Experiences at Monash University running Carpentries-style workshops

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Monash Genomics and Bioinformatics Platform

Early days in the Bioinformatics Platform

This may be a familiar story.

As a bioinformatician, I would write reports in knitr, and the recipient would sometimes **start learning R!**
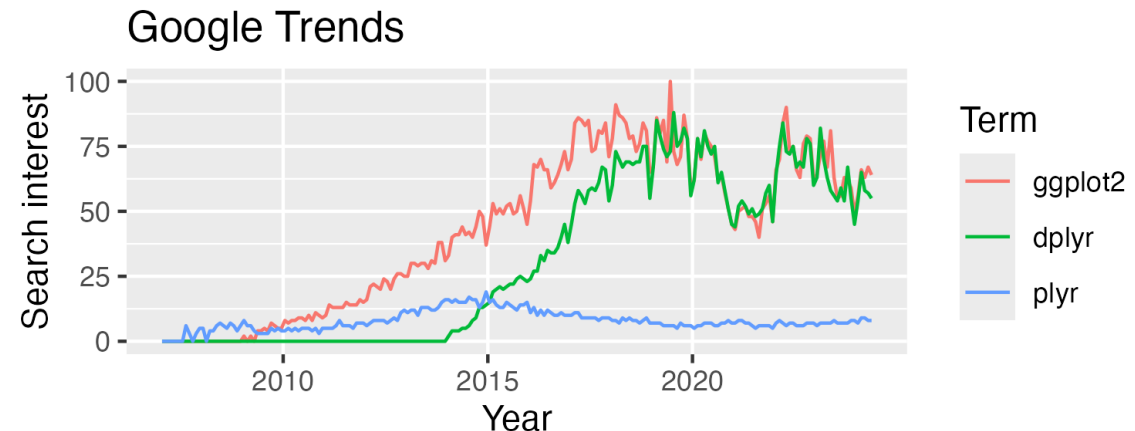
2015-

Software Carpentry's lesson materials let us start actively teaching these skills, and gave a format to develop similar workshops with a bioinformatics focus.

What was the best value we could provide in a workshop?

• ggplot2, data frames, and later dplyr and %>% offered a form of **fluency** that was not exactly about writing software.

(i.e. we paralleled the development of Data Carpentry)

Google Trends

Data Fluency

2018-

Monash Library launches **Data Fluency** program, lead by Linda Kalejs, building on the Bioinformatics Platform's experience running workshops.

- University wide.

- Counts towards postgraduate students mandatory professional development hours.

- Skill up with Carpentries Train the Trainer workshop.

- Workshops from groups across the university.

Also: Drop-in sessions! Monthly seminars! Book club! Slack site!

2019-

Hire paid "Associate Instructors".

- Train-the-Trainer live coding exercise → part of the interview.

- Frequency of workshops greatly increased.

Some Associate Instructors have also helped develop new material: Nitika Kandhari, Ranjeet Singh, Fan Cheng, and others.

MONASH University

Adapting to online teaching

2020-
We had generally been doing one day workshops.

A day on Zoom was tiring, two half days preferable.

We now prefer this even for in-person teaching!

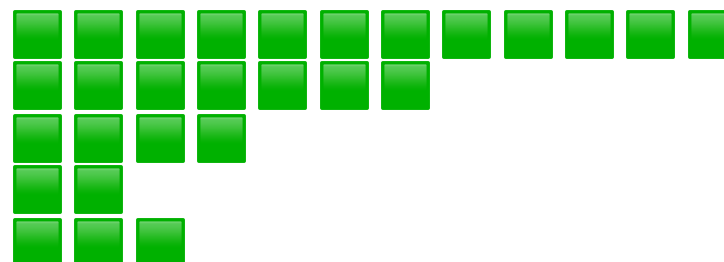Actually simpler to run, as finding rooms has always been a problem.

We've continued with Zoom after the pandemic.

Some of the interaction and connection is lost.

2023 statistics

1309 total attendees at 95 workshops

Intro to R	× 12
Programming and Tidy Data Analysis in R	× 7
Linear Models in R	× 4
Reproducible Research in R	× 2
Shiny in R	× 3
Intro to Python	× 12
Intro to Power BI	× 11
Intro to Unix Shell	× 4
Intro to High Performance Computing	× 4
Open Source Science with Git and Github	× 11
Intro to REDCap	× 10
Developing a Health Research Data Dictionary	× 9
Intro to Data Linkage	× 2
Visualisation and Storytelling	× 4

People involved

Bioinformatics Platform

Adele Barugahare
Andrew Pattison
Andrew Perry
Anup Shah
David Powell
Deanna Deveson
Haroon Naeem
Hossein Kahrood
Kirill Tsyganov
Laura Perlaza
Michael See
Nick Wong
Nitika Kandhari
Roxane Legaie
Sarah Williams
Shani Amarasinghe
Sonika Tyagi
Steve Androulakis
Stuart Archer

Library

David Groenewegen
Linda Kalejs
Kim Taylor
Deepa Soni
Eva Fisch
Carolyn de Wet
Blair Gatehouse
Beth Pearson
22 Associate Instructors
+ many more

Others

Gin Tan
Grischa Meyer
Gede Rajeg
Patrick Splawa-Neyman
Richard Beare
Simon Michnowicz
Titus Tang
+ many more

Monash eResearch
Monash Helix Platform
Monash Data Science and AI Platform

Save the date! Monash is holding a **ResBaz** November 26-28.

VICTORIA 2024
ResBaz
RESEARCH BAZAAR

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SAVE THE DATE - **ResBaz is back to Victoria in 2024**

We are delighted to announce that this year ResBaz will be hosted by the Monash eResearch Centre from **26-28 November, 2024** at the Monash Clayton Campus.

We are currently finalising details, so please watch out for coming updates!
ResBazVIC-l@monash.edu