Bringing together the UCL community who use computational and data sciences or digital technologies in their research.

Digital Research Community Newsletter

Issue 5

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the UCL Digital Research Community newsletter! As we hope you already know, you are receiving this because you previously signed up for either the ARC newsletter or the old eResearch Domain newsletter. You may notice that this edition looks slightly different; this is because we have moved to a new platform. We are still working on migrating past issues to a new location, so please bear with us!

As always, please do forward this email to any colleagues you think may be interested. If you no longer want to hear from us, you can unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of this email, although we would be very sorry to see you go...

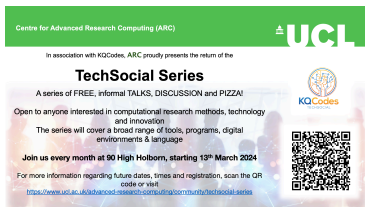**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Community Updates

ARC pilot project in Budget News

[Four UKRI-funded pilot projects](#) that will aid better and safer use of data in research were referenced by the Chancellor in the 2024 Budget, including the ARC-led "[Fair Data Accelerator](#)". This pilot seeks to develop and deliver ways to help all research communities make data more findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (the [FAIR principles](#)).

The project, to be delivered by [UK SKA Regional Centre](#) and UCL, will use social science approaches to make the social and cultural challenges and barriers to data sharing, which are currently hidden, visible.

It will also pilot a FAIR Data Accelerator that can help make data sharing easier for researchers.
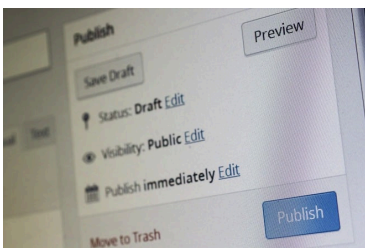
Tech socials restart!

Join ARC (in association with KQCodes) for the first of a new series of TechSocials! We are excited to be welcoming Dongsheng Wang - AI Research Lead and Vice President at JPMorgan AI Research (NLP) in London - to talk about 'Document AI and Large Language Models' on **Wednesday 13th March at 4pm**.

These informal events are for anyone with an interest in the computational methods and technology behind research, and are an opportunity to discuss and learn about useful tools and techniques which may help with your work.

Each event features a short talk on a tool, program, environment, language or technique of general interest to researchers, followed by **informal discussion and networking over pizza and refreshments!**
[Book your ticket](#)

For future events, keep an eye on the [ARC website](#).

The Research Data Repository is 5 years old

It has been almost 5 years since we launched the [UCL Research Data Repository](#) and we are inviting colleagues to share with us their thoughts on the service.
[The survey can be found here](#).

The Research Data Repository gives all staff and research students the opportunity to deposit and preserve research

outputs such as datasets, figures, posters, presentations, code, etc. for the longer-term here at UCL. To date, we have published hundreds of items issuing most of these with a DOI (digital object identifier) as part of a full data citation. The Research Data Repository can support colleagues in further engaging with the FAIR principles as part of the wider Open Science and Scholarship policy and practice.

If you think this may be relevant to your colleagues, please do forward this message and feel free to contact Christiana McMahon if you have any questions. Many thanks in advance for your support!

ARC Drop-in Sessions

A reminder that we have resumed our in-person drop-in support sessions - these are for all research staff and research students, where you can get support and advice to help plan and tackle problems with your research. If you have any problems related to the following areas, we should be able to help:

- choosing the right software, hardware and services,
- research programming,
- task automation and scripting,
- high performance computing,
- storing large datasets,
- Research Data Storage (RDS) service induction,
- handling sensitive data,
- research data management (including writing data management plans).

If the problem is likely to need a lengthy discussion (half an hour or more) or requires very specific knowledge (e.g. of an unusual programming language) it would be very helpful if you could email a short summary of your problem to arc@ucl.ac.uk at least 2 days before the session, so we can try to make sure a member of staff with appropriate expertise is available.

The last drop-in session until after Easter is on **Tuesday 19th March 2024 from 11am - 12pm**, Foster Court Room 233.

Further details of the drop-in sessions and other support available.

Training & Workshops

Explore implications for Research Integrity at

our upcoming AIUK Fringe event

Join us on **Monday 25th March 2024 from 9:30am** for the deep-dive workshop Research Integrity in an AI-Enabled World.

