

Data Carpentry

By Radovan Bast, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

ORCID: 0000-0002-7658-1847

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In this short video I would like to give you an overview of Data Carpentry: what it is, its history, its mission, and who is behind this organisation.

I will give you an overview of what the Data Carpentry lessons are about: where to find them, and which tools and languages they teach.

Finally, I will discuss how you can attend a Data Carpentry workshop as an individual or as a group or host a workshop as a research group or as an organisation. In this video you will also find out how you can get involved in Data Carpentry as a helper or instructor or how you can contribute to their lesson material.

How to find it: datacarpentry.org and carpentries.org.

What is Data Carpentry? Data Carpentry is a collection of lessons and workshops, it is an organisation, but it is first and foremost a community.

In the last 10-15 years The Carpentries have grown from a few workshops on software and data tools and practices, given in very few places run by very few enthusiasts. The project has grown to an organisation which has delivered over 3000 workshops in over 70 countries to over 60k learners, and trained close to 3000 volunteer instructors (and I am one of them).

Data Carpentry's vision is to build communities teaching universal data literacy. Data Carpentry trains researchers in the core data skills for efficient, shareable, and reproducible research practices by running accessible, inclusive training workshops. The material is openly available.

And a focus is put on fostering an active, inclusive, diverse instructor community that promotes and models reproducible research as a community norm.

Who is behind this organisation? Data Carpentry is part of The Carpentries, a non-profit organisation registered in the US, governed by an executive council, financed by a membership model where universities and organisations donate a certain sum each year to support the operation of the organization, and typically also with the benefit of getting a certain amount of seats in the

Carpentries instructor training.

Let us have a look at the Data Carpentry lessons: For this, let me expand all the links and we find lessons for a number of academic disciplines: ecology, genomics, social sciences, geospatial research, and a number of tools: spreadsheets, data cleaning with OpenRefine, SQL, data visualisation in R and

Python, data wrangling, cloud computing. And there is much more. All lessons are freely accessible and open source. You can use them, reuse them, adapt them, and contribute back.

How to attend a workshop? Or how can you host a workshop in your department or organisation? One way is to reach out to The Carpentries and request a workshop. Another option is that your university or your organisation might already be a Carpentries member organisation and sponsoring their efforts. So you could reach out to your organisation and ask them to be connected to

Carpentries instructors in your area. Yet another way to connect to instructors in your area or country is to join a community call: these are typically monthly discussion events where instructors and helpers meet and where you can learn about upcoming activities:

https://carpentries.org/community_discussions/

At the beginning of the video I mentioned that Data Carpentry is a lesson program within The Carpentries. And there is more: Software Carpentry, and Library Carpentry. And there are even more projects that are not a Carpentry lesson program yet. They teach workshops in many different topics, from basic to intermediate to advanced, using the Carpentries interactive teaching style: check them out.

Finally, something I can highly recommend to do for those of you who enjoy teaching tools and programming languages to researchers, is to take part in a Carpentries instructor training course, which gives an excellent introduction to teaching tech topics to students and researchers, not so much focusing on the actual tech or programming language, but focusing on the pedagogy of teaching and on improving the learning experience. This is one of the best ways to get involved. After the instructor training you can join forces with other instructors and set up a workshop: this is a lot of fun and a great learning experience.

Hope to see you soon at a Data Carpentry workshop!