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

Digital Research Community Newsletter

Issue 6

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixth 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. This is a slightly shorter edition due to the timing of the Easter break, and I'd like to take the opportunity to send you all our best wishes for a restful few days off!

As always, please do forward this email to any colleagues you think may be interested - this month, we would particularly appreciate it if you could highlight our new Cluster Club sessions for students.

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...

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Featured Event

ARC proudly presents
'The Festival of Digital Research & Scholarship'
Join us this summer - 11th June 2024
for a celebration of all aspects of digitally-enabled research & scholarship

We are **now inviting abstract submissions for presentations, posters and proposals for workshops & demonstrations** to showcase work being achieved across all of UCLs digital communities!

We encourage submissions of past, present and future works to be made by both PhD students and staff of all career stages

Click below for more information about the event - including how to submit an abstract and prizes!

EVENT INFORMATION

Community Updates

ARC Centre for Doctoral Training

ARC is proud to announce its involvement in a new government-funded Centre for Doctoral Training, one of 7 recently awarded to UCL. The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Collaborative Computational Modelling at the Interface will be led by [Professor Timo Betcke](#) (UCL Mathematics and Advanced Research Computing Centre).

The new Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) centres will address key challenges in areas including net zero, AI, defence and security, healthcare and quantum technologies.

[Find out more about UCL's new CDTs](#)

ARC launches the Cluster Club!

The ARC Cluster Club is an opportunity for students at all levels across UCL to develop their computing skills. You will have the opportunity to develop a range of programming skills and experience in using HPC and cloud computing, with monthly sessions led by ARC professionals in Research Software Engineering and supporting computing infrastructure. There will also be exciting opportunities to take part in a range of events including the CIUK Cluster Challenge, and the potential to represent UCL at the SuperComputing conference in the USA! Everyone welcome, regardless of experience.

[Find out more and sign up](#).

April Tech Social Seminar

Join ARC (in association with KQCodes) for the second of our new series of TechSocials! We are excited to be welcoming Dr. Ankur Sinha from the UCL Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology (NPP), who will talk about NeuroML and Open Source Brain ecosystems in the context of standards, Free/Open Source Software and, more generally, Open Science, on **Wednesday 10th April at 4pm**.

These free, 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.

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:
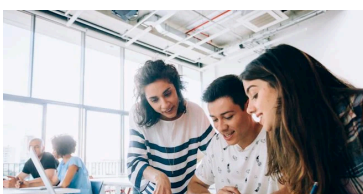
- choosing the right software, hardware and services,
- research programming,
- task automation and scripting,
- high performance computing,
- storing large datasets,
- Research Data Storage (RDS) service induction,
- handling sensitive data,
- research data management (including writing data management 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 first drop-in session after Easter is on **Tuesday 23rd April 2024 from 11am - 12pm**, at 40 Bernard Street (UCL Careers) Room 204.

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

Training & Workshops

ARC Training

You can find a full list of ARC-provided training on our

Education pages, including self-paced courses via

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**

- 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:

- [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 April:

- [How to become a computational social scientist](#),**16 April 10:00 - 11:30**
- [Getting started with secondary analysis](#), **22 Aoril 10:00 - 11:30**
- [Introduction to effective and practical research data management](#), **25 April 10:00 - 11:30**

If you've missed a workshop, recordings of past UK Data

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

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](#).

Open Science Conference 2024
Theme: Open Science & Scholarship in Practice

Thursday, June 20th, 2024 1-5pm (followed by Poster display and networking)

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, Wilkins Building

We are delighted to announce the forthcoming UCL Open Science Conference 2024, scheduled for June 20, 2024. We are inviting submissions for papers and posters showcasing innovative practices, research, and initiatives at UCL that exemplify the application of Open Science and Scholarship principles. This

internally focused event aims to showcase the dynamic landscape of Open Science at UCL and explore its practical applications in scholarship and research, including Open Access Publishing, Open Data and Software, Transparency, Reproducibility, Open Educational Resources, Citizen Science, Co-Production, Public Engagement, and other open practices and methodologies. Early career researchers and PhD students from all disciplines are particularly encouraged to participate.

[Further information about the conference and submission of papers and posters](#)

External Events

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.

Further information and registration

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.

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

Dates for your Diaries!

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.

Find out more.

Computing Insight UK 2024 is Going Bigger and Better

5-6 December 2024

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