Discussions at the event will be undertaken in line with the Chatham House Rule, however, participants will be invited to participate in the development of a policy white paper should they wish to do so.

Morning session talks will focus on the following key themes and will act as a provocation for the afternoon Policy development session.

Book your place

Bookings will close at 12 Noon on Wednesday 20th March.

Metadata management in the real world: How to get the most out of CLOSER Discovery

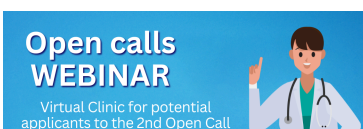**Tuesday 12 March 2024 | 15:00-16:30 UCT| Online via Teams**

Register for the webinar

CLOSER Discovery (discovery.closer.ac.uk) is the UK's most comprehensive research tool for longitudinal population studies. This free-to-use resource allows you to explore the content of the multiple UK longitudinal population studies and has been recently redesigned based on user feedback. Join CLOSER Metadata Manager, Dr Hayley Mills for this online tour of CLOSER Discovery taking you through how to search, explore, and browse questionnaires and datasets.

During this hour-long webinar, we will cover:

- An overview of the newly redesigned CLOSER Discovery website
- A live demonstration of the key features of Discovery
- Q&A

More information about the webinar and how to register can be found on the CLOSER website.

FAIR-IMPACT's second open call virtual clinic

FAIR-IMPACT's second open call for financial support

launched on 31st January, 2024. If you are thinking about submitting an application to join one of the Digital Curation Centre's five support actions, please drop in for our informal virtual clinic on **12th March from 16:00-17:00 CET (15:00-16:00 GMT)**. During the session you can ask the FAIR-IMPACT team any questions you have about the specific support actions, eligibility, and the application process. The deadline for applications to FAIR-IMPACT's second open call for financial support is 31st March 2023. **Registration** for this webinar is free but mandatory.

ARC Training

You can find a full list of ARC-provided training on our Education pages - including self-paced courses via Moodle, for example, our new Introduction to High Performance Computing at UCL which also runs termly as a synchronous online workshop.

If an in-person or online instructor-led course has no dates listed, please fill in our expression of interest form and we will contact you as soon as we have dates for the next session.

Research Data Management Training

Learn how to write an effective data management plan for a project proposal or grant application!

Our colleagues in Library Services' Research Data Management Team run training sessions for writing data management plans, both online and in-person.

To find out more and to book a place, see their booking calendar.

Digital Skills Development Training

UCL's Digital Skills Development Team runs a variety of free training courses, many of which may be of interest to researchers - details of the full course programme for the term 3 can be found here.

Upcoming data analysis and visualisation in-person and

online courses include:

- [DSD: Software for success: Winning with charts](#) **16 May, 14:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Software for success: Survey tools](#) **30 April, 13:00 - 15:00**
- [DSD: An Introduction to R with Rstudio (campus-based)](#) **24 April, 23 May, or 6 June, 10:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Data visualization in R with ggplot2 (campus-based)](#) **1 May, 14:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Getting started with Stata (campus-based)](#) **15 May, 10:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Scripting Stata's Tables and Collections (Campus-based)](#) **5 June, 14:00 - 17:00**
- [DSD: Scripting Stata Graphs](#) **21 May, 14:00 - 16:00**
- [DSD: In a Nutshell: Starting an Nvivo Project](#) **9 May, 14:00 - 15:00**
- [DSD: Introduction to REDCap for research](#) **8 May, 13:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Qualtrics Tips and Tricks](#) **2 May, 13:00 - 14:00**

Programming courses include:

- [DSD: In a Nutshell: Git version control](#) **4 June, 13:00 - 14:00**
- [DSD: Dive into Git version control](#) **5 June, 10:00 - 13:00**

ARCHER2 HPC Online Training

ARCHER2 Training is provided by EPCC (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre) as part of the ARCHER2 (Tier 1) national high performance computing service and is free of charge to research staff and students from academic institutions.

