Library Carpentry

Software skills training for library professionals

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12th International Digital Curation Conference
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](https://gitter.im/weaverbel/LibraryCarpentry)
Further resources

Homepage: http://librarycarpentry.github.io


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

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

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- Natasha Simons
- Owen Stephens
- Daniel van Strien
- Anelda van der Walt
- Belinda Weaver
- Greg Wilson
- Already too many others to list...
  Sorry if I’ve missed you!