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Authors

Labou, Stephanie G

Koziar, Katherine E

Deardorff, Ariel

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UC Love Data Week as a Model for Building Grassroot Data Communities at Scale

Stephanie G. Labou, Katherine E. Koziar, and Ariel Deardorff

Introduction

UC Love Data Week is an annual event consisting of virtual data-related sessions open to the entire University of California (UC) community. Building from and expanding existing cross-campus collaborative frameworks, this now annual online event draws 1,000+ participants across the UC system to dozens of sessions organized and hosted by librarians and library-adjacent campus partners.

This chapter, written by three of the many librarians and data professionals involved in this endeavor, discusses how the collaborative model of UC Love Data Week functions as a skill and community-building exercise for data librarians and professionals as well as external audiences. For the librarians organizing UC Love Data Week, the event has

been a chance to collaborate on an annual basis, forming productive partnerships among otherwise siloed data professionals. The act of co-creating session content, building the event website, and analyzing and discussing assessment data allows for cross-training among librarians and has cemented a community of practice around library-based data instruction across UC campuses. For UC affiliates, beyond the one-time learning opportunities taking place during UC Love Data Week, recordings and materials from prior sessions now form a treasure trove of open access on-demand educational content.

We conclude this chapter with a set of concrete recommendations, resources, and guidelines—as well as pain points to be aware of—for institutions or consortia interested in developing a similar model of data culture and instruction at scale.

The University of California System

The University of California (UC) is California's public research university system, with fundamental missions of teaching, research, and public service.[1] The UC system is comprised of ten campuses, six academic health centers, three national laboratories, and various statewide extension, outreach, and community programs. Campuses vary widely in size by

UC Campus	Associated Health Center	Librarian Headcount (2021)	Enrollment Headcount (2021)	Employee Headcount[a] (2021)
UC Berkeley		101	45,036	13,042
UC Davis	UC Davis Health	41	40,050	26,310
UC Irvine	UC Irvine Health	52	36,505	16,507
UC Los Angeles (UCLA)	UCLA Health	121	46,116	41,730
UC Merced		12	9,093	1,787
UC Riverside	UC Riverside Health	27	26,847	4,785
UC San Diego	UC San Diego Health	55	41,885	28,626
UC San Francisco (UCSF)[b]	UCSF Health	13	3,165	29,792
UC Santa Barbara		46	26,124	5,439
UC Santa Cruz		22	19,841	4,238

[a] does not include student employees
[b] UCSF is health sciences only

TABLE 12.1. Information about UC campuses and associated libraries.
Other UC-affiliated groups participating in UC Love Data Week include UC Office of the President (UCOP) and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR). *Sources:* Data from "Compensation at the University of California: Annual Wage," accessed May 27, 2023, https://ucannualwage.ucop.edu/wage/; "Fall Enrollment at a Glance," University of California, March 3, 2023, https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance; "UC Employee Headcount," University of California, October 30, 2020, https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/uc-employee-headcount.

enrollment and number of faculty and staff, and each campus functions as an independent entity with its own degree programs, staff, libraries, and budget (table 12.1). Library campus collections vary in size, but as a combined system, UC has one of the largest academic library collections in the US.[2] While campuses work together and collaborate at a systemwide level on certain policies, consortial purchasing deals, and shared technical infrastructure, the vast majority of day-to-day research support occurs at the campus level. Library-licensed and subscribed content, as well as capacity to provide data-specific support, varies between campuses, making for a patchwork system of local library strengths and gaps.

To facilitate sharing of knowledge and current practices, the UC Libraries have a structure of "Common Knowledge Groups" (CKGs), which are loose cross-campus library-centric communities within specific areas. The Research Data Services CKG (RDS-CKG) serves as the primary cross-UC platform for librarians and research data support staff, like research facilitators, to meet on a regular basis to discuss topics such as funder guidelines for data sharing, best practices for data management plans, and similar issues applicable to most researchers across campuses.