Upcoming online training includes:

- [Overview of the ARCHER2 GPU Development Platform](#) **12-13 March 2024, 09:00 - 17:00 and 09:00 - 15:30**
- [Introduction to GPU programming with HIP](#) **18-19 April 2024, 09:30 - 16:00**

Self service courses (always open):

- [Shared Memory Programming with OpenMP](#)
- [Message-Passing Programming with MPI](#)
- [QM/MM with GROMACS + CP2K](#)

- Hands-on Introduction to HPC

Details of other training (including in-person) provided by ARCHER2

UK Data Service Training

The UK Data Service runs a comprehensive programme of free, online introductory training - coming up in March and April:

- Dissertation projects: Introduction to secondary analysis for qualitative and quantitative data **11 March, 10.00 – 11:30**
- Finding and accessing data from the UK Data Service **12 March, 11:00 - 12:30**
- Computational social science drop-in, **12 March 13:00 - 14:00**
- Developing research questions, **13 March 10:00 - 11:30**
- How to become a computational social scientist,**16 April 10:00 - 11:30**

If you've missed a workshop, recordings of past UK Data Service events are made available on the UKDS YouTube channel.
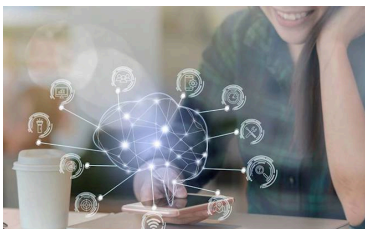
CLOSER Learning Hub

Longitudinal studies track the same individuals and households over time. They are powerful research tools to help us understand how our early circumstances and experiences influence our later lives. The CLOSER Learning Hub has information and resources to help you explore longitudinal studies and get you started using the data.

UCL Events

UCL Knowledge Lab AI UK Fringe Events

The UCL Knowledge Lab will be hosting a three day set of events as part of the Alan Turing Institute's AI UK Fringe. **13th March: At 12.30pm** we will be streaming the presentation "20 Years of AIEd at UCLKLab" – sign up

[here](#).

14th March: At 5pm Prof. Kaśka Porayska-Pomsta, Professor of Artificial Intelligence in Education, will give a keynote: "From algorithm worship to the art of human learning: Insights from 50-year journey of AI in Education" – [sign up here](#).

15th March: At 4.30pm we will stream and host in person UCLKLab's own version of a fireside chat (a polytope chat – next to our iconic sculpture in Emerald Street!) This discussion will explore the diverse dimensions of Artificial Intelligence in education. Going beyond the current hype, conversation will revolve both around theory and practice in this field, but also ethical and responsible use of AI in education. [More info](#).

Governing Urban Data for the Public Interest

[Join UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose](#) (IIPP) for a discussion around the access to Urban Data on **Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 17:30-19:00 (GMT)**, in person or online on Zoom.

The discussion will focus on the findings and recommendations of the recent report 'Governing Urban Data for the Public Interest'. The report combines insights from many years of data-sharing experience with the specific insights gained from an experiment on urban data sharing in the City of Hamburg. It demands developing and using a set of legal tools, organisational capabilities and digital public infrastructures that will enable cities to ensure that urban data benefits not only a few but society at large.

[See the rest of the IIPP Conversations series of talks](#).

BioFAIR Roadshow
30th April @ UCL

BioFAIR - A BioCommons infrastructure for UK life science researchers. ELIXIR-UK has conceived a new digital research infrastructure that enables the data and processing resources of ELIXIR and other partners to be delivered to researchers across the UK. A national BioCommons will maximise the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability (FAIR) and Reproducibility of life science data and data workflows.
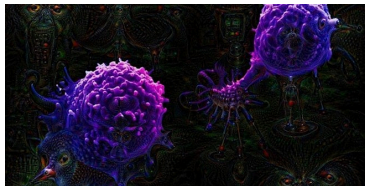
[Further information about the roadshow](#).

UCL Festival of Digital Research & Scholarship

11th June 2024
Location: Cloisters and adjacent locations

UCL's first Festival of Digital Research and Scholarship will celebrate all aspects of digital research and scholarship from across UCL. Do you make use of the tools and technologies for data-intensive and/or computational research in your work? Then this event is for you!
There will be the opportunity for poster and abstract submissions to showcase work and projects - more information regarding showcase submission deadlines and ticketing registration dates to follow very soon on the ARC event page.
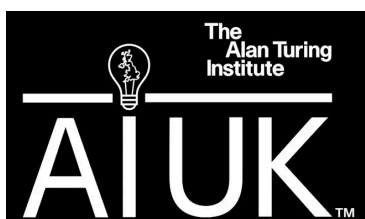
External Events

