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Proposal for Hackathon Workshop 2017

Participatory Research in Open Science Events

Since its 2013 inception, the Mozilla Science Lab has worked to build community around open science, building capacity to support community programs and developing prototypes and projects that foster scientific research on the open web. In this effort, we organize annual “tentpole” events like our Global Sprint and Mozfest to celebrate the scientific contributions to the open internet and open source projects worldwide.

Here is a short-list of some of the programs and projects we run:

Events: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/events>

Fellowships: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/fellowships>

Study Groups: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/studygroups>

Projects: <https://science.mozilla.org/projects>

People at Mozilla Science: <https://science.mozilla.org/people>

This past year, we continued with our second cohort of a [Science Fellows](#) program to support post-doctoral candidates piloting research and experimentation with goals to education, sharing, and connection with scientific communities. We've also run global and local scale “sprints” to onboard our community members to the ethos of open science and developed curriculum and training materials to inform our events with best practice in data science, peer review, and open source research. Part of our plan for the future of the open web involves partnering with like-minded groups who share in our enthusiasm for open research, and strive to broaden the community receptive to open science.

To these collaborations, we bring a strong community of supporters, the dedicated time and attention of our staff, and the tested curriculum in open science practice and planning that forms the foundation of our programs to date. Our organization coordinates additional ad-hoc events each year, and partners with other “open” focused organizations and institutions to run and deploy these events, the following sections will review the types of hackathon and participatory research events we support each year, organized from highest-involvement to moderate endorsement. Each event implies a different approach to preparations, designs for a different timeline and resource dedication level, and in many cases, appeals to a slightly different audience.

Tentpole Events

Global Sprint

Each year, roughly at the beginning of June, the Mozilla Science Lab organizes a global hackathon or sprint at local “sprint sites” in over 30 locations globally for over 30 hours of continuous hacking across all timezones. We build mini-event websites for all participants, and curate a strong list of open source projects in the sciences that are available for remote contribution from any hackathon participants around a few key themes: open data, open educational resources, citizen science, and tools. Likewise, we offer mentorship for project leads, coordinate regular check-ins with regional coordinators and site participants over Vidyo chat, and host conversational text-chats via Gitter channels according to those regional blocks. We collect metrics on event participants and use this as an opportunity to engage more community in our programs.

For the sprint, our start time is several months in advance for prep, our resourcing is between 2 and 6 people consistently throughout this timespan, and our audience is global/multi-lingual.

MSL Event Site: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/events/global-sprint-2016>

Projects: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/events/global-sprint-2016/projects>

Example Site: <https://ti.to/mozilla-science/g2016-newyork>

Press:

[Site in Utrecht](#)

[Site in Madrid](#)

[EPCC Promo Post](#)

Mozfest

In the Fall, the Mozilla Foundation hosts a festival for the open internet in London, UK. The event is hosted at Ravensbourne college, and includes an opening night Science Fair for project demos and sharing resources, and it's followed by two days of sessions on 9 floors in the college. The Open Science floor is usually floor 9, and we coordinate workshops and sessions based on community proposals, hosted over the remaining two days of the festival.

For Mozfest, our start time is a year in advance for prep, our resourcing is an event planning team of 2 and an entire production (6 designers and devs) team for prep, plus the entire Mozilla Foundation for proposals and floor preparation consistently throughout this timespan, and our audience is global/multi-lingual.

Event Site: <https://mozillafestival.org/>

Schedule: https://app.mozillafestival.org/#_space-open-science

Working Open Workshop (WOW)

In February 2016, the Mozilla Science Lab launched its first Working Open Workshop in Berlin, a series of presentation sessions and workshop handouts to onboard scientist participants to open research, the protocols of version control, open access licensing, and data management as well as helpful tips for designing events and contributor roadmaps and codes of conduct to ensure that all community members feel welcome and informed about their open source projects or programs. This workshop will be redeployed over the next few years in 10 other communities/cities with slight modifications on the same theme.

For the WOW, our start time was 2 months in advance for prep, our resourcing is between 2 and 6 people consistently throughout this timespan, and our audience is selective and usually limited to a carefully chosen group of at-max 30 mentees.

Event Site: <https://science.mozilla.org/programs/events/working-open-workshop-february-2016>

Presentations, Handouts, Transcripts: <https://github.com/mozillascience/working-open-workshop>

Activity Site: <http://mozillascience.github.io/working-open-workshop/>

Space Apps + Science Hack Day

Last year, Mozilla Science hosted the Brooklyn/NY Space Apps Hackathon, a collaboration with NASA who issues challenges annually and allows locations all over the world to host hackathon sites to tackle those challenges. This year, one of our teams made it to final judging in the origami category, with a project to develop self-folding repair robots for rovers on Mars.

For SpaceApps, our start time was 1 month in advance for prep, our resourcing was one person throughout this timespan, and our audience was local to the New York and Brooklyn area.

Site: <https://2016.spaceappschallenge.org/locations/brooklyn-ny-usa>

Our Science Hack Day site: <http://sciencehackday.nyc/>

Pre-hackathon Datacamp: <http://sciencehackdayny.github.io/data-camp-16/>

Github with Projects: <https://github.com/sciencehackdayny>

Conferences + Science Fairs

GET Conference

Our 2015 Mozilla Science Lab Fellow, Jason Bobe was one of the coordinators of the Genomes Environments and Traits conference, which featured a day of talks related to open and participatory biomedical research as well as a science-fair-style “labs” event where attendees

could walk from booth to booth, signing up for biomedical research studies, many with mobile applications for submitting samples and user data.

For GET, our start a few weeks in advance for prep, our resourcing was limited since most of the coordination went through our fellow, Jason, and our audience was mostly biomedical researchers and participatory medicine scholars in the Boston area (it was hosted at Harvard Medical school)..

Event site: <http://www.getconference.org/>

GET Labs: <http://www.getconference.org/get2016/labs.html>

Open Humans: <https://www.openhumans.org/>

GeoJourNews

Our 2015 Mozilla Science Lab Fellow, Joey K. Lee was a featured speaker at a conference we co-organized and sponsored called GeoJourNews, a day of talks about geospatial science, journalism, and storytelling with cartography.

For the conference, our start time was 4 months in advance for prep, our resourcing was just myself and collaborators at CartoDB consistently throughout this timespan, and our audience was a mixture of journalists and geospatial scientists.

Event site: <https://nvite.com/GeoJourNews/ab4d>

Code for America Summit + Mozfest Review

Post-Mozfest, we sometimes organize small meetups like this one, to review the content of the sessions for those who could not attend, and to connect our event with other events, like the CFA summit.

For the CFA Summit / Mozfest meetup, our start time was less-than a week in advance for prep, our resourcing was <1 person throughout this timespan, and our audience is was New York-based and civic-tech focused.

Event site:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mozfest-cfasummit-recap-by-betanyc-microsoft-civic-hall-mozilla-tickets-29257946305#>

As research becomes increasingly computationally and data intensive, the need for collaborations and co-designed event programming supported by a broad network of organizations also increases. We look forward to that collaboration, and are always on the lookout for more opportunities to partner and share.