Rise of Research Data Support in UC Libraries

While multiple UC academic libraries have offered collections of licensed datasets and services around research data management (RDM) and curation for the past decade, in more recent years, the focus has expanded beyond traditional data finding, curation, and management training to hands-on instruction in data analysis and visualization, and computational training such as basic programming. This was due in part to two trends. The first trend was poor attendance at traditional data management workshops:[3] early workshops were developed to provide broad overviews on how to develop and implement data management plans (DMPs), but learners often attended seeking answers to specific questions related to storing large amounts of data, file naming conventions, and other compute-adjacent topics.

The second trend was the increase in data science degree programs at universities and data science methods becoming more widely used within other disciplines. UC Berkeley first offered a Master of Information and Data Science in 2014,[4] and UC Irvine was the first UC to offer an undergraduate major in data science, launching in 2015.[5] Data science degrees at graduate and undergraduate levels have since expanded across many UC campuses, including UC Riverside, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, and UCSF. Simultaneously, as data science in general grew in popularity and computational resources became cheaper and more accessible, data science methodologies became more integrated into other disciplines, including social sciences (in the form of "computational social science" approaches and programs) and humanities (a move toward "digital

humanities"). The result was rapidly growing demand for additional campus services to provide support and training for working with data at scale.

Many librarians already providing management and publishing support for research data expanded their focus to introductory computational instruction, where they could integrate training in data management best practices into workshops on more in-demand data skills. Library-led workshops on tools like R, Python, and Git provided a domain-agnostic, low barrier-to-entry approach for students and researchers who found themselves needing these now crucial skills but lacking any available formal coursework. UC librarians recognized the need for more training in these areas; however, each campus has limited people whose primary focus is research data-related support. Smaller campuses, such as UC Merced, UC Riverside, and UC Santa Cruz, only have one data librarian or none and, therefore, have less capacity for research data consultations and instruction. Conversely, other campuses, such as UCLA and UC Berkeley, have more employees, internal and external to libraries, to support research data, with services spanning beyond the libraries into multi-departmental initiatives.

Ultimately, specialized support for certain data types and data analysis varies by campus and is driven by campus focus and demand and local expertise and capacity. For example, UCSF offers only biomedical degrees, and librarians at that campus tend to specialize in relevant aspects of data support such as bioinformatics, help with National Institutes of Health (NIH) data requirements, and data science for computational health sciences. As a result, UCSF libraries don't have capacity to teach qualitative methods or geographic information system (GIS) tools to their smaller social science, population health, and medical humanities groups. On the other end of the specialized support spectrum, since UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, and UC San Diego offer data science degrees as well as a wide variety of disciplines that emphasize quantitative research methods, there is more interest from non-data science students and researchers in data science methods and approaches. As a result, librarians on those campuses have been involved with computational training for years (notably the Carpentries curriculum), offering introductory programming workshops and other more niche data support, with some minimal cross-campus collaborations to host workshops. Ultimately, while capacity existed across the UC system, a history of campus siloing meant smaller UC institutions that wanted to support data-related instruction and services lacked capacity to provide such broad and extensive high-touch support, while on-campus obligations and distance prevented any real, sustained level of collaboration among the campuses libraries.

The Path to UC Love Data Week

To date, the focus for research data support has been on data instruction and community-building at a campus level rather than UC-wide. For years, UC data librarians provided

in-person instructional workshops and events for campus groups year-round, and some campus libraries, including UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UCSF, and UC Riverside, provided in-person "data week" initiatives, such as Love Data Week, Endangered Data Week, and Data Science Week, with thematic programming and outreach around library-based data services and support.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered academic campuses around the world. When the UC system moved to virtual instruction in spring 2020, so did library services. While it seems commonplace now, in the early days of "virtual first" library services, there was concern about how to ensure continuity of services and sense of community among campus affiliates, when libraries in particular had often served as central hubs for students on UC campuses. For librarians, an overarching question was how to transition activities, especially data instruction activities, to a virtual environment, at scale, without losing local connections and community built up over years of in-person interaction. Even prior to the spring 2020 shutdown, several UC data librarians had discussions about pivoting data-related instruction online while maintaining continuity of hands-on workshop support. By early March 2020, these conversations and questions were posed to larger international groups of data librarians and professionals, all with the intent of finding excellent, hands-on, online workshop examples that provided the level of interactivity and support that UC researchers and learners were used to. When RDS-CKG met in late March 2020, post-campus closure, UC librarians were well-positioned to internally share information and experiences and establish a timeline to test out using technologies to facilitate online instruction and workshops.

