

Leveraging the strengths of University of California campus communities to reach more learners through open education



2021 UC Libraries Forum
October 27, 2021

Scott Peterson - UCB
Reid Otsuji - UCSD
Stephanie Labou - UCSD
Tim Dennis - UCLA

Training with open educational resources

The Carpentries is a global community that teaches foundational programming skills

The curriculum is open and collaboratively developed to be up to date

Volunteers contribute to lesson plans, organize, and run workshops

UCSD and UCLA have organizational memberships to The Carpentries - instructor training and certification

UC campuses have run many workshops in the past using a small local pool of instructors that can reach about ~30 students at a time...

but the demand is far higher

In person workshops usually fill up quickly and have large waitlists

Putting on a workshop is very time intensive

Shift to entirely virtual instruction beginning March 2020

This allowed more instructors from other campuses to teach without needing to travel

Allowed for larger classes to be taught since room constrictions were no longer an issue

Collaboration shares the load & reaches more students

Existing structures to enable cross-UC communication: CKGs, Slack, etc

Initial partners: UCLA, UCSD, UCB

- Including other campuses in subsequent iterations

Goal: expand Carpentries workshop model online leveraging the UC community

- Typical setup is 2 full days that include 3 or 4 lessons of in-person workshop
- More days, shorter sessions, more lessons taught in a virtual environment
- Overall less time involved in organization of a large online workshop than many in-person workshops

Workshop goals

Positive learning experience

Teach foundational programming skills

Introduce attendees to what's possible

Build confidence in using these skills

Motivate attendees to increase their self-efficacy for programming

Get more UCs to become a part of the Carpentries Community

Implementation

2020 Workshop (UCB, UCLA, UCSD)

- 7 workshops offered over 3 weeks
 - Lessons taught: Shell, Git, SQL, R, Python
 - Sessions ran 9am-12pm
- Scaled popular workshops with concurrent sessions
 - Python and R one separate days with Open Lab days for each

2021 Workshop (UCB, UCLA, UCR, UCSB, UCSD)

- 11 workshops offered over 2 weeks
 - Lessons taught: Tidy Data, OpenRefine, Shell, SQL, Git, R, Python, R: Vector Data, R: Raster Data
 - Sessions ran 9am-1pm
- Concurrent sessions for Python and R on same days with Open Lab days for each

Cross campus registration

Lessons learned

- Workshop Logistics
 - Dedicated workshop event planner(s)
 - EventBrite platform doesn't make it possible to have waitlists for each lesson
 - Pivoted to Tito for 2021 workshop
 - Teaching Python and R concurrent sessions on different days makes it easier to leverage the instructor/helper volunteers we have
- Instructor/helper recruitments
 - Many instructors taught a lesson for the first time
 - New instructors paired with experienced instructors for each lesson worked best
- Session attendance
 - About half who sign-up actually show up
 - At least 40 people in every workshop
 - Not having physical space constraints means you can open a waitlist up to a workshop and not worry about the turnout

Impact

- Success at reaching more learners
 - Provides access to workshops for students that are not given often at some campuses
 - Over 1,000 people attended these two workshop series
- Creating a community amongst different campuses
 - Library staff across UCs taught alongside each other as well as alongside UC researchers/students, building relationships across campuses and departments
- Expanding instructor/helper pool
 - Helpers became instructors and this facilitated an expanded workshop series in 2021
 - Provides teaching opportunities and chances for library staff to teach topics not always covered at a campus

Community effect

CSU Long Beach Library Carpentry Workshop (August 10-13, 2020)

UC Love Data Week (February 8-12, 2021)

- 29 workshops and presentations
- 800 attendees

Fall 2021 UC Carpentries Workshop

- Broadened collaboration, brought in instructors from other UCs & Cal State
- Offered 11 workshop sessions in collaboration with UCSD, UCLA, UCB, UCSB, and UCR from Sept 13 - Oct 1 2021.
- 1000 learners across the UC system registered for this workshop series

Future Questions:

- How do we sustain this effort?
- Open up to other communities other than the UC?
- How to minimize coordination & logistical efforts?
- Should we turn it into a conference like ResBaz?
- Will our audiences want a return to in-person workshops?

Resources

Blog on our 2020 workshop experience:

<https://carpentries.org/blog/2021/01/uc-carpentries-workshop/>

2020 Workshop:

<https://ucla-data-archive.github.io/2020-09-28-ucb-ucla-ucsd/>

2021 Workshop: <https://ucsdlib.github.io/2021-09-13-uc-collab/>

Carpentries: <https://carpentries.org/>

Interested in collaborating?

Let's get connected

Contact us:

- Tim Dennis: timdennis@g.ucla.edu
- Stephanie Labou: slabou@ucsd.edu
- Reid Otsuji: rotsuji@ucsd.edu
- Scott Peterson: speterso@berkeley.edu
- Get connected in the Carpentries Slack
 - [#local-socal](#), [#california-libraries](#)

Thanks to our co-instructors & helpers

Kristian Allen (UCLA), Michael Campos-Quinn (UCB), Maddi Cowen (UCLA), Alexandre de Siqueira (UCB), Tim Dennis (UCLA), Jen Diamond (UCLA), Erin Foster (UCB), Ryan Gan (El Camino), Chi Gao (UCSD), Dave George (UCLA), Jamie Jamison (UCLA), Kat Koziar (UCR), Stephanie Labou (UCSD), Kristi Liu (UCSB), Mark Matney (UCLA), Lisa McAulay (UCLA), Reza Monadi (UCR), Lisa Ngo (UCB), Reid Otsuji (UCSD), David Palmquist (CSU Fullerton), Scott Peterson (UCB), Leigh Phan (UCLA), Anna Sackmann (UCB), Geno Sanchez (UCLA), Justin Shaffer (UCSD), Kimberly Thomas (UCSD), Sam Teplitzky (UCB), Zhiyuan Yao (UCLA), Harry Zhou (UCSD)