Virginia Data Management Bootcamp: A Collaborative Initiative in Data Education

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The first Bootcamp was a partnership between University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. The university libraries at these two research universities took the lead, and built partnerships with groups outside of the libraries, to design and offer a Bootcamp to educate early career researchers about issues and best practices in research data management.

Since the first Bootcamp in 2013, it has grown from the original two institutions to now include, in 2015, five additional institutions: George Mason University, James Madison University, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the College of William & Mary. The group has grown as librarians share information at local and national meetings, and as libraries add data librarians or data responsibilities to existing positions, there are more people able to join in the teaching and organizing.

Attendance has grown as well.

Bootcamp Attendance: 2013-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOTCAMP</th>
<th>Number of Institutions</th>
<th>Total Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Challenges
- Coordinating technology in 7 locations – presentation, transmission, shared documents.
- Finding the right mix of sessions and levels to interest a mixed group of attendees.

Opportunities
- Share expertise.
- Librarians learn from each other and can compare resources.
- Students have a variety of topics and presenters.

Conclusion
Clearly, the Virginia Data Management Bootcamp presents a successful case in which multiple institutions collaboratively engage in developing and offering data education.

2016
Additions?
Planning starts with new organizing committee in April 2015.

Considerations
Each year, the participants have been surveyed after Bootcamp to assess the usefulness of the camp as well as the various sessions. Of course some respondents say a particular session is too detailed, while others love it, or think it isn’t enough.

Based on evaluation results, topics have been added and more hands-on exercises are now included.

Time for local sessions has been built in to allow for explanation of institutional resources for data management.

Bootcamp organizers: Andrea Denton, Sherry Lake, and Andrew Sallans, University of Virginia; Andi Ogier, Virginia Tech; Debby Kermer, Wendy Mann, and Joy Suh, George Mason University; Yasmeen Shorish and K.T. Vaughan, James Madison University; George J. Fowler and Topher Lawton, Old Dominion University; Margaret Henderson, Virginia Commonwealth University; Lauren Goode, College of William & Mary