Library Carpentry at James Cook University

Our workshops

In July of 2016, James Cook University (JCU) hosted a Library Carpentry workshop at the Townsville Campus. This was the first time a Library Carpentry workshop had been run at JCU. It was also the first workshop delivered by Software Carpentry trainers Jay van Schyndel and Daniel Baird from the JCU eResearch Centre.

The workshop covered:

July 14
- Jargon busting
- Data structures
- Regular Expressions
- Intro to command line
- Using grep and sed

July 15
- Introduction to version control
- Using Git
- Publishing to the web with GitHub Pages
- What is Open Refine and what can it do
- Cleaning Data with Open Refine

Hammers? Nails?
What is this carpentry business?

Software Carpentry has been around for close to twenty years with the aim of teaching researchers computing skills that will help them work more efficiently and “get more done in less time, and with less difficulty” (Simperl & Wilson, 2015). It now boasts a global volunteer base with lessons being developed by a large number of contributors using GitHub (showing that they practice what they teach).

Library Carpentry has evolved out of Software Carpentry and offers similarly focused lessons for library professionals. James Baker (2015) identified a need for library professionals to have the skills necessary to automate tasks, utilise version control systems and work meaningfully with data. This prompted the first Library Carpentry sessions which followed the Software Carpentry aim but replaced the target audience from researchers to library professionals.

The first iteration was held in London, November 2015 and consisted of four sessions essentially covering the same material that JCU staff were exposed to in July. The lesson materials are continually updated and improved upon by volunteers as more and more people teach the lessons around the world. A recent addition to the Library Carpentry materials is a lesson on SQL.

References

