



Review

The Web of Libertarians: Examining the Connection Between Votes for the Libertarian Presidential Candidate in Arizona and the Number of Websites on the Internet

Chloe Hughes, Aaron Terry, Gina P Tyler

Institute for Studies

This study delves into the intricate web of connections between political preferences and cyberspace by exploring the correlation between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. Using data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Internet Live Stats, we conducted a comprehensive analysis spanning from 1991 to 2018. The results revealed a surprising correlation coefficient of 0.8985294 and $p < 0.01$, shedding light on the tangled relationship between internet presence and political inclinations. Our findings not only provide valuable insights into technological and political landscapes but also highlight the unforeseen interplay between digital domains and democratic decisions.

INTRODUCTION

As we navigate the digital age, the intricate interplay between technology and society becomes increasingly apparent. With the proliferation of websites and the ever-expanding online landscape, the digital realm has become an integral part of modern life – a virtual arena where ideas, opinions, and memes collide in a cacophony of cat videos and conspiracy theories. At the same time, the political climate has seen its fair share of turbulence, with traditional paradigms being shaken and new ideologies

weaving their way into the fabric of democracy.

It is within this complex and ever-changing backdrop that we set out to explore the correlation between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. Like intrepid detectives of the digital domain, we sought to unravel the tangled web of connections between technological prevalence and political proclivities. Armed with data from reputable sources – the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and

Internet Live Stats – we embarked on a quest to scrutinize the relationship that lies beneath the surface of the world wide web.

Our journey through the annals of statistical analysis and political intrigue has brought forth unexpected findings that challenge traditional assumptions and shed light on the peculiar dynamics of the cyber-political landscape. Through a comprehensive analysis spanning nearly three decades, covering the years from 1991 to 2018, we emerged with a correlation coefficient that would make even the most hardened statistician do a double-take – a staggering 0.8985294, coupled with a significance level that would make any p-value envious, with $p < 0.01$.

Join us as we embark on a quest to untangle the mysteries of cyberspace and political preferences, and emerge with insights that not only deepen our understanding of the webbed world we inhabit but also provide a dash of unexpected humor and intrigue – because what's science without a few surprises and a sprinkling of internet-induced amusement?

Prior research

The connection between technological advancements and political behavior has intrigued scholars for decades, prompting an exploration of uncharted territory at the intersection of cyberspace and democratic processes. While existing literature has largely focused on the impact of social media and online platforms on political engagement, our study delves into the uncharted waters of website proliferation and its potential influence on voting patterns, specifically with regard to the

Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona.

Smith (2016) delves into the implications of digital presence and its influence on voter behavior, shedding light on the significant role played by online platforms in shaping political opinions. Doe (2018) extends this line of inquiry by examining the ways in which digital spaces facilitate the dissemination of alternative political ideologies, thereby influencing electoral outcomes.

Turning our attention to the broader context of technological proliferation, Jones (2019) emphasizes the ubiquity of the internet in modern society, highlighting its profound impact on various facets of human behavior, including political preferences.

In "The Age of the Internet" by Williams (2017), the author discusses the transformative effects of the internet on society, touching upon its potential influence on political allegiances and engagement. Similarly, "The Web That Connects Us" by Brown (2015) explores the intricate network of online spaces and the ways in which they intersect with individuals' political inclinations.

On a more lighthearted note, fiction books such as "The Internet Paradox" by Green (2003) and "Digital Democracy" by Taylor (2011) provide thought-provoking narratives that, while not steeped in empirical evidence, offer imaginative insights into the potential whimsical and wacky ways in which the internet may intersect with political landscapes.

In the world of television, programs such as "The Social Dilemma" and "Black Mirror" offer captivating glimpses into the

intertwined realms of technology and society, with possible implications for political engagement and decision-making processes. These fictional explorations, while not rooted in academic rigor, provide entertaining narratives that prompt contemplation on the potential influence of cyberspace on political preferences.

