

To IT or not IT ...?

The solution to this problem

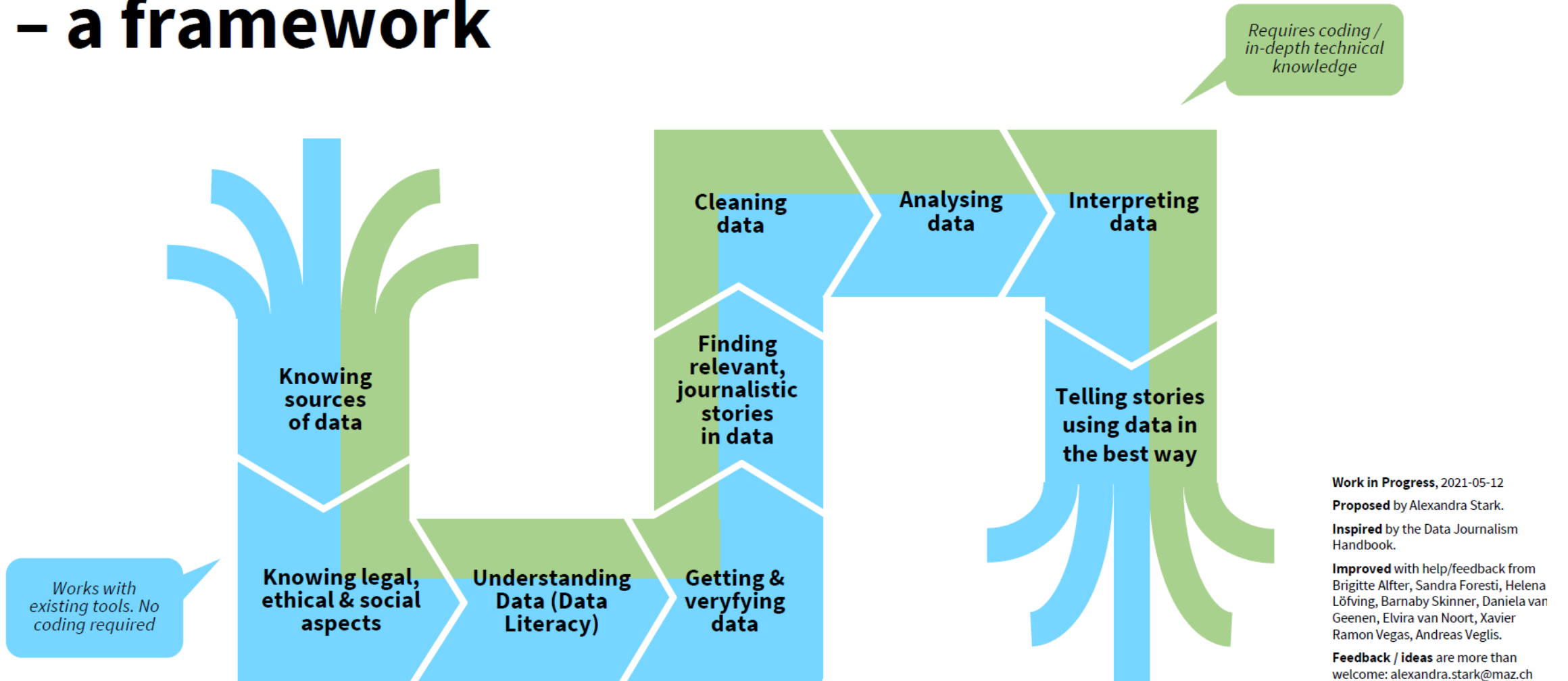
Frederik Marain

EJTA – Teaching datajournalism

May 21st, 2021

Teaching Data Journalism

- a framework



Work in Progress, 2021-05-12

Proposed by Alexandra Stark.

Inspired by the Data Journalism Handbook.

