A Carpentries Culture at the University of Florida

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Carpentries Activities at UF

The University of Florida (UF) contributed to the first ever Data Carpentry workshop, and UF hosted the second Data Carpentry workshop.

Since becoming a Gold Membership in 2016 UF has organized 15 workshops (Fig. 1), which have included 342 learners and 68 new instructors (Fig. 2).

The keys to this success have included:
- Membership funding provided by multiple university sponsors
- Empowering a group of dedicated, passionate individuals
  - Organically organized, not assigned/beholden to formal authority
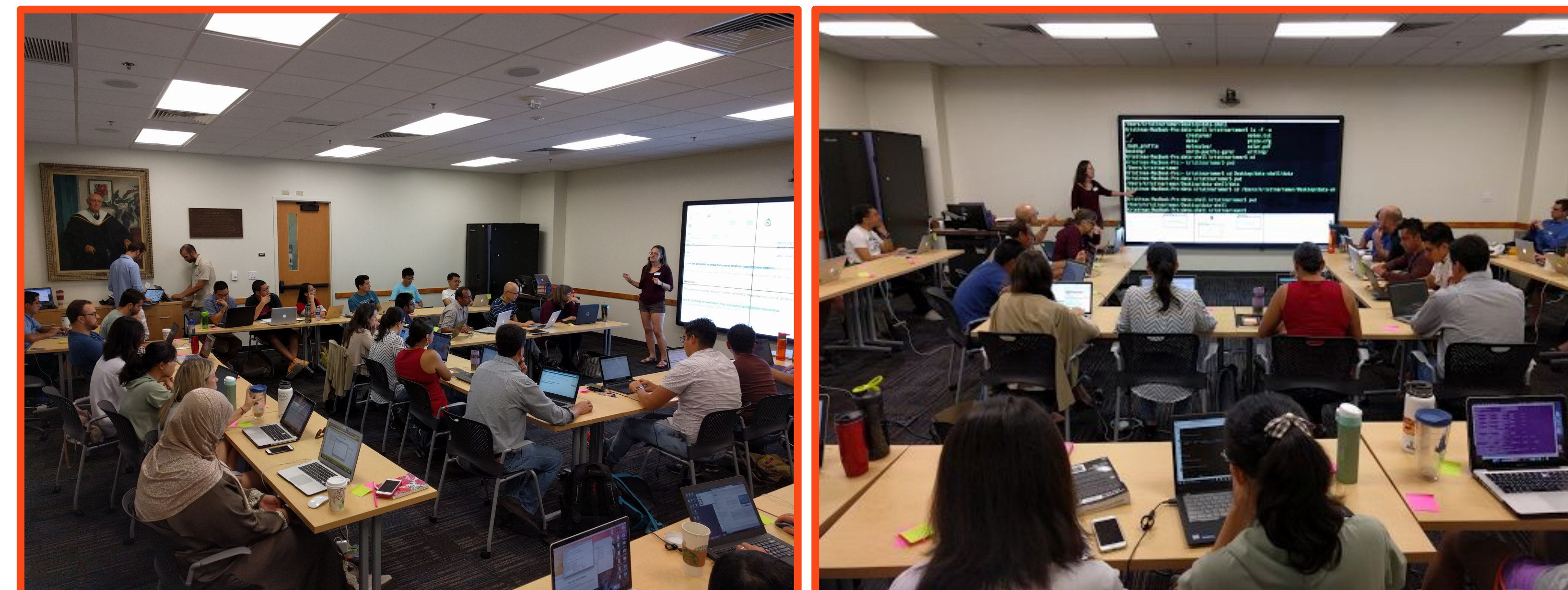- Continually providing opportunities for involvement

UF Carpentry Club Board Members

Simona Picardi — PhD Student
Hao Ye — Post-doc
Maio Sun — Post-doc
Kristina Riemer — PhD Student
Matt Collins — Technical Staff
Justin Millar — PhD Student
Brian Stucky — Post-doc

UF Carpentry Club

In 2018 we established the UF Carpentry Club, a group of independent members of the UF community dedicated to providing structured pathways for our colleagues to learn informatics skills outside of the traditional university curriculum.

In addition to regularly organizing workshops, the UF Carpentry Club has also:
- Experimented with alternative workshop formats (e.g. weekly two-hour episodes)
- Hosted local meetups for curriculum development
- Organized workshops outside of our main campus
- Created travel awards for Carpentry instructors
- Developing information infrastructure (GitHub, website, mailing list)

The UF Carpentry Club Board is made up of seven members elected to 1-year terms, with positions (chair, secretary, and treasurer) rotating throughout the term.