By spring 2020, minor collaborations in online data instruction were occurring between UC campuses, and in fall 2020, librarians collaborated on a regional, virtual Carpentries workshop that included instructors from UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Berkeley. This workshop provided proof of concept for how to deliver and scale up this approach to data instruction and, more importantly, lessons learned about how to plan and organize such an activity. At the same time, long-term GIS collaborations between UC campuses were working to address similar issues in the context of GIS support. One of their solutions, UC GIS week in November 2020, was structured as a conference format, with submitted talks and presentations.[6] This UC-wide event demonstrated how a cross-campus collaborative, virtual event could work and provided an example for the RDS-CKG to think about a data-centric all-UC event, building off the cross-campus Carpentries experience. Our focus shifted to new possibilities of fully remote collaboration, such as expanding workshop access to a wider audience within and beyond the UC and offering niche topics to audiences that wouldn't normally have access because of a lack of campus-specific support or expertise.

UC Love Data Week Content and Audience

Leveraging the RDS-CKG as a group of likely collaborators, UC data librarians and data-adjacent library and campus staff began planning the inaugural UC Love Data Week for February 2021. Love Data Week was chosen because of the existing tradition of this week in February as a time for library-run data-focused activities. The first UC Love Data Week took place from February 8 to 12, 2021, and consisted of twenty-nine library-organized virtual instructional and information sessions that reached more than 650 attendees. While originally meant as a stopgap during campus closures, the event was so successful that we decided to repeat it on an annual basis, even when campuses returned to in-person instruction and have now successfully hosted UC Love Data Week three times.

With a scope as broad as "data," the events of UC Love Data Week are diverse, reflecting a suite of topics and audience. For the past three years, we have hosted between twenty-six and thirty-four sessions during each annual event (eighty-nine sessions in total since the inaugural year), including forty-one hands-on workshops, twenty-seven seminars, fifteen resource demonstrations, and six discussion groups. The session topics are equally varied, with broadly popular topics, such as working with qualitative data and introduction to various programming languages (table 12.2), as well as more narrowly focused sessions like "Wikidata Basics," "Data Feminism Book Club," and "Using Library Collections as Data." Some of these target a novice audience, while others require prerequisites and are intended for a more intermediate or advanced audience. Our goal in the first three years has been to offer something for everyone, whether they are new to working with data, want to build up their skills in a particular domain, or are exploring a new tool or platform.

Session Name	Total registration
What do I do with all of this text? Cleaning and coding data for qualitative analysis (2022)	273
Beyond Basics in R (more advanced workshop; 5-part series) (2022)	250
Developing your data science portfolio (2023)	220
Data-Driven Animation for Research and Science Communication (2023)	211
Getting started with qualitative data analysis: methods and open tools (2023)	208
Getting Started with Textual Data in Python (3-part series; Digital Humanities) (2022)	202
Excelling with Excel: Best Practices for Keeping Your Data Tidy (2021)	177
Creating an Effective Data Management Plan for Your Grant Proposal (2022)	174
GIS & Mapping: Where to Start (2023)	165
Writing a Data Management and Sharing Plan for NIH (2023)	141

TABLE 12.2. Top 10 UC Love Data Week sessions by registration data, including waitlist. We are using registration totals as a proxy of interest. Some sessions that had smaller capacity due to the session type might be just as popular, but because of the attendance cap, reflect smaller totals.

As UC Love Data Week is for the entire UC community, total annual unduplicated attendance numbers have ranged from 655 to 1,159, and interest continues to grow every year. Participants attend from every UC campus and represent a diverse array of scholarly domains and roles. We have attendees from the sciences, humanities, social sciences, and medicine in roles as varied as undergraduate student, library staff member, medical faculty, and postdoctoral scholar (table 12.3). One of the most exciting things has been to see the interactions between these audiences as they work side by side in a workshop or chat in small groups in a breakout room.

