



RUTGERS
University Libraries

From Pilot to Jetstream

Building training pathways and collaboration in data science and digital humanities through the Library
(Graduate Specialist Program at Rutgers-New Brunswick Libraries)

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Data Librarian

May 20, 2021



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Background & Pilot

- Since 2010, Ryan has been involved with R instruction
 - A constant demand for more and more varied instruction, ***especially Python***
- Rutgers has also had an active Digital Humanities program
 - Francesca Giannetti, Digital Humanities Librarian, hired in 2014.
- "Data Science Concierge" grant proposal seeded ideas.
- Spring 2018 – Piloting program with 2 graduate student hires
 - one for quantitative data and one for digital humanities

Director's Perspective: Strategic Fit



- Pilot in parallel with strategic planning data collection
- Identified sandbox funding and drafted initial positions for Spring 2018 semester
- COVID perspective: Pilots in the time of crisis

Defining the Program (Spring 2018)

- No full time staff support like [NYU](#), [Duke](#), [Princeton](#)
- The title “Graduate Specialist” was chosen to be more precise and not conflict with other position titles
- Learning and skill-building opportunity for the specialists
- Drawn from New Brunswick grad school population
- Higher wage rate (\$25 vs. \$15) than the Libraries norm
- Getting used to spaces:
 - physical (DH lab and Library Classrooms)
 - virtual (creating LibGuides, Github repositories)
 - <https://libguides.rutgers.edu/graduatespecialist>
 - <https://github.com/NBLGraduateSpecialistProgram>
-

AY 2019 & 2020 - Expansion

- Moved to 4 specialists, then 5
- Qualitative, GIS, and 2nd Data Specialist
- Webinars were in demand, but we did not implement until COVID
- Specialists made up the predominant part of our online offerings under COVID

Digital Humanities Graduate Specialist



Caterina Agostini

Quantitative Data Analytics Specialist



Sanket Badhe

Qualitative Data Specialist



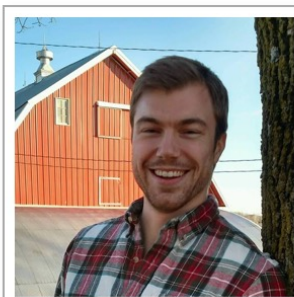
Shari Cunningham

GIS Specialist



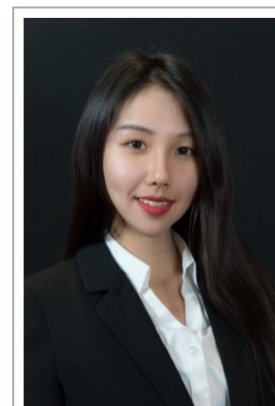
Rahul Dagli

Digital Humanities Graduate Specialist



Alex Leslie

Quantitative Data Analytics Graduate Specialist



Sly Zhong

2020 cohort



Spring 2020 Workshop Topics



Departments attending Python Workshops AY20

JetStream

- One goal has been to provide a more welcoming, flexible, and modern space for interactive teaching. Insights from the hands-on workshops of the Graduate Specialists informed the design of the JetStream.
- https://libguides.rutgers.edu/nbl_spaces/Jetstream
- The ideal is to encourage collaborative, innovative learning
- The funding model (free for events that meet the JetStream's mission criteria) encourages this.
- JetStream is also linked to other space initiatives (Hatchery - IDEA)



AY 2021

- All online – majority also made available via recording
- AY 2021 (Fall/Spring): 566/154 Python, 89/37 DH, 64/59 Nvivo
- Data Science Basics: 282/184
- Registrations – actual attendees about half that
- Big surge in Fall 2020, falling off in Spring 2021 (Zoom fatigue?)
- Easier calendar via LibCal
- <https://libcal.rutgers.edu/nblworkshops> and [Feb 21 view](#)

Collaborations

- Office of Advanced Research Computing – cross-listing and HPC-themed workshops
- Erdos Institute (<https://erdosinstitute.org>) – now over 300 PhDs taking online data bootcamp for machine learning with Python

Spinoffs

- Experience with the Graduate Specialist hiring model enabled us to develop two new programs for the Libraries in AY 2021.
- [IDEA Program](#) (Design Thinking experience for freshmen)
- Intensive Literature Review (research service to faculty)
- Student wages were externally funded, but our management capacity made it possible.
- These programs are supported by graduate specialists hired for their relevant skills to these programs.

Impact

- Hundreds of students learned the use of advanced research tools
- Graduate specialists (14 to date) given valuable teaching and instructional development experience
- Archive of online material that can be used any time
- Improved physical and virtual spaces for technology instruction
- Seen as relevant by other units, building opportunities for collaboration
- Transformative (and cost-effective) at a time when library budgets and staffing have otherwise stagnated

Questions?



- Please feel free to contact me at

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to continue the discussion!



Thank you!

- Thank you for your attention at the best virtual IASSIST ever!

Баярлалаа!

תודה
Dankie Gracias
Спасибо شکرًا
Merci Takk
Köszönjük Terima kasih
Grazie Dziękujemy Děkojame
Ďakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies
Kiitos Täname teid 谢谢
Thank You Tak
感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz
Σας ευχαριστούμε 감