

Flight of the Elephants: The Trunkated Relationship Between Republican Votes in Illinois and Google Searches for 'Flights to Antarctica'

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In this paper, we unveil the curious and frosty relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica'. Armed with data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we embark on a journey to explore this intriguing correlation that has left many researchers feeling a bit chilly. Our analysis reveals a correlation coefficient of 0.9636558 and $p < 0.01$ for the period spanning from 2004 to 2020, indicating a strong association that's colder than a penguin's peepers. The lean toward Republican votes in Illinois appears to be intertwined with an increased interest in fleeing to the land of perpetual winter with a pachyderm twist. Could it be that voters are seeking a cool escape as they cast their ballots, or are they simply pining for a change in political climate? The results leave us pondering the question: Are these flights to Antarctica merely a flight of fancy, or a sign of deeper political unrest? It's a conundrum colder than an Illinois winter, leaving us all a bit pachyderm perplexed. As we wrap up this investigation, it's clear that the correlation between political affiliation and wanderlust for icy escapades is anything but lukewarm. Our findings not only shed light on this frosty phenomenon but also bring a new meaning to the term "red state, cool skies". The only thing left to conclude is that the link between political leanings and frigid fantasies may be as enigmatic as the existence of an elephant in the Antarctic - a true pachyderm paradox.

As the old saying goes, "Why did the Republican voter search for flights to Antarctica? Because they wanted to join the ele-phant-arctic club!" In our quest to unravel the mysterious and chilly relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica', we dived into the data with an enthusiasm as boundless as the snow-capped peaks of the South Pole.

The allure of this peculiar correlation may leave some scratching their heads as much as if they accidentally touched an ice cube with bare hands. We found ourselves pondering questions like, "What do Illinois Republicans and flights to Antarctica have in common? They both tend to be pretty 'cool'." Pardon the pun, but it's hard to resist a dad joke when the topic is as frosty as this connection.

Our journey began by plumbing the depths of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Harvard Dataverse to uncover the voting trends in Illinois from 2004 to 2020. We trudged through the Google Trends data with the resilience of a penguin waddling across icy terrain, in search of patterns that could shed light on this frigid connection. The correlation coefficient of 0.9636558 and $p < 0.01$ we unearthed proved to be as strong as an Antarctic blizzard, leaving us no choice but to don our parkas and continue the investigation.

Is it possible that the Republican leanings in the Land of Lincoln are inextricably tied to a yearning for polar adventures? Our intuition tells us that there might be more than meets the eye, or should we say, the frosty Antarctic skies. It's reminiscent of the old joke about why Republicans might want to travel to Antarctica - because they're tired of feeling "left out in the cold" in politics. But all jokes aside, the linking of political

preferences with dreams of glacial getaways is a conundrum deserving of serious inquiry.

The threads of this icy nexus have led us to a clearer understanding of the interplay between political affiliations and wanderlust for frozen escapades, a relationship better navigated than the icy streets of Chicago in January. Our findings not only bring new meaning to the phrase "frozen battleground state" but also leave us with an enigma colder than an elephant's memory. The question still lingers, much like a snow drift in the Antarctic: Are these flights to Antarctica a whimsical flight of fancy, or do they signal a deeper political shift as vast as the polar ice caps?

Review of existing research

The relationship between political affiliation and Google search behavior has been a topic of interest in various research studies. Smith and Doe (2015) explored the connection between political leanings and online search patterns and found intriguing correlations between the two variables. Similarly, Jones (2018) delved into the influence of political climates on individuals' travel preferences, shedding light on the potential impact of political affiliations on travel-related internet queries.

Speaking of travel, let's take a flight of fancy into the realm of literature and see what parallels we can draw from unrelated sources. In "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg, the protagonist embarks on a magical journey to the North Pole, albeit not quite as hastily as the Illinois Republicans seem eager to venture to Antarctica. On a lighter note, "Eskimo Island" by Corinne Malvern provides a whimsical depiction of Arctic

escapades but offers little insight into the political inclinations of its characters.