Registration by Role	Total Registration	Count of Registrants	Count of Those Who Registered for 2+ Workshops
Faculty	137	82	25
Physician/clinician/medical resident	6	4	1
Postdoctoral scholar	181	82	45
Professional researcher	119	58	21
Staff	735	353	188
Student, graduate	478	281	98
Student, undergraduate	204	104	44
UC alumni	43	26	9
Other	98	56	20
No response	81	77	3
Grand Total	2,082	1,123	454

TABLE 12.3. UC Love Data Week 2023 registration statistics by registrant role in UC.

What Goes into Planning UC Love Data Week?

From the beginning, our goal with this event was not just to reach a wider audience for library data support services, but also to deepen our own partnerships and skills through collaborative sessions and cross-training. UC Love Data Week has no standing budget and is entirely volunteer-led and decentralized by design, with that philosophy reflected in the organizing group. Rather than a formal committee, positions are filled on a volunteer basis to form a loose group of primary organizers including

- one person responsible for keeping the event on track, including scheduling meetings, within-group communication and decision-making, managing the shared Google space, and other internal processes;
- two to three people who manage the website for UC Love Data Week, including updating content each year and the website design based on feedback;

- a small (two or three people) assessment and data analysis team, responsible for sending out the post-event feedback survey and analyzing registration and feedback data (this group arose organically during the third year of UC Love Data Week; previous years had a more ad hoc approach); and

- one person from each UC campus who acts as a "campus contact" and liaison between the main group and campus-specific processes and speakers. They are responsible for outreach and advertising of the event on their respective campuses, organizing registration for sessions hosted by their campus, and communicating with session presenters who may be otherwise involved in the overarching event. Campus contacts may also serve multiple roles—for instance, as primary organizer or member of the web team.

This approach creates a lightweight and collaborative community, with plenty of flexibility for the ebb and flow of job responsibilities outside UC Love Data Week planning and organization. It also creates a de facto "data instruction group," separate from (but overlapping membership with) the RDS-CKG, forming a network to share content beyond UC Love Data Week and support similar collaborations moving forward.

Planning for UC Love Data Week, which takes place annually the week of February 14, starts in September of the prior year. The full organizing group participates in a kick-off meeting, followed by three or four more synchronous meetings prior to the event, with multiple avenues for asynchronous communication between those meetings (figure 12.1).

