

# DATA SKILLS WORKSHOPS FOR LIBRARIANS

Karalyn Ostler | MLIS Capstone 2020 | University of Washington

**Background:** In September 2019, the UW Libraries partnered with Seattle University to offer an all-day Library Carpentry workshop to Seattle area librarians, which covered the topics of Tidy Data and OpenRefine. This workshop was well received and attended. However, the all-day nature of these workshops made these workshops difficult to offer on a regular basis.

**Need:** As technology continues to integrate into everyday life, data is becoming a normal part of library staff workflows. However, the technical skills needed to efficiently use this valuable data are not necessarily a part of current library staff training. To address this gap, a series of 1.5-hour data skills workshops were created by modifying existing Library Carpentry materials.

## Solution

For this project, the workshops were developed as a 3-part series starting with basic best data practices and advancing to basic data analysis with Python. These can be taken by participants as a full series or independently.

### 1 Tidy Data

#### 1.5-hour workshop

- Basics of structuring data in spreadsheets
- Common errors
- Using the sorting function to find and fix errors in data
- Exporting Data

### 2 OpenRefine

#### 1.5-hour workshop

- Importing Data
- Navigating OpenRefine
- Faceting and Filtering
- Clustering
- Columns and Sorting
- Exporting Data

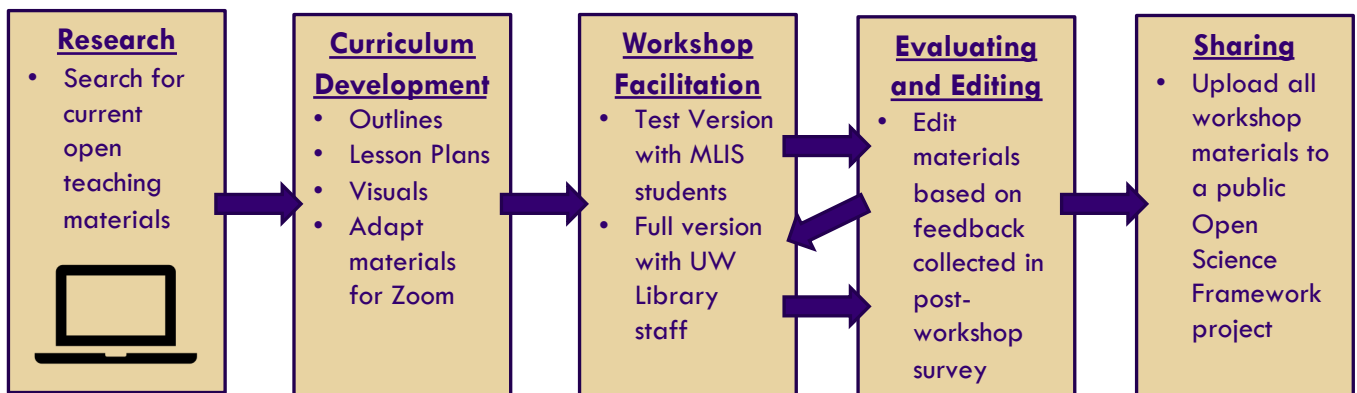
### 3 Python

#### Outline - In progress

- Python fundamentals
- For loops
- Creating functions
- Running a Python script

**All workshop materials are  
openly available at:**  
<https://osf.io/4p9yr/>

## Process



## Next Steps

- Future iterations of workshop series for UW Libraries staff (1-2 times a year)
- Continued development of Python Workshop. Due to COVID-19, this workshop was unable to be developed into a full 1.5-hour workshop in the timeframe.
- Since all the workshop materials are shared openly with a CC-BY license, these workshops can also be used and modified by other librarians and institutions.