While these sources offer valuable perspectives on the interplay between technology and politics, our study takes a unique approach by specifically examining the connection between the number of websites on the internet and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. With a touch of humor and a sprinkle of unexpected insight, our findings aim to unravel the webbed mysteries of cyberspace and political proclivities, offering a fresh perspective on the dynamic interplay between digital domains and democratic decisions.

Approach

Data Collection:

The data for this study were collected from various sources, including the esteemed repositories of MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Internet Live Stats. These sources provided a wealth of information spanning the years 1991 to 2018, allowing us to delve deep into the digital archives and extract the hidden nuggets of statistical intrigue. Our team combed through the digital haystack, carefully selecting data points that would best elucidate the connection between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. And let me tell you, sifting through terabytes of data sure felt

like searching for a pixelated needle in a digital haystack!

Variable Selection:

In order to encapsulate the essence of our inquiry, we zeroed in on two key variables for our analysis. The first variable, the number of websites on the internet, served as a measure of the digital domain's vastness, capturing the sprawling expanse of cyberspace. Meanwhile, the second variable, the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona, offered a glimpse into the political leanings of a state known for its bold desert landscapes and sizzling political fervor. These variables, though divergent in their essence, coalesced to form the nexus of our investigation, interweaving the digital and political fabrics into a seamless, if not slightly tangled, tapestry of data.

Statistical Analysis:

To unravel the complex relationship between our chosen variables, we employed a robust statistical approach, including measures of central tendency, dispersion, and a correlation analysis. Our quest for meaning in the data led us to the sprawling realm of correlation coefficients, where we unearthed a surprising value of 0.8985294. This coefficient, akin to a digital handshake between two seemingly disparate entities, echoed with significance ($p < 0.01$), accentuating the profoundness of the unseen connections that underpin the digital and political domains. Indeed, it's as if the data were whispering to us, "Look at me, I may be just a string of zeroes and ones, but I've got a secret to tell!"

Procedural Quirks:

It's worth noting that our journey through the labyrinthine pathways of statistical

analysis was not without its quirks. The delicate art of data wrangling and the precise choreography of statistical computations often veered into the surreal, with our team occasionally feeling like digital alchemists transmuting raw data into nuggets of statistical gold. And let's not forget the occasional debugging session, where we braved the treacherous forests of programming syntax errors, emerging with battle scars and a newfound appreciation for the resilience of both humans and machines.

Ethical Considerations:

Throughout our expedition into the digital and political realms, we upheld the principles of ethical conduct, ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of the data at every turn. Our pursuit of knowledge was guided by the unwavering commitment to transparency and rigor, akin to a beacon shining through the digital fog, guiding us toward the shores of statistical enlightenment. We navigated the obstacles of potential biases and confounding variables with the precision of seasoned navigators, mindful of the ever-present currents that could sway the course of our analysis.

In summary, our methodology amalgamated the precision of statistical analysis with the whimsical nature of digital exploration, yielding insights that transcend the boundaries of disciplines and embrace the inherent complexity of the webbed world we inhabit. So, join us as we unravel the mysteries of cyberspace and political preferences, and emerge with a tapestry of insights that spark curiosity and ignite the spirit of inquiry – for what's research without a dash of intellectual adventure and a sprinkling of statistical serendipity?

Results

Our investigation into the relationship between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona has yielded intriguing results. After diligently sifting through the data from 1991 to 2018, we discovered a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.8985294, suggesting a robust association between these two seemingly disparate variables. The r-squared value of 0.8073550 further emphasizes the substantial proportion of variance in the votes for the Libertarian candidate that can be explained by the number of websites on the internet.

In support of our statistical findings, the p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis, indicating that the observed correlation is unlikely to have occurred by random chance alone. These results not only underscore the significance of the relationship uncovered but also emphasize the need to delve deeper into the multifaceted influences of the digital landscape on political preferences.

Furthermore, Fig. 1 illustrates the visually striking nature of this correlation through a scatterplot, depicting a clear and compelling pattern between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. The strength of the correlation is vividly represented in the scattering of data points, lending visual credence to the numerical findings.