Session topics are first solicited internally, with a focus on topics that are in demand and which librarians are likely to present and have expertise and existing materials. Here, campus contacts can also share information about more specific session topics they've
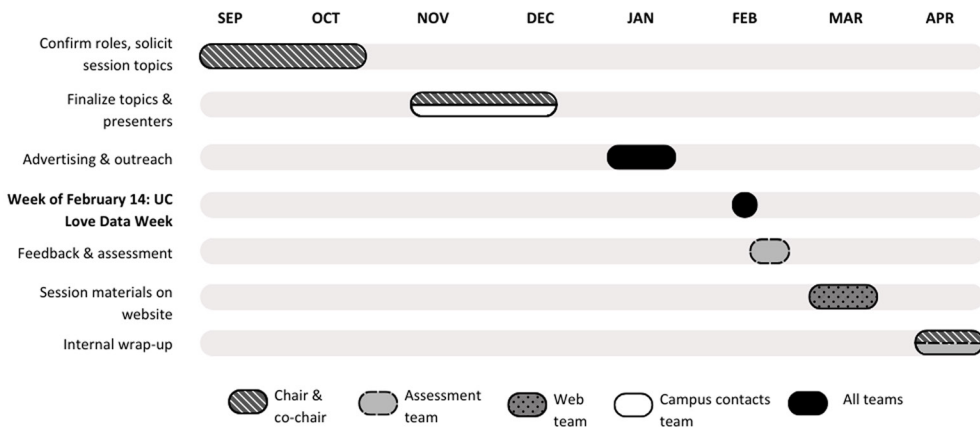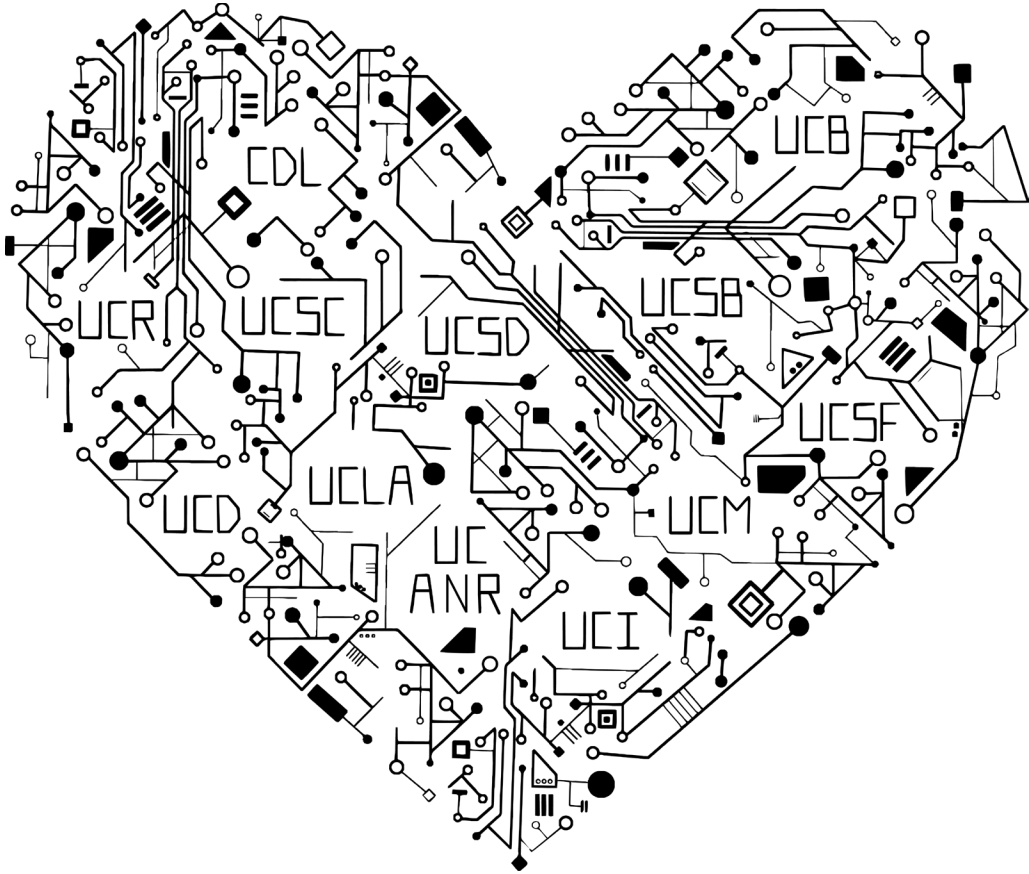

FIGURE 12.1

Visual timeline of UC Love Data Week planning process. Created by Hailey Ramos, UC San Diego undergraduate student.

received requests for or that have come up recently in discussions with their communities, such as working with social media data or data ethics. These represent prime opportunities for librarians from different campuses to collaborate on developing content for sessions about these topics. Over the three years so far, 22 percent of the sessions have been co-taught by librarians from different campuses, with collaborations increasing each year. Librarians can also suggest session ideas for content that *we* find interesting and would like to be able to devote more time to and which we think our audiences would also find applicable. Such sessions provide opportunities to reinforce our own internal data culture as well as provide opportunities for upskilling.

Each session has a designated "host" campus, which is usually the campus of the librarian leading that session or the campus with which the primary presenter is affiliated. The host campus contact handles session logistics like setting up and overseeing registration, handling communication with presenters and registrants, and moderating the session, including introducing presenters and facilitating session Q&A. This approach reduces logistical overhead, as processes can be adapted to best fit existing campus-specific event workflows. Furthermore, it allows campuses to contribute to UC Love Data Week based on their capacity, whether that is by hosting one session, four sessions, or no sessions. Crucially, campuses do *not* need to host workshops to reap the benefits of UC Love Data Week content for their communities. For instance, if one campus does not have the time or resources to host a workshop, their affiliates can still attend all UC Love Data Week sessions, which—from an attendee perspective—are all under the umbrella of UC Love Data Week, with no host campus information externally facing, except for campus names in registration URLs. And because UC Love Data Week does not have dedicated funding, we leverage tools that are either free and open source, or those to which UC campuses already subscribe, so we all have "free" access. This need to use existing collaboration and event infrastructure also meant that the technical details of event organization and implementation fit seamlessly into our existing workflows.

