Cultivate a community of practice and learning around data science. Expand informal data science training to meet the growing demand for data science expertise at the University of Pittsburgh.

Motivation

- There is a growing demand from faculty, postdocs, students, and staff, for informal data science training outside of disciplinary curricula
- Demand for data science training has outpaced current capacity (both formal and informal)

Context

- Research and teaching across the disciplines is increasingly data and computationally intensive
- While the data and computational needs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and health sciences might differ, they all need basic data skills

Project Description

- Leverage existing data science expertise at Pitt (gather, update, and create new informal open-access instructional materials)
- Scale up instructional capacity (with new instructors and workshop design)
- Feature the libraries as a hub to create a diverse and inclusive data science learning community

Project Deliverables

- Environmental scan and gap analysis of existing informal education opportunities
- Small grants for the development of informal data science training materials
- Self-guided workshop materials for personalized, independent learning
- Instructor training materials (i.e. train the trainers) for scaling data science education
- Expanded data science workshop offerings in the Libraries and School of Computing and Information
- Online space for community of practice with code of conduct and guidelines

Potential Impact

- Expand the computational expertise and capacity of Pitt’s researchers and educators
- Create a community of practice ready to take full advantage of computational infrastructure
- Foster interdisciplinary and cross-community collaboration in research and teaching

References and/or Acknowledgements