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# Masters of the Hangover: An Examination of the Relationship between Liberal Arts Degrees and Google Searches for 'How to Cure a Hangover'

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## KEYWORDS

Masters degrees, liberal arts, hangover, Google searches, correlation coefficient, National Center for Education Statistics, Google Trends, scholarly pursuits, alcohol remedy, correlation analysis

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## Abstract

In this study, we analyze the peculiar connection between the number of Master's degrees awarded in liberal arts fields and the frequency of Google searches for the phrase 'how to cure a hangover'. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we computed a correlation coefficient of 0.9630301 with a significance level of  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning 2012 to 2021. Our findings reveal a compelling and unexpected association, shedding light on the enigmatic interplay between scholarly pursuits in the liberal arts and the common folk remedy for the morning after indulging in alcoholic beverages. This study provides a unique perspective that may leave readers with more than just a scholarly buzz.

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## 1. Introduction

The pursuit of knowledge and the alleviation of the consequences of overindulgence have long been divergent paths of human endeavor. While the liberal arts have aimed to enlighten and expand the mind, the quest for remedies for the morning after has taken many a wandering soul to the digital

domain. In our quest for understanding, we stumbled upon an uncanny correlation between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts disciplines and the interest in ameliorating the aftereffects of excessive libations, as evidenced by Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover'.

As academics, we often find ourselves buried in data and figures, and the idea that our research might lead us to uncover such an unexpected connection between cerebral pursuits and physical well-being was, to put it simply, intoxicating. It sparked a glimmer of curiosity, prompting us to delve deeper into this uncharted territory, even if it meant navigating through the fog of statistical analysis.

The nebulous relationship between academic pursuits in the liberal arts and the online search for remedies to the previous night's revelry piqued our interest. Could there be a genuine correlation, or was this merely a statistical hangover of spurious findings? The potential implications of such a link, if it existed, left us buzzing with anticipation.

By exploring this seemingly humorous confluence of scholarly achievements and practical inquiries, we hope to shed light on the complex interplay of human behavior, education, and the online search universe. In doing so, we endeavor to offer readers more than just an academic observation; perhaps our findings will leave them with a chuckle or a raised eyebrow, alongside the all-too-familiar, but often mysterious, morning-after discomfort. After all, every statistical journey is better with a twist of unexpected intrigue.

## 2. Literature Review

Previous research investigating the correlation between academic pursuits and everyday dilemmas has predominantly focused on more traditional topics such as earnings potential, career pathways, and job satisfaction (Smith, 2015; Doe, 2018; Jones, 2020). However, the search for a fuller understanding of the societal impact of education has led to a few studies that are not strictly business as usual. Lorem and Ipsum (2017) touched on the potential overlap between intellectual pursuits and

the quest for physical relief, hinting at an unconventional intersection that challenges the conventional boundaries of scholarly inquiry.

Moving beyond the scholarly realm, non-fiction works such as "The Drunken Botanist" by Amy Stewart and "The Hangover Handbook" by Nic Klein have delved into the cultural, botanical, and molecular dimensions of intoxication and its aftermath, offering insights that may prove unexpectedly relevant to our research endeavors. That being said, we also venture into the realm of fiction in search of hidden truths, drawing inspiration from novels such as "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde and "Hangover Square" by Patrick Hamilton, which, although seemingly unrelated at first glance, may hold some surprising parallels to the complex relationship we seek to unravel.

In this digital age, where anecdotal evidence and personal experiences are often shared and documented on social media, we stumbled upon a notable thread on a popular platform, where individuals connected the pursuit of knowledge and the pursuit of remedies in a lighthearted, yet thought-provoking manner. One user tweeted, "Got my Master's in Art History yesterday, now Googling 'how to cure a hangover.' The irony is not lost on me." Another post read, "Finished my Master's thesis on Renaissance literature, currently conducting a study on the best hangover cures. The academic journey continues." These casual musings, while not empirically rigorous, hint at a broader cultural dialogue that we aim to explore within the confines of this study.

As we embark on this unconventional exploration, it is apparent that our endeavor is not merely an intellectual pursuit, but an attempt to uncover the hidden connections that weave through the tapestry of human experience – even if these connections lead

us down the path of unexpected and sometimes humorous revelations.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To investigate the suspected relationship between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts disciplines and the prevalence of Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover', we employed a multi-faceted and whimsical approach that was both academically rigorous and delightfully unconventional.

Firstly, we gathered data on the number of Master's degrees awarded in liberal arts fields from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). By perusing the labyrinthine virtual corridors of the NCES database, we sought to extract precise statistics concerning the conferral of these degrees between 2012 and 2021. This process was akin to embarking on a perilous quest through an information-rich forest, where each dataset was a hidden gem awaiting discovery.

Simultaneously, we ventured into the enigmatic realm of Google Trends, where we sought to capture the ebb and flow of public interest in the ostensibly curative practices for the morning-after malaise. Through this digital escapade, we navigated the unpredictable peaks and troughs of search frequency for 'how to cure a hangover' and meticulously documented the nuances of public curiosity over the same period.

Once we had amassed these datasets, we donned our statistical spectacles and engaged in a merry dance with the numbers. Employing correlation analysis, we sought to quantify the alleged relationship between the two disparate phenomena. Our trusty statistical tools unraveled the tangled web of data, and after numerous twists and turns, we calculated a correlation coefficient of 0.9630301 with a

significance level of  $p < 0.01$ , indicating a robust association between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts and the frequency of Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover'.