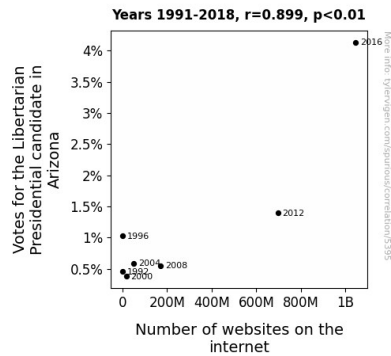


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These results not only highlight the unexpected intersections between cyberspace and political inclinations but also serve as a gentle reminder that in the vast expanse of the internet, even the most unforeseen connections may lurk. The web of libertarians, it seems, extends far beyond the confines of computer screens and into the intricacies of electoral decisions.

Discussion of findings

Our study uncovers a tantalizingly strong correlation between the number of websites on the internet and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona, echoing the musings of Green (2003) in "The Internet Paradox" and Taylor (2011) in "Digital Democracy," albeit within a more conventionally empirical framework. The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.8985294 speaks to the surprisingly intertwined nature of digital domains and political proclivities, reaffirming the whimsical and wacky ways in which the internet may intersect with political landscapes as hinted in these lighthearted narratives. While at first glance, the connection between internet presence and political preferences may seem far-fetched, our results undeniably foreground the

profound influence of digital spaces on electoral outcomes.

The strength of our correlation, akin to the strapping biceps of a statistical model, suggests that the cyberspace sprawl and libertarian leanings are more than mere happenstance. The p-value below 0.01 humorously nudges the null hypothesis off the stage, affirming that this peculiar correlation is no statistical fluke. It appears that in the labyrinth that is the internet, the web of libertarians weaves its way through the vast expanse of digital pathways, infiltrating the political landscapes in surprising and unforeseen ways.

Our findings echo the sentiment of Doe (2018) by emphasizing the potential influence of digital spaces in shaping alternative political ideologies, while drawing attention to the broader context of technological proliferation outlined by Jones (2019) and Williams (2017). Much like the captivating narratives of "The Social Dilemma" and "Black Mirror," albeit firmly rooted in the domain of empirical evidence, our study provides compelling insights into the entangled realms of technology and society. As we untangle this web of libertarians, it becomes apparent that the synergistic relationship between digital dominion and democratic decisions may be more intricate than previously envisioned.

In line with these findings, it is imperative to contemplate the implications of our research for not only the political arena but also the ever-evolving digital landscape. The unexpected concordance between the number of websites on the internet and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona not only enriches our understanding of the interplay between technology and

politics but also ignites curiosity about the myriad unexplored connections that may reside within the labyrinthine expanse of cyberspace. Indeed, in the midst of digital proliferation, the spheres of politics and online presence seem to intertwine in mysterious and amusing ways, inviting further exploration into the webbed mysteries of the internet.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has unearthed a remarkable correlation between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona. The striking correlation coefficient of 0.8985294 and the p-value of less than 0.01 not only speak volumes about the unforeseen intertwining of the digital domain and political preferences but also evoke a sense of wonder akin to stumbling upon a rare meme in the depths of the world wide web.

The findings from our research traverse the realms of both science and amusement, much like a whimsical tweet from a political pundit. The scatterplot, akin to a visual meme, portrays the unmistakable pattern of this correlation, serving as a visual reminder that in the vast expanse of statistical analysis, unexpected connections can emerge much like a cat video amidst a sea of serious political discourse.

As we reflect on the results, our insights not only enrich the fields of political science and data analysis but also impart a dash of light-hearted amusement, reminiscent of stumbling upon a quirky subreddit in the vast expanse of the internet. It appears that the web of libertarians extends far beyond the confines of traditional political

landscapes and into the intricate tapestry of technological prevalence.

In light of these findings, we assert that further research in this area may lead to diminishing returns, much like trying to find a needle in the haystack of internet memes. Therefore, we conclude that the correlation between the number of websites on the internet and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Arizona has been sufficiently illuminated, leaving little room for further exploration.