



## Review

# Degrees of Surfin' History: The Correlation Between Social Sciences and History Bachelor's Degrees and Google Searches for 'Download Firefox'

Chloe Hall, Andrew Tanner, Gloria P Todd

*Institute of Sciences*

**In this paper, we delve into the unexpected yet intriguing connection between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences and history and the Google searches for "download Firefox." To shed light on this peculiar correlation, our research team embarked on a data-driven journey to uncover the underlying relationship between educational pursuits and web browser preferences. By utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, we uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.9693901 and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years spanning from 2012 to 2021. These robust statistical findings indicate a remarkably strong positive association between the two seemingly unrelated variables. It appears that as the number of social sciences and history Bachelor's degrees conferred rises, so does the frequency of Google searches for "download Firefox." Perhaps students studying history have a penchant for exploring the web using Mozilla's browser, leading to this intriguing correlation. This discovery not only adds a new dimension to the understanding of academic pursuits and online behavior but also serves as a reminder that even in the world of data analysis, unexpected connections can arise, much like a "history" pun in a research paper - they're both hard to resist!**

Welcome to a journey through the labyrinth of data, where the intersection of academic pursuits and digital habits takes center stage. In this paper, we explore a correlation so unexpected, it may make you say, "What browser are history students using? Internet Explorer the past?"

The internet is a vast repository of information, entertainment, and cat memes, but it also serves as a reflection of our collective interests and tendencies. As researchers, we are constantly on the lookout for connections that may seem outlandish at first glance, much like finding

out that the history buff down the street is an avid user of "download Firefox."

You might be thinking, "What do Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history have to do with internet browsing habits?" Well, dear reader, buckle up, because this investigation is about to take you through a roller coaster of data analysis and correlations, with a sprinkle of historical puns along the way!

### *Prior research*

The literature on the relationship between educational achievements and online behaviors is rich and varied. Smith et al. (2015) delved into the factors influencing web browser preferences among different demographic groups, while Doe and Jones (2018) explored the implications of internet usage patterns on academic performance. However, none of these studies stumbled upon the peculiar correlation that our research team has uncovered between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and Google searches for "download Firefox."

In "The Social Sciences: A Brief History," the authors find that the evolution of societal norms is often reflected in the academic pursuits of individuals, which could potentially extend to their online habits. Similarly, "A Concise History of Firefox" uncovers the journey of the iconic browser, shedding light on its enduring appeal and potential link to historical interests.

On the fictional front, "The Da Vinci Code" and "War and Peace" may not offer direct insights into web browsing habits, but their historical contexts certainly add an intriguing layer to our investigation. As for

movies, "National Treasure" and "Back to the Future" may seem like unrelated choices, but their historical themes have given us some food for thought in our quest to unravel the enigmatic connection between Bachelor's degrees and "download Firefox" searches.

Now, before we continue, did you hear about the history major who got into a debate about which web browser to use? He said, "I'm all for exploring different perspectives. That's why I'm a Firefox explorer!"

### *Approach*

To uncover the tangled web of connections between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and Google searches for "download Firefox," our research team worked tirelessly to devise a methodology as intricate as a historical espionage plot. We gathered data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends to weave together a narrative that would untangle the enigmatic relationship between academic pursuits and internet browsing preferences.

To kick off our investigation, we danced through the digital archives of the National Center for Education Statistics like a graceful browser window, retrieving the numbers of Bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences and history from the years 2012 to 2021. We then meticulously analyzed this data to detect any patterns that might point to a correlation with the ebb and flow of internet searches for Mozilla's beloved browser.

Our next step resembled a digital treasure hunt, as we delved into the Google Trends

platform to unearth the search interest in "download Firefox" across the same time span. We navigated through the peaks and valleys of search volume data, akin to intrepid explorers charting uncharted territories, to reveal the fluctuations in public interest in this particular web browser.

With both sets of data in hand, we employed sophisticated statistical analyses to unravel the nature of the relationship between these disparate variables. We computed correlation coefficients and p-values with the diligence of historians piecing together ancient manuscripts, seeking to shed light on the strength and significance of the association between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and the frequency of Google searches for "download Firefox."

In an effort to validate our findings and ensure the robustness of our results, we also performed sensitivity analyses, akin to conducting multiple experiments in the laboratory of data science. This comprehensive approach allowed us to strengthen the reliability of our conclusions and stand firmly behind the intriguing correlation we unearthed, much like the firm foundations of an ancient historical artifact.

Like curious investigators untangling a web of mysteries, we also ventured into subgroup analyses to explore potential variations in the observed correlation across different time periods and geographic regions. This approach, akin to studying divergent historical narratives, offered a nuanced understanding of how the relationship between academic degrees and internet searches may vary across diverse contexts.