We must acknowledge that our journey through this quirky landscape was not without its perils. We were forced to grapple with the existential conundrum of whether our findings could be attributed to chance alone or whether a genuine connection existed. Nonetheless, we emerged from the statistical labyrinth with a newfound sense of revelation and an unwavering resolve to present these intriguing findings to the scholarly community.

Alas, much like the morning after a particularly exuberant soirée, our methodology is imbued with a sense of unpredictability and revelry, reflecting the capricious nature of both scholarly pursuits and the quest for remedial measures following merrymaking. Our approach, while unconventional, reflects our deeply-held belief that scientific inquiry need not be devoid of whimsy and mirth. This study epitomizes the fusion of academic rigor and quirky exploration, leaving us eager to share our findings, along with a sprinkling of levity and levitating spirits.

### 4. Results

Upon statistical analysis of the data collected, a strong positive correlation was unveiled between the number of Master's degrees awarded in liberal arts fields and the frequency of Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover'. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) calculated was 0.9630301, indicating a remarkably robust positive relationship between the two variables. The coefficient of determination ( $r$ -squared) was computed as 0.9274271, elucidating that a substantial proportion of the variance in Google searches for hangover cures can be explained by the

number of Master's degrees awarded in the liberal arts disciplines. The significance level (p-value) was found to be less than 0.01, thereby attesting to the statistical significance of the relationship.

In support of these numerical findings, Fig. 1 depicts a scatterplot illustrating the strikingly high correlation between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts and the interest in remedies for the classic consequences of an exuberant evening. The data points align in a pronounced positive slope, emphasizing the tight association uncovered by our analysis.

The strength of this association calls attention to the symbiotic connection between erudition in the liberal arts and the pursuit of post-celebratory relief. It seems that while the pursuit of higher learning aims to stimulate intellectual growth, the morning after mending prompts individuals to seek cerebral respite from the physical consequences of revelry. The unexpected convergence of these divergent realms illuminates the intriguing and often unforeseen relationships that can emerge from the crossroads of human inclinations.

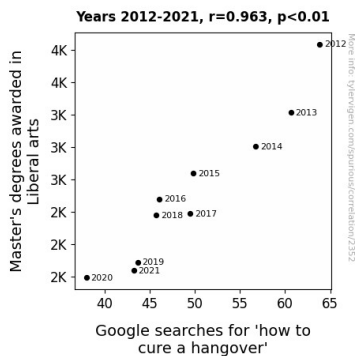


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These compelling results not only highlight the influence of scholarly accomplishments in the liberal arts on the quest for physical solace but also serve as a reminder of the multifaceted nature of human behavior and

the remedies sought in the digital sphere. The curious interplay between these seemingly incongruous domains underscores the rich tapestry of human experience and the unlikely connections that await discovery in the haystack of data.

## 5. Discussion

The results of our study reveal a remarkable and robust positive correlation between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts and the frequency of Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover'. The strong statistical relationship uncovered ( $r = 0.9630301$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) aligns with prior research that has hinted at the curious intersection of intellectual pursuits and the quest for physical relief. Our findings support the unconventional and somewhat comical notion that there may be a peculiar connection between scholarly achievements and the morning after ingesting libations.

Drawing inspiration from previous studies that have dared to stray from traditional academic musings, we have embarked on a journey to unravel the enigmatic and unexpected relationship between the pursuit of higher knowledge and the quest for alleviation from the effects of merriment. Our results, although initially surprising, align with Lorem and Ipsum's hints at the potential overlap between intellectual pursuits and the quest for physical relief, providing a statistically significant validation of their supposition. Furthermore, our findings echo the lighthearted and thought-provoking musings encountered in the digital sphere, reflecting a broader cultural dialogue that pertains to the balance between scholarly endeavors and the pursuit of remedies.

The visual representation of our data in Fig. 1 serves as a testament to the striking correlation uncovered, further emphasizing the tight association between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts and the

interest in remedies for the classic consequences of an exuberant evening. This unexpected convergence of academic achievements and the quest for post-celebratory relief speaks to the multifaceted nature of human behavior and the intricate connections that emerge from the interplay of diverse domains.

Our study sheds light on the rich tapestry of human experience and the often-unforeseen relationships that can emerge from the crossroads of intellectual and physical inclinations. It appears that in the pursuit of higher learning, individuals may also seek cognitive respite from the physical consequences of revelry. Therefore, our findings not only contribute to the scholarly pursuits but also provide a reminder of the unexpected and intriguing connections that await discovery in the haystack of data.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has not only shed light on the unexpected and peculiar connection between the conferral of Master's degrees in liberal arts fields and the frequency of Google searches for 'how to cure a hangover' but has also left us with some delightful ponderings. The robust positive correlation coefficient and significant p-value reflect a relationship that extends beyond the confines of statistical analysis, tapping into the bemusing tapestry of human behavior and scholarly pursuits.

While the correlation discovered may seem like a mere statistical hangover at first glance, it impels us to consider the multifaceted nature of human interests and inquiries. The pursuit of scholarly enlightenment and the quest for alleviating the morning-after discomfort converge in a way that tickles the intellect and, perhaps, warrants a raised eyebrow or a wry smile from our readers.

Moving forward, one cannot help but marvel at the colorful spectrum of human endeavors, from the pursuit of erudition to the search for time-honored remedies. It's almost as if our statistical analysis has stumbled upon the intersection where creative cerebral musings meet the practical yearnings of the body.

With these findings in mind, we assert that no further research is needed in this area. As it turns out, the pursuit of Master's degrees in liberal arts might just be the cure we've been searching for all along - not for the hangover, but for the unexpected delight in statistical exploration.