Crick AI Club

The next Crick AI Club meeting is on **Friday 15th March from 17:15 - 20:45**, when Fernando Pérez-García (Senior Machine Learning Engineer, Microsoft Research) will present "Multimodal AI for Improving Radiology Workflows".
Abstract: In this talk, I will present the latest research from the Biomedical Imaging group at Microsoft Research. I will introduce RAD-DINO, our image encoder trained using self-supervised learning without text supervision; MAIRA, our large multimodal model for radiology report generation from medical images; and RadEdit, our method for stress-testing biomedical vision models using diffusion image editing.

Register here.

The UK's national showcase of data science and artificial intelligence (AI)

Hosted by The Alan Turing Institute from **19-20 March**, AI UK 2024 will be an in-depth exploration of how data science and AI can be used to solve real-world challenges. Our diverse programme has been thematically structured around the latest innovations from across the AI ecosystem. With a broad range of interactive content, expect to hear the latest thinking on fundamental AI, digital twins, algorithmic bias, AI ethics – and much more.
In-person registration has now closed. But you can still

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Healthcare NLP Summit

Free Online Event | April 2-3, 2024

Join the world's largest applied NLP community on April 2-3 at the virtual Healthcare NLP Summit 2024! Two days of immersive content, focusing on generative AI and natural language processing applications in healthcare and life sciences. Now in its fourth year, the Healthcare NLP Summit will feature
30+ keynotes and expert sessions showcasing LLM & NLP best practices, real-world use cases, challenges in applying these technologies in practice – and the latest open-source libraries, models & tools you can use today. Join live Q&A sessions with the speakers, connect with others through networking features, and access all content on-demand after the event.
The second week will feature beginner to advanced live training workshops and certifications. Learn, share, and apply best practices for putting AI to good use!
Further information and regstration.

DARE UK Community Groups Showcase
23 April, 13:00 - 14:00

In November 2023, DARE UK funded four community groups to collaborate across the UK data research landscape and co-design innovations that will shape the future of sensitive data research in the UK in alignment with the DARE UK vision.

The four community groups comprising three interest groups and one working group have since pursued their respective projects and are set to complete delivery at the end of March 2024, marking the end of a five-month funding period.

This lunchtime public webinar offers a platform for the four DARE UK Community Groups to showcase their accomplishments, address challenges encountered, outline future plans, and engage with participants through Q&A.

SSI Collaborations Workshop 2024 (CW24)

[CW24](#) takes place in Warwick University, UK on the **30th April to the 2nd of May**, bringing together researchers, developers, innovators, managers, funders, publishers, policy makers, leaders and educators to explore best practices and the future of research software.

Themes are:
- Environmental Sustainability
- AI/ML tools for science
- Citizen Science

It will be a hybrid event and [registration is open](#).

Dates for your Diaries!

Call for abstracts: CLOSER 2024 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Conference and Training Event

CLOSER is excited to announce our ECR Conference and Training Event, **Bridging Research Policy: Unleashing the potential of longitudinal research for societal impact**, will take place in central London on Wednesday 18 September 2024. This bespoke event will showcase and celebrate the work of ECRs and provide a range of practical training workshops.

We are inviting abstract submissions from ECRs working with longitudinal population study data (from any country) who can attend the event in person.
The deadline for submissions is 23:59 on 26 March 2024.
[Find out more about CLOSER's call for abstracts](#).

22nd Research Data Alliance Plenary

14-23 May 2024

Early Bird registration is now open! Grab your ticket at a reduced price before sales end on April 5th!
[Register now](#)

Curious about the programme overview?

[Take a look here](#)

Computing Insight UK 2024 is Going Bigger and Better

5-6 December 2024

We are extremely excited to announce that [Computing Insight UK will be moving to a new venue in 2024](#)!
The UK's premier conference for HPC and associated science, organised by STFC's Scientific Computing department, will still be held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex, but we are moving into the bigger Exchange Hall and Exchange Auditorium. This move marks the biggest change to the Conference since it's introduction 34 years ago and is a direct result of the tremendous growth we have seen over more recent years. Follow the [CIUK website](#) for updates.

Subscribe to this newsletter

Regards,
UCL Centre for Advanced Research Computing