Improved with help/feedback from Brigitte Alfter, Sandra Foresti, Helena Löfving, Barnaby Skinner, Daniela van Geenen, Elvira van Noort, Xavier Ramon Vegas, Andreas Veglis.

Feedback / ideas are more than welcome: alexandra.stark@maz.ch

Eternal question in Data Journalism:

How (IT) technical?

How (IT) technical? Problems

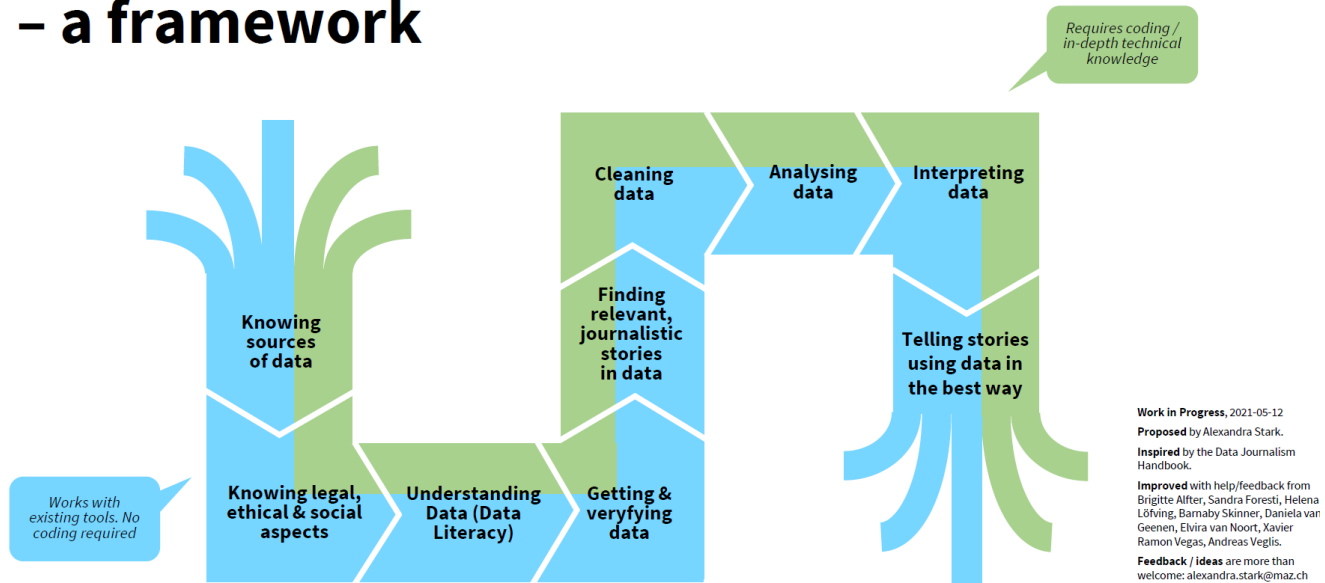
Students' interest and starting skills

Teachers' interest and starting skills

Focus should be on the story

