show the genre id that came with the bands_genres table (not the bands table – Use Select Columns check, then deselect genre_id in bands table).

Then let's merge that table with the genres table so we can see the genre name that corresponds to each band. For some dumb reason, Fusion Tables won't let you merge this merged table with another table. But with a quick workaround, you can Export the

table (File Export), then Import that file into a new table. Then you can do the Merge on those 2 tables, to get all the information in one table (genres_merge).

Now we can aggregate by genre name and show the total in descending order (to get highest to lowest). You can then Visualize in a Pie Chart. Fusion Tables only shows the first 250 in one pie chart, so using descending order puts the most frequent first. It doesn't appear to let you filter on this view with the aggregated variable of Count (like we did with the file in the Simple Example).

I figured out a little hack to allow us to filter the genres with low participation. Once you have the genres_merge table, look at the top right for the Get Link button. Get the link and paste it in the browser. That's actually the table created from the Aggregation. You can then Export as a Table. Then you can Filter (count > 2), to get rid of the small genres. Then Visualize as a Pie Chart.

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