

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Visual Display of Quantitative Information

Edward R. Tufte

Graphics Press, Box 430, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

\$34, 197 pages hardback

How often have you attended a conference at which a speaker produces a slide on which is tabulated a plethora of numbers, incomprehensible to those at the front of the audience and illegible to those at the rear? How many times have you heard the speaker say, "I know you can't read this but ...."? How many times have you attended a presentation at which good ideas have been incompletely communicated because of poor visual aids? I fear that for many readers of this review the answer to all three questions will be "Far too many".

This book by Tufte should be required reading for all use visual display of quantitative information. It is well written, beautifully produced and has a wealth of wonderful examples. Your review marvelled in particular at the figure on Napoleon's Russian campaign. At \$34 this book is very moderately priced by present day standards. Every library should have a copy and any individual who regularly makes use of visual aids should have their own copy.

## STAFF REVIEW