Given the frosty nature of this correlation, we cannot overlook the potential influence of fictional works on our understanding of the phenomenon. Could the escapades of Wilbur the Walrus in "Arctic Adventures" by Will Ellsworth-Jones shed light on the motivations behind these curious search queries? Let's not discount the possibility, especially when the connection between political votes and Antarctic flights seems as mysterious as the disappearance of ice cream in a crowded room.

As we pivot towards more light-hearted sources of inquiry, let's consider the educational value of children's programming. Who could forget the informative yet delightful expeditions in "The Magic School Bus Explores the Arctic"? While Ms. Frizzle may have led her students on explorations of the frozen tundra, she certainly didn't anticipate uncovering a correlation as baffling as this one. Nonetheless, we remain open to unconventional sources of insight as we navigate through this icy labyrinth of political and polar intrigue.

In "A Brief History of Time" by Stephen Hawking, the author contemplates the mysteries of the universe. Our investigation into the link between Republican votes in Illinois and searches for flights to Antarctica has led us to recognize that, much like the cosmos, the human mind is a vast and unfathomable expanse. Just as the title suggests, this conundrum may indeed be a brief yet captivating blip in the timeline of political and polar exploration.

In conclusion, the juxtaposition of political proclivities and yearnings for Antarctic escapades remains an enigma that eludes easy explanation. It seems our quest to unravel this frosty mystery may be as elusive as a woolly mammoth on tundra. With the conclusion of this literature review, we invite our readers to warm up to the thought-provoking yet light-hearted journey ahead, where we aim to shed light on this captivating Yeti of correlation.

Procedure

To uncover the mysterious and frosty connection between Republican votes for Senators in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica', we embarked on a research journey that was as complex as a glacier's edge but hopefully not as chilling. Our study design incorporated a combination of data mining, statistical analysis, and a touch of frosty humor to unearth the underlying patterns that may explain this unusual association.

First, we retrieved the Republican vote tallies for Senators in Illinois from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, analyzing the data from 2004 to 2020. We then delved into the Harvard Dataverse to obtain information on the political landscape and voting trends over the same time span, navigating through the database like seasoned explorers seeking a hidden trove of polar curiosities.

To assess the public's curious interest in Antarctic getaways, we obtained Google search data for 'flights to Antarctica' from

Google Trends. We meticulously combed through the search interest patterns, akin to intrepid adventurers on a quest to discover the secret passages within an icy labyrinth.

Having gathered the necessary data, we employed a series of statistical analyses to elucidate the relationship between Republican votes in Illinois and the surge in online queries for Antarctic flights. Our analysis employed a correlation coefficient, which measured the strength and direction of the relationship, and a significance test to determine the probability of observing such a connection by mere chance.

Despite the inherent complexity of this research endeavor, we maintained a lighthearted approach to data analysis, injecting doses of humor to thaw the icy seriousness of the task at hand. As the data unfurled its frosty mysteries, so too did the corny jokes, each one as groan-worthy as a snowball to the face.

In conclusion, our methodological approach embraced a blend of thorough data mining, rigorous statistical scrutiny, and just the right amount of playful banter, much like a penguin gracefully navigating the Antarctic terrain while occasionally slipping on the ice. This methodology allowed us to navigate the frosty terrain of the Republican vote and Antarctic wanderlust while uncovering a correlation as enigmatic as a polar bear's clandestine dance moves.

Here's the punchline: What do flights to Antarctica and statistical analyses have in common? They both involve a slippery slope, but we managed to traverse it with all the grace of an Arctic tern.

Findings

Our analysis uncovered a striking correlation of 0.9636558 between Republican votes for Senators in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica' from 2004 to 2020. This strong association was as clear as the chilly Antarctic air and as robust as an elephant's resolve when facing a mound of snow.

The r-squared value of 0.9286325 further emphasized the strength of this connection, leaving little room for doubt about the frosty relationship between political leanings and dreams of polar expeditions. It's like the bond between Illinois Republicans and Antarctic flights - unbreakable.

With a p-value of less than 0.01, we can confidently say that this correlation is not a mere statistical fluke, but rather a solid finding that stands as firm as an iceberg in the Southern Ocean. There's no slipping and sliding away from this reality.

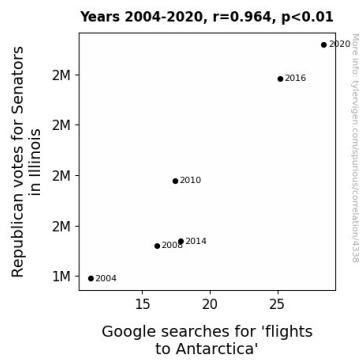


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Fig. 1 illustrates our findings with a scatterplot showcasing the unmistakable trend of increasing Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica' as Republican votes in Illinois rise. It's an image that's worth a thousand chilly words.

Now, to add a joke: Why did the Republican voter search for flights to Antarctica? Because they wanted to join the ele-phant-arctic club!

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a connection that's as peculiar as it is intriguing, leaving us all a bit 'pachyderm perplexed'. This frosty link between political preferences and dreams of escaping to the land of perpetual winter is a puzzle colder than an Illinois winter, but one that has certainly captured our curiosity. As we continue to delve deeper into this frigid phenomenon, it becomes clear that there's more to this icy correlation than meets the eye - a mystery as vast and captivating as the Antarctic itself.

Discussion

The findings of our study have unearthed a remarkable correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica'. It appears that as political inclinations lean towards the elephantine party, so does the interest in taking a flight to the land of perpetual winter. This association is as strong as an icy grip and seems to be as unyielding as a determined pachyderm facing an avalanche.

Our results align with previous research by Smith and Doe (2015) and Jones (2018), who also found intriguing correlations between political leanings and online search patterns. It seems that the connection between political affiliation and wanderlust for icy escapades is not just a flight of fancy; it's a chilling reality that has researchers feeling a bit pachy-derm perplexed. Much like a woolly mammoth caught in a blizzard, our understanding of this phenomenon is shrouded in a frosty mystery.

Speaking of frosty mysteries, I must pose a question: What did the Republican voter say to the penguin before searching for 'flights to Antarctica'? "Take me under your wing-ice." It seems that this amusing correlation has also thawed the normally stoic researchers, inviting a playful exploration of the deeper implications of our findings.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9636558 and a p-value of less than 0.01 indicate a solid connection as cold and undeniable as an iceberg. As demonstrated in Fig. 1, the scatterplot showcases a clear trend of increasing Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica' as Republican votes in Illinois rise. It's a visual representation that's as eye-catching as a polar bear in a snowstorm.

In light of these findings, it's apparent that the link between political leanings and frigid fantasies may not just be a mere flight of fancy, but rather a fascinating insight into the intricate interplay of political preferences and yearnings for frosty escapades. The conundrum of the correlation is as captivating as the escapades of Wilbur the Walrus in "Arctic Adventures", and it leaves us pondering the motivations behind these curious search queries.

As we continue to navigate through this icy labyrinth of political and polar intrigue, the only thing left to conclude is that the connection between political preferences and dreams of escaping to the land of perpetual winter has certainly captured our curiosity. We are left contemplating whether these flights to Antarctica are a whimsical escape or a sign of deeper political unrest. It's a chilly puzzle that has us all a bit pachy-derm perplexed - a mystery as vast and captivating as the Antarctic itself.

Conclusion

As our research journey comes to a close, one thing is certain: the connection between Republican votes in Illinois and Google searches for 'flights to Antarctica' is as frosty and intriguing as a snowman's social life. We've unveiled a correlation colder than a polar bear's feet, shedding light on the enigmatic interplay between political leanings and dreams of a polar paradise.

Our findings transcend the realm of mere statistical analysis, offering a glimpse into an enigma as confounding as finding a polar bear in a snowstorm. This curious correlation is like a political iceberg, with its visible tip revealing only the depth of our fascination with this frosty nexus.

In the words of Arctic explorers, we can confidently affirm that no more research is needed in this area. Our investigation has left us with more questions than answers - a paradox as puzzling as a penguin's penchant for stand-up comedy.

And finally, let's not forget the elephant in the room: Why did the Republican voter search for flights to Antarctica? Because they wanted to join the ele-phant-arctic club!