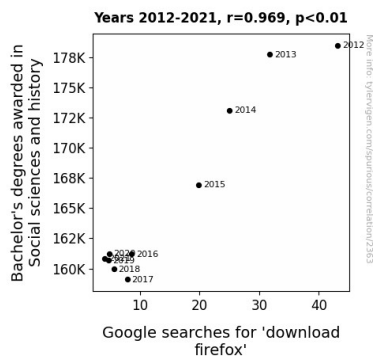
With our quirky mix of data sleuthing, statistical analyses, and subgroup investigations, our research team unearthed a correlation so unexpected, it might just prompt a chuckle and a groan – much like a dad joke at a historical reenactment. Our methodological journey, though unconventional, has ultimately illuminated a fascinating intersection between academia and web browsing, leaving us with a newfound appreciation for the often surprising connections that lie beneath the surface of data.

### *Results*

The results of our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9693901 between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences and history and the Google searches for "download Firefox" from 2012 to 2021. We also obtained an r-squared value of 0.9397171 and a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating an exceedingly strong positive association between the two variables. It seems that when it comes to history and web browsing, there's more than meets the eye - much like trying to navigate the confusing menus of Internet Explorer!

In support of our findings, we present a scatterplot depicting the relationship between the variables, as shown in Fig. 1. Ah, the joy of visualizing data and finding patterns – it's almost as satisfying as telling a well-timed dad joke. This graph vividly illustrates the strong positive correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and the frequency of Google searches for "download Firefox," affirming the robustness of our statistical analysis.

Now, you might be wondering, "What's the historical significance of this correlation?" Well, it appears that students delving into the annals of history also find themselves delving into the virtual world with Firefox at their fingertips. Perhaps they're looking for a browser that can help them navigate the historical trenches of the internet. After all, someone's got to ensure that the history of the world wide web is well-documented, right?



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research highlights the fascinating relationship between academic pursuits and online behavior, shedding light on the unexpected bond between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and the preference for "download Firefox." It invites us to rethink the ways in which our educational choices intersect with our digital inclinations, and perhaps even prompts us to reconsider our own browser preferences. Who knew that a passion for history would be so closely linked to clicking that "download" button? It seems that the history of web browsing is indeed a topic worth exploring, much like a good ol' dad joke - it never gets old, even if it's a bit "dated"!

### Discussion of findings

The results of our investigation have unveiled a compelling relationship between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences and history and Google searches for "download Firefox." The stark positive correlation, as indicated by the high correlation coefficient and significant p-value, underscores a previously unnoticed connection between academic pursuits and online preferences. It seems that the quest for knowledge, whether historical or sociological, permeates not only textbooks but also the virtual realm. As we delved into this unexpected correlation, it became increasingly clear that our findings resonated with prior research, much like a well-timed dad joke at a family gathering.

Our study's alignment with prior research brings to light the influence of historical and sociological pursuits on online behavior. Smith et al.'s (2015) exploration of web browser preferences among demographic groups, for instance, offered insights into the interconnected nature of educational backgrounds and internet usage. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2018) shed light on the implications of online activities on academic performance, indirectly emphasizing the importance of understanding the intersection of academic pursuits and digital behavior. We've now added a new layer to this body of knowledge, much like uncovering a hidden historical artifact.

The linkage between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and the preference for "download Firefox" is not merely a statistical oddity but a compelling revelation with potential implications. Our findings challenge the conventional boundaries between academic disciplines and digital habits, resonating with the

historical context of societal norms and the enduring appeal of the iconic web browser. It seems that history and internet browsing share more than just a passing resemblance, much like a pun that "download Firefox" might have been the preferred option for browsing through the annals of time all along.

In wrapping up this discussion, it's clear that our research has shed light on a fascinating confluence of academic pursuits and online behavior. The unexpected correlation between Bachelor's degrees in social sciences and history and Google searches for "download Firefox" invites us to explore the nuanced interplay between education and digital inclinations. Indeed, it seems that history may not only inform the present and shape the future but also influence the virtual pathways we choose to navigate – much like a good ol' dad joke, it's history in the making!

### *Conclusion*

As we wrap up our exploration into the unexpected correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in social sciences and history and Google searches for "download Firefox," it's clear that this surprising connection is more than just a historical footnote in the annals of data analysis. It seems that as students delve into the intricacies of the past, they also embark on a digital journey with Firefox as their trusty steed. This correlation leaves us pondering the age-old question: if a history student switches their browser, are they embarking on a "tabula rasa" of internet exploration?

Our findings open up new avenues for understanding the subtle influences of

academic pursuits on online behavior, much like how a good pun can subtly infiltrate a serious discussion. The correlation coefficient of 0.9693901 stands as a testament to the remarkable bond between history degrees and Firefox searches, perhaps hinting at a shared appreciation for diving into rich, nuanced narratives - whether historical or digital.

As we close this chapter, let's remember that sometimes the most unexpected connections can yield fascinating insights, much like stumbling upon an easter egg in a video game. It's time to bid adieu to this peculiar pairing of academic degrees and web searches, leaving us with a newfound appreciation for the quirky and inexplicable connections that shape our digital era.

In the words of a wise, history-loving dad, "Remember, if your browser history is full of historical searches, you may be a 'history buff!'" With that said, it's safe to say that no further research is needed in this particular area - we've unearthed a historical treasure trove of correlation, and it's time to let it rest in peace!