All sessions are included in a central UC Love Data Week website,[7] with session descriptions and links to registrations for individual sessions. The website is the central hub for this event and consolidates the diverse suite of sessions to a single informational location. (Quite successfully too, with one-third of registrants in 2023 reporting finding out about the event through the website). Each campus handles its own advertising and outreach, leveraging campus- and departmental-specific listservs to inform students and faculty about these free virtual workshops, seminars, tool demos, and discussion groups. The main organizing group provides draft informational blurbs and other promotional materials, as well as shared branding images (figure 12.2), in order to make outreach as easy and cohesive as possible. Additionally, by the third year, the main group provided a set of questions with controlled vocabulary to include with all registration forms. This standardization makes for easier data harmonization and analysis afterward, providing key insights on what campuses, departments, and roles (i.e., graduate versus undergraduate

FIGURE 12.2

UC Love Data Week logo, featuring abbreviations for UC entities involved. Created by Erinna Lin, UC San Diego undergraduate student.

students, faculty, staff) are attending which sessions. Registration for the event is open to any UC affiliate, and the content and format of individual sessions grouped under the auspices of UC Love Data Week reduces overlapping programming and provides flexibility for UC affiliates to attend multiple sessions.

Following the event conclusion, the organizers' focus is on soliciting feedback and including the year's content on the website. Session presenters have the discretion to record their session and/or make their slide decks available publicly. For those that do so, session materials are processed and linked from the main website by mid-March. Although not the original goal, the resulting collection of instructional materials serves as an archive of open educational resources (OER) for data-related topics. Some workshops, such as the Intermediate APIs session in 2022, directed registrants to view the materials from introductory workshops in prior years, which are available in a "previous years" section on the main website.

Finally, in the week following UC Love Data Week, a short survey is sent to registrants from all sessions asking for feedback on the overall event experience, open-ended comments for organizers, and what topics they would like to see at next year's event. This information is presented at the internal wrap-up meeting in mid-April, along with discussion among the organizing group about what went well, what could be improved, and identification of people for next year's main organizing roles. Again, because all roles are voluntary, the continuation of UC Love Data Week year after year depends upon a culture of collaboration, sharing, and commitment to user-focused services at scale.

Impact of UC Love Data Week on the UC Community

UC Love Data Week represents a large amount of work from librarians and data professionals across the UC system, but we have found the event well worth the effort: between access to content organized by multiple campuses and post-event availability of recordings, it provides benefits far beyond a one-time learning experience for UC affiliates. Taken broadly, UC Love Data Week centers the library as part of the data community on UC campuses and across UC as a whole.

Each year, the event feedback form, sent to all session registrants, asks respondents to rate their overall experience of UC Love Data Week on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being excellent. While not a rigorous assessment, we have found this question, in conjunction with a set of open-ended feedback questions, provides us sufficient feedback without contributing to survey fatigue of respondents. Based on this data, UC Love Data Week is quite popular with attendees, with an overall rating in the 4.4 to 4.5 range for the three years so far. Free response questions reflect a set of common themes, including general appreciation for the event and the sessions, interest in leveraging the event for cross-campus collaboration in other areas, and specific suggestions of session topics for future years. There is also usually a set of comments from attendees who couldn't attend all sessions, either because of scheduling conflicts or because sessions were at maximum capacity by the time they tried to register, but do want to engage with this cross-campus data community. In response to comments like this, we now send out a post-event email to all registrants with a reminder that session recordings and materials are linked on the UC Love Data Week website, and we continue to work on the pre-event outreach to inform all UC affiliates about this event.

As noted above, UC Love Data Week recordings and slide decks for each year are linked on the main website, creating a rich OER repository for data topics. After three years of UC Love Data Week, there are forty-one hours of recordings reflecting thirty-five workshops. This collection of materials provides a helpful resource for UC librarians who may encounter requests for tutorials or guidance on these topics at other times during the academic year but

do not have expertise in these topics themselves. For example, since UC San Diego Library does not have capacity to offer qualitative analysis support, their affiliates are often directed to the qualitative analysis workshops from prior UC Love Data Week events; in some instances at this UC campus, materials have been incorporated into teaching, with instances of professors offering extra credit for watching certain UC Love Data Week session recordings.

