Library Carpentry

Software skills training for library professionals

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Overview

- What is Library Carpentry?
- Development of Library Carpentry
- Challenges
- Where next?

What is Library Carpentry?

Librarians...

...work with large, messy datasets...

e.g. catalogue records, resource usage stats

...using effective but suboptimal tools

e.g. Microsoft Excel

Librarians...

...advise researchers who have
specific data-related needs...

...and who express those needs in technical language

Librarians...

...have a highly-developed professional skill set...

...but generally leave "programming" to systems colleagues

Library Carpentry:

Software skills training for librarians

Regular expressions

Shell/command line

Version control

Databases

Data-cleaning

Scripting languages

Principles

1. **Community led**
2. **Responsive**
3. **Distributed**
4. **Snowball effect**

Development

Inspiration

British Library Digital Scholarship Training Programme
Software & Data Carpentry
Programming Historian

Pilot

November 2015

City University London

4×3h evening classes

Material development

June 2016

Mozilla Science Lab Global Sprint

Improved existing modules
Added SQL module
Switched to Data Carpentry template
Assigned maintenance roles

Iterate!

19 workshops

300 librarians

8 countries

4 continents

A little bonus...

2016 British Library Labs Teaching & Learning Award!

Challenges

Scheduling

2 days or 12 hours is optimal

Learners attending in groups is helpful

Flexible scheduling according to learners' needs

Getting buy-in

Focus on *benefits*, not *tools* or *skills*

Focus on *learners' needs* not their constituents'

Get buy-in across all levels of seniority

Finding instructors

Tap into local networks (e.g. SWC/DC)

Develop: participants → helpers → instructors

Where next?

"Sounds great, what can I do?"

- Attend a course near you
- Organise a Library Carpentry course
- Contribute lesson material
- Volunteer as a helper or instructor
- Join the conversation:
  - https://gitter.im/weaverbel/LibraryCarpentry

Further resources

Homepage: http://librarycarpentry.github.io

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https://www.software.ac.uk/blog/2016-09-26-why-information-profession-needs-library-carpentry

Community:
https://gitter.im/weaverbel/LibraryCarpentry

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