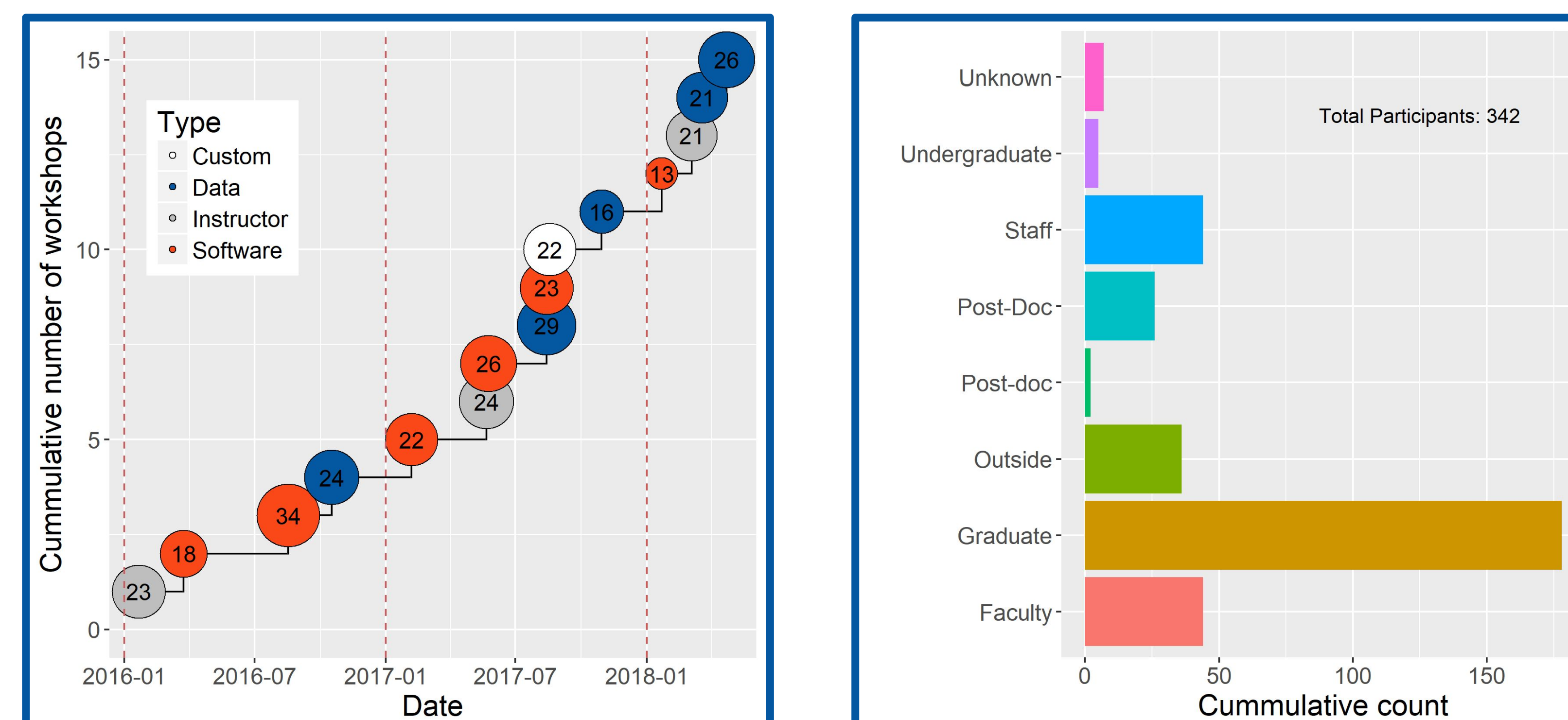**Fig 1.** Pictures from a recent Software Carpentry workshop at the University of Florida.