Likewise, UC Love Data Week serves as a starting point for making our audiences aware of not only their own campus support options but also the myriad resources available across the UC system in terms of tutorials and other data-related instructional content. For example, the UC Davis DataLab is actively involved in UC Love Data Week and runs similar workshops throughout the year. Crucially, while these other events may not be open to non-UC Davis affiliates, the relevant content is linked on their website and usually takes the form of workshop recordings and guided tutorials. Such cross-campus resource exposure means that UC affiliates, regardless of home campus, are more aware of and can therefore leverage the unique (and publicly available) instructional resources of each UC campus.

Finally, UC Love Data Week functions as an annual outreach event for the library, providing a platform for librarians to reach new audiences and (re)introduce themselves to their communities as a direct line for research and data support. Often, a UC Love Data Week session is just the start for attendees, with many following up with their campus libraries and librarians. This is especially true for faculty and researchers in health sciences, as UC Love Data Week consistently offers an informational session on NIH data management and sharing requirements. Sessions like this provide not only in-the-moment information but also empower researchers to know *who* at their campus to reach out to, within the library. Furthermore, registration and attendance data, which includes campus affiliation and role, show interest in specific topics, so libraries and librarians can tailor content offerings and resource outreach moving forward to better serve their communities.

Impact of UC Love Data Week on UC Librarians

In addition to the benefits for the wider UC-wide community, UC Love Data Week has played an important role in establishing the UC Libraries data community. While the RDS-CKG had helped data-focused librarians and library staff keep in touch for several years, most of us had never worked together on a project or class. UC Love Data Week was a chance to co-teach, collaborate, and build stronger connections with peers at other libraries. And because most UC campuses have few data-centric librarians, the event was also a chance to share ideas with colleagues working in the same area, something that was especially valuable for early career library professionals and those working at the smaller campuses.

Perhaps the most valuable result of this community of knowledge sharing is we now have a better understanding of our various skills and areas of expertise and can more easily triage and refer questions across campuses. For instance, if a campus affiliate asks about best practices for scientific software development, which may not be an area of expertise on that campus, we know someone at UC Merced who can help and—crucially—we feel comfortable reaching out to each other as well as referring our students and faculty to session materials and recordings from other campuses. We also know who teaches similar workshops, and the connections and networks developed during UC Love Data Week make it easier to share instructional materials and resources across campuses. This has non-trivial impacts on our day-to-day activities: not having to re-create the same "Data Management 101" slides over and over again frees us up to spend more time on outreach, instruction, and consultation. While we still focus mostly on our own campus communities, which have their own unique user needs, we are also much more likely to consider working with our peer data librarians to develop and co-teach new workshops.

Collaborating on UC Love Data Week was also a chance to build our own technical skills. As librarians supporting data in a broad sense, we are often at the forefront of library exposure to new formats, platforms, and methods, and need to be proactive about learning these. As a case in point, building the event website was a chance to delve into the details of hosting a website using GitHub pages, something we've seen become more commonly used by researchers. Over the past three years, several data librarians and professionals have contributed to maintaining the UC Love Data Week website, learning and documenting their approach for the next year's cohort. Likewise, when it came to developing session content, we had opportunities to work with librarians from other research domains and learn more about each other's areas of expertise. By assisting or co-teaching topics like "Managing Scientific Software," "NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy," and "Qualitative Data Analysis," we were able to dive into new areas alongside our expert colleagues and gain in-demand technical skills that we could then offer to our own campus audiences. Finally, co-teaching was a way to build our instructional skills as we observed other teaching methods and approaches. Over the years, we have been able to incorporate skills and tools like collaborative docs, icebreakers, and methods for student engagement that started on one campus and are now widespread across the system.

Lessons Learned: Recommendations, Resources, Guidelines, and Pain Points

After successfully hosting UC Love Data Week for three years, we have several pieces of advice to offer institutions or consortia interested in developing a similar model of data culture and instruction at scale.