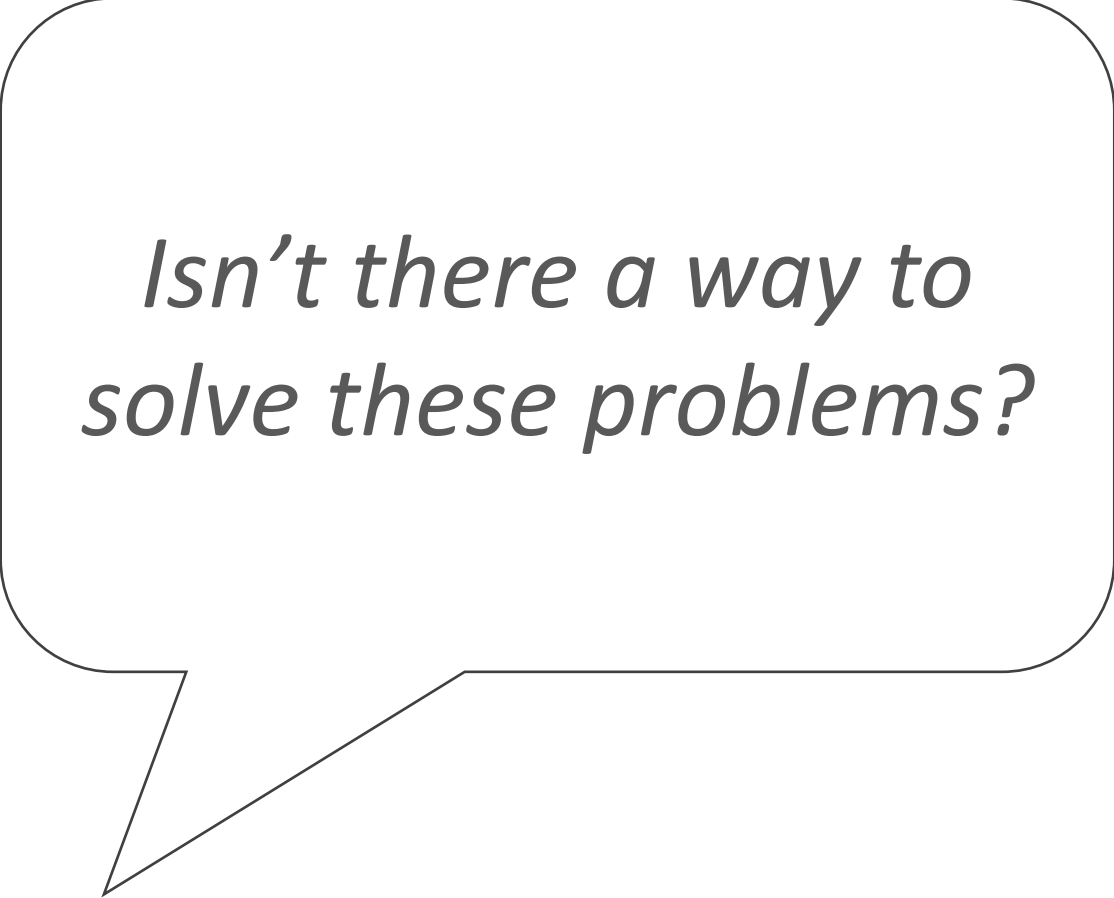
It's simply too much ...

Teaching Data Journalism – a framework



Focus on IT-skills?
Focus on story?

We will always fall
between the cracks



*Isn't there a way to
solve these problems?*

What if ...

We could find a way to let our students focus on the story

While making available all the technical knowledge and skills needed to do the (scraping, analysis, database connections for live data, data visualization, ...)

So that: the learning and the end-product are massively enhanced and improved

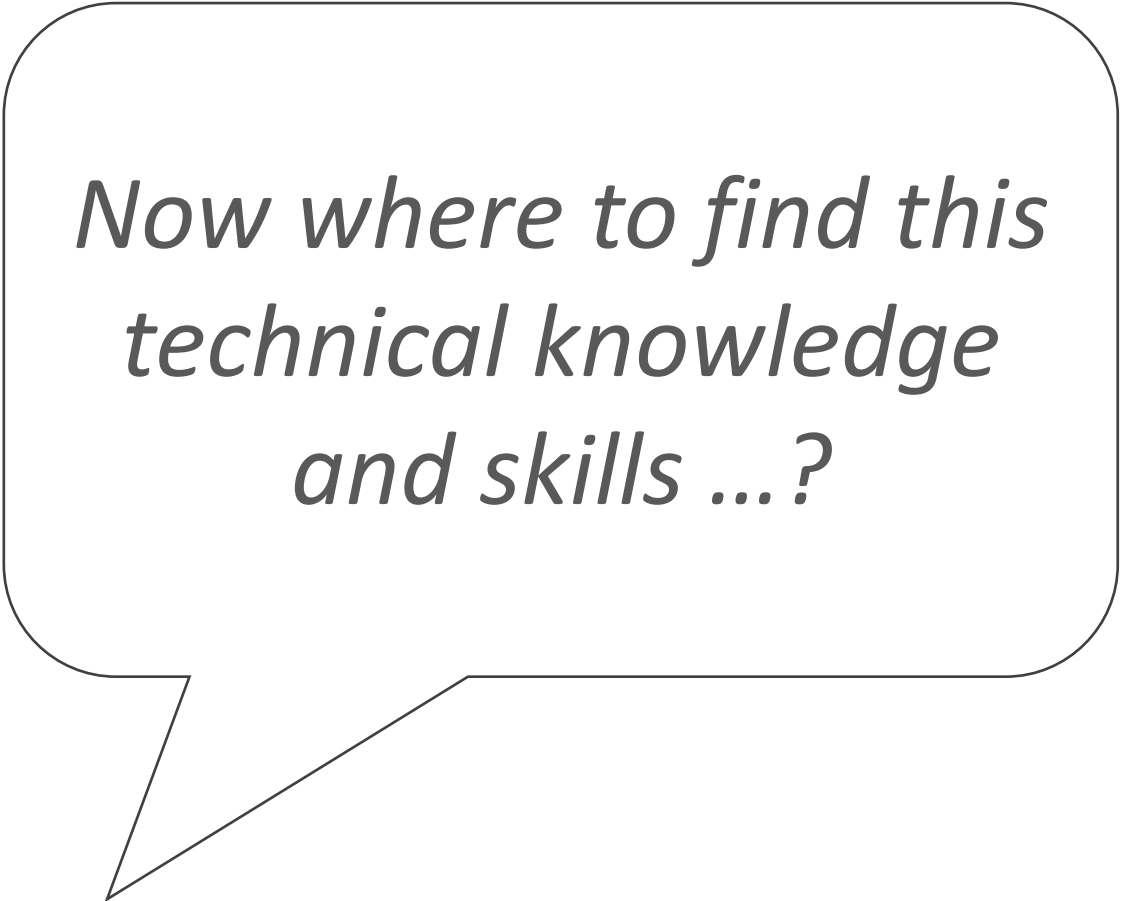
And ...

We realise our hidden agenda:

And ...

We realise our hidden agenda:

Let journalists take the lead again

A speech bubble with a black outline and rounded corners, pointing downwards and to the left. It contains the text "Now where to find this technical knowledge and skills ...?".

*Now where to find this
technical knowledge
and skills ...?*



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

5:00pm - 6:00pm

SUPERVISOR SPONSORING

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Interdisciplinary teaching:

Columbus' egg for solving
the "How technical" problem

Interdisciplinary teaching

Keep it simple

- 1 class / course

- 2 groups of students: Journalists / IT (data)

- 2 teachers

- Data Journalism assignments in groups of 4-5 students

Arguments for Interdisciplinary teaching

1. It's the way the world works, increasingly
2. It should be easy to organize in a university setting
3. We learn our students to talk to IT-people
4. It's teaching on steroids, and therefore ... fun
5. We realize our hidden agenda

Roadblocks to Interdisciplinary teaching

1. Organizational [different levels]
2. Motivational: Lack of flexibility and willingness to really learn

Personal experience



Philippe Possemiers

Teacher in Data mining, Big Data

Intro to NoSQL databases, MapReduce, HDFS,

Apache, Hadoop, Hive, Pig, Sqoop, Flume, Mahout





Spot the Geek





Interdisciplinary teaching: Prerequisites and conditions

- Forge a coalition of the willing
- Move the roadblocks out of the way
- Focus on communication
 - It's not about learning IT-skills
 - It's about: learning what IT can do for me as a journalist
 - And: being able to explain my story requirements to IT-people
 - THESE are the core skills

A call to arms

Let's forge a coalition of the willing

Intra-school and inter-school

Two practical proposals

Manifesto?

Practice group?

Thank you

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