

Directions for installing and loading R packages on school computers

Due to permission issues, when working on school computers R *packages* must be installed and loaded from the Z:/ drive. If working on your personal computer, it is best to install packages to their default positions (i.e., you do not need to change the library path, as described below).

To install and load R packages on school computers, follow the directions below:

1. Create a directory on your Z:/ drive called *Rlib*. I will assume that this directory is created in the directions that follow. If you use a different directory name, replace Z:/Rlib with the directory that you created.
2. Open RStudio or the R console.
3. Type the following command into R to change the library path, which tells R where packages should be installed:

```
.libPaths("Z:/Rlib")
```

4. Type the following from within R:

```
install.packages("dplyr").
```
5. You can use the following command to test whether this has worked correctly:

```
library(dplyr)
```
6. If nothing happens, that means it works! If you get any error messages, the package did not install correctly and you should try again or see me if you need help.
7. Once it works, you are ready to use RStudio. However, **make sure to add the following to the beginning of any R script you use (and run this command)** so that any necessary packages will be available.

```
.libPaths("Z:/Rlib")
```

Basic steps to installing and loading packages:

1. If on a school computer, you must run the command

```
.libPaths("Z:/Rlib")
```
2. Packages are installed using the command

```
install.packages("packageName")
```
3. Once a package is installed, it does not need to be installed again (unless it was installed to a temporary location and is therefore no longer available). However, packages need to be loaded with the following command during each session for which a package will be used:

```
library(packageName)
```