First, we recommend an overarching organization team and event website paired with local "ownership" of sessions. This distributes time and effort (less burden required to contribute) while sharing the benefits of the overall event. This flexibility also allows individual campuses to contribute to their desired level, which may vary year to year, depending on librarian capacity, and ensures that smaller libraries, or libraries lacking expertise or capacity for certain topics, can provide their communities with additional resources without adding additional burden on themselves. However, we learned early on that one drawback of this approach has been that sometimes attendees struggle to navigate various session registration platforms (campuses may use different tools or platforms), and it has been harder to combine data later for assessment and analysis. As much as possible, we have tackled this through clear instructions on our website and efforts to synchronize our registration data on the back end. Over the years, we have also learned the importance of clear roles and internal documentation for meeting notes, decisions, and website maintenance. This helps us carry our learning forward each year and ensures that we are able to rotate through responsibilities for managing the event, so it doesn't fall on the same people every year.

Second, we have sometimes struggled with scope and managing attendee expectations about sessions in such a broad topic area as "data." Workshops targeted at beginners sometimes include experts who complain about the low level, and hands-on intermediate workshops include novices who get frustrated at the quick pace. We have tried to resolve this through more detailed workshop descriptions and are considering how we might target various audiences in future years. For example, we might dedicate Monday through Wednesday of UC Love Data Week for introductory workshops targeted at novices, and Thursday and Friday for more advanced learners. Alternatively, we might decide to focus the scope of the event on particular user groups (undergraduate students or faculty) or on niche or specialized workshops that aren't widely available.

Third, over the years, we have adjusted our approach to offering platform and tool demos. In the beginning, we hosted several sessions introducing tools like ProQuest TDM Studio and LastPass Premium. However, these were not always available to every campus and led to confusion and sometimes frustration from researchers who got excited about a tool or database and then realized that their home campus did not have access. Given this experience, we decided to focus on open source and free tools as well as licensed software that we had confirmed were available across the entire UC system. This has reduced the number of tool demos overall but has made it easier to market sessions as applicable to all UC affiliates.

Fourth, as with all large events, one of the biggest challenges has been how to make UC Love Data Week self-sustaining to host each year and ensure that it continues to be worthwhile in terms of time spent and benefits accrued. Librarians tend to say yes to everything, and in the first two years, there was an impulse to cram the schedule full of sessions, leading to stress for organizers and multiple competing sessions. As with all

annual events, there is also the pressure to do more every year to increase the number of attendees and sessions. In 2023, we decided to push back against this and make our internal goal for the year "do less." This meant streamlining the session offerings, keeping our planning committee nimble, and resisting the urge to overcomplicate. Rather than trying to include all our collaborative workshops in this one week, we reminded ourselves that we can work together throughout the year, using UC Love Data Week as the foundation for future collaborations. This resulted in fewer sessions than in previous years (although there were more attendees per individual session) but felt more manageable from the perspective of organizers.

Finally, to continue our emphasis on sustainability, in future years we hope to draw more on resources from past sessions. At this point, we have put on almost ninety sessions and have a treasure trove of recordings and materials we can use. Several of these include evergreen topics (general data management best practices, searching for social science data, etc.) that could be presented using a flipped-classroom approach where participants would watch the recordings in advance and then use session time to work through problems and ask questions specific to their own study and research. We also plan on advertising the archive of previous years as OERs for use in other instructional settings and are considering how we can make these more findable for wider use.

Conclusion

UC Love Data Week has been a great opportunity for librarians and other data-centric staff to collaborate and support our campus affiliates in new ways at scale while building stronger connections and networks across the UC system. From an attendee perspective, this is a cohesive UC-wide event, but internal organization and processes allow flexibility for campuses to participate as much or as little as they wish or have capacity for. In an age of limited resources and increasing demand for library support for data, a distributed systemwide approach is the most efficient and effective way to supplement campus-specific offerings without placing an undue additional burden on individuals. We have seen firsthand the benefits this model provides, not only for librarians but also for our campus communities, and are pleased to be able to share our experiences and resource materials with the broader academic library data community.

Acknowledgments

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Notes

1. "UC's Mission," University of California, Office of the President, April 11, 2023, https://www.ucop.edu/about/mission/index.html.
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