Fig 2. Descriptive statistics from Software and Data Carpentry workshop at the University of Florida from January 2016 to present. The left panel depicts timeline of workshops, the points are labelled with the number of attendees. The right panel shows the distribution of attendees by their affiliation to the University of Florida.
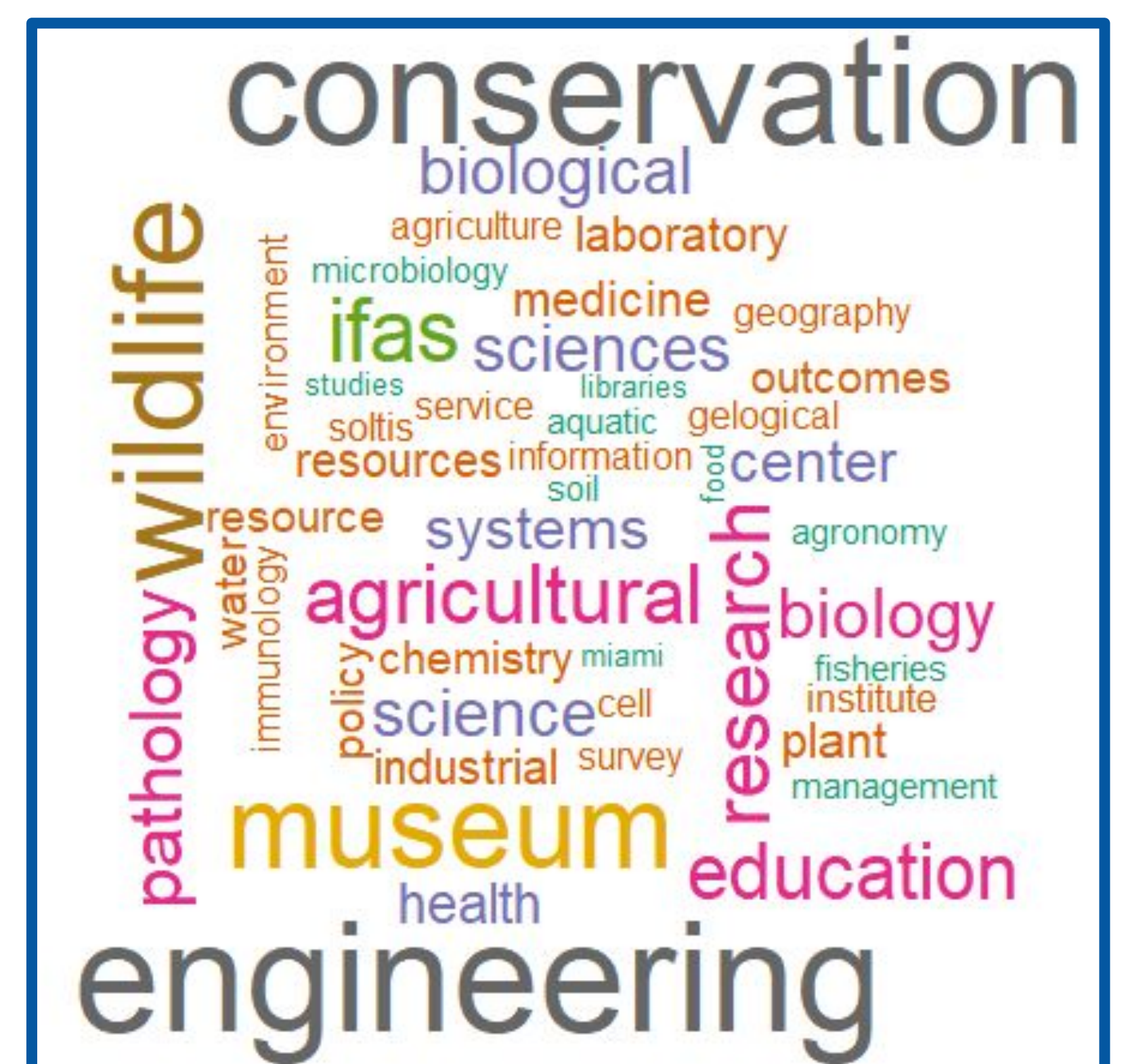
Current Emphases

The UF Carpentry Club is focused on improving access to informal learning opportunities and establishing organizational stability.

We are assessing participation in Carpentries workshops by department in order to identify gaps in involvement amongst various disciples (Fig. 3).

Currently we are working to diversify financial support across campus.
- This with reduce burden on current sponsors and decrease our reliance on specific sources
- We are working to establish incentives to fit particular departments/institutes

We are also working on outreach, within UF and beyond, as well as community building with our growing pool of instructors.

Fig 3. Word cloud depicting the representation of various departments at the University of Florida in Software and Data Carpentry workshops.

Links and Resources

UF Carpentry Club website: https://www.uf-carpentry.org/
UF Carpentry Club GitHub: https://github.com/UF-Carpentry

Carpentry blog posts:
- A Year to Build a Software and Data Carpentry Community at the University of Florida
- A semester-long Data Carpentry course for biologists
- An extended Data Carpentry Workshop over 7 weeks instead of 2 days

Come check out our talk tomorrow (Lightning Session #4)

Link to poster:

Link to talk: