



Advanced Online Media

Dr. Cindy Royal

Texas State University - San Marcos

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

HighCharts

HighCharts (highcharts.com) is another good option for charting. You can use for free for non-commercial usage. It relies completely on JQuery. You can use your knowledge of JQuery to modify existing HighChart code for your own purposes. You can include it on an html page, and you can embed in your site within an iframe. You can see how we used it for our Drupal site TXStateofChange.com. If you know additional JavaScript/JQuery, you can add some additional features for dropdowns, etc.

1. Go to HighCharts.com. You can download the `highcharts.js` module or you can access it on the Web.
2. Go to <http://www.highcharts.com/demo/>. Here you can find many examples of HighCharts, and you can use JSFiddle to customize. Simply choose a chart, then choose the Edit in JSFiddle button.
3. You just need to know a few things to work with the HighCharts code.

You need two required scripts to use HighCharts. 1) Access to `highcharts.js` 2) Access to the Google Charts API. Put these in the head of your document.

```
<script type='text/javascript'  
src='https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.7.2/jquery.min.js'></script>  
<script src="http://code.highcharts.com/highcharts.js"></script>
```

4. One additional, optional script adds a feature so users can download or print your chart. See the button that is created on the top right of the screen.

```
<script src="http://code.highcharts.com/modules/exporting.js"></script>
```
5. You need the actual JQuery function, included in script tags, also in the head. The JQuery function includes options for the chart as well as the data.
6. You can include a stylesheet or use inline styles.
7. Then, all you do is add a div in the body to draw the chart. Notice that the div name corresponds to the name in the JQuery function.

```
<div id="container" style="min-width: 400px; height: 400px; margin: 0  
auto"></div>
```

But JSFiddle makes it all so easy. It gives you an interface to "fiddle" with the code. Open your desired chart in JSFiddle. You will see the items described above in different windows. Make changes to the code in the JavaScript frame and see it change in the Result frame. You can see the code it creates by right-clicking on the result frame and viewing the frame source.

Exercise

Use the basic line chart. You are going to modify for a completely different set of data and timeframe.

We are going to look at years of revenue for the top 5 companies in the Fortune 500. See data.xls. Modify the chart to include this information instead of the default.

1. Use JSFiddle to make your changes. Change the title and subtitle. Choose the Run button any time you want to see your changes.
2. Change the X Axis from months to years. Pay careful attention to how the line ends.
3. Change the Y Axis title.
4. Change the Y Axis items and data. Again, pay careful attention to how lines end. You have to add an additional "name" to accommodate a 5th company. Use any denomination for the data that makes sense.
5. Change anything else you need to make the chart make sense.
6. Modify this all in JSFiddle. When you are done, put the following in an html page.

Include a reference to the Google Chart api -

```
<script  
src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.8.2/jquery.min.js"></script>
```

Look at the html section in JSFiddle. Put the script tags indicated here in the head of an html document.

Put the div for the container in the body.

Include the JQuery function in the head within a script tag.

Save that file. You should be able to open it in a browser and see your chart.

7. You can upload this chart to your server (in the same folder as your WP install). Then you can include in an iframe in a post (using html or code view).

8. You will need to use the iframe plugin to get Wordpress to accept an iframe, and the shortcode:

```
[iframe src="/page.html" width="100%" height="480"]
```

Modify width and height as necessary. You may need to adjust your src depending on where you loaded your html page.