Reflections on CODATA-RDA summer school

Hugh Shanahan

Royal Holloway, University of London

hugh.Shanahan@rhul.ac.uk  @hughshanahan
Gap in skills for researchers

Researchers need to be empowered to do more with their data so that....

they can be more efficient,

(hopefully) they can be more effective,

they know when to reach out to Data X professional,

(sotto voce) being Open is seen as a win.
Research Data Science =

- Machine Learning
- Software development
- Inference
- High Throughput/Distributed computing
- Significance
- Annotation
- Visualisation
- Quality Control
- Databases
- Curation/Management
- Publishing Data
CODATA-RDA Schools

CODATA-RDA schools attempt to provide a foundation for researchers in all of the relevant skills.

Particular focus on delivering teaching to Low and Middle Countries.

Goal - build a common curriculum delivered in many locations.
Strategy

As much as possible build on and partner with other related activities.

Blend materials rather than trying to build from scratch.

Aim for a core curriculum, hence easy to deliver.

Long term obsolescence as Universities deliver this.
Curriculum

Software Carpentry

Research Data Management

Visualisation

Analysis

Computational Infrastructures

Open Science

Author Carpentry
Two weeks - most courses 1-2 days

Evening events - Author Carpentry

Some days running from 9-9

Students from 32 countries, ~70 participants
Challenges

Scaling up - the operation is logistically large.
Great set of instructors and helpers.
How does it get more streamlined?

Core curriculum - how to grow it.

Becoming sustainable.
Final thoughts

Training is a long term proposition

Perfect is the enemy of good

Iterative improvement is powerful

Amateurs discuss Tactics - Professionals discuss Logistics
Thanks for your time!

Chairs of CODATA Task Group

Ciira Maina - Dedan Kimathri University of Technology

Hugh S - RHUL

Rob Quick - Indiana University

Sarah Jones - Digital Curation Centre