

Interview: Kaitlin Thaney – Mozilla Science Lab

1. Tell me about your organization, its products & services that you provide?

The Mozilla Science Lab is a new initiative of the Mozilla Foundation (the folks that brought you Firefox), dedicated to helping researchers use the power of the open web to change the way science is done. Our activities will focus on a few core areas: code and data literacy, so that researchers have the resources to learn how to operate in a digital, open environment; community building and awareness, to help create a place for others to learn about open science and find out how to get engaged; and tools and code, where we'll work with existing projects as well as prototype our own to help make research more efficient.

We currently have two initiatives up and running. One is Software Carpentry, an initiative that teaches technical skills to researchers through two-day boot camps. The second is a pilot with the Public Library of Science (their journal on computational biology, to be precise) to explore what code review for scientific research could/should look like. Expect more over the coming months.

2. How can librarians/libraries use this product or service?

Outside of building community (which the libraries and those studying information science are a key part of), libraries can help serve as the conduit to the research community at their campuses, providing information on new tools and services as well as helping to host and run bootcamps- Software Carpentry being one option - for their constituencies. You can find out more about how to host a boot camp here: <http://software-carpentry.org/faq.html#how-host-boot-camp>.

Beyond that, libraries to me are the natural go-to for the research community (within academia, at least) for additional information about new tools that could bring more efficiency into their lives, digital skills training (which is otherwise intermittently available at best at universities), and for resource on how to get involved.

3. How has your organization reached out to the library community and how have you earned support for this particular service?

We have strong ties in the library community, particularly with those thinking about emerging technologies and tools that could make the researchers they serve work more collaboratively and productively. We also are in discussions with a few libraries about running a skills training bootcamp at their campus, which would provide the researchers access to training for data management, reproducibility, version control and data sharing. As the roles of the libraries evolve to include more of these areas, we find them a natural partner in reaching the communities that often need (or are asking) for this additional training the most.

4. What skills or experience do you think librarians need to (or could) acquire to promote Open Science within their institution and can you provide examples of the skills librarians would need to have in this particular area that are beneficial during your interactions with the scientific research community?

First off, they need to be plugged in to the right channels to receive this sort of information, and to participate in the wider dialogue about advances in open research. From there, an eagerness to

learn more about new, open tools is critical, and an open mind about what is possible in order to push research out of its still largely analog ways. Libraries are in a position where they can truly lead in terms of digital research, but many may have to step slightly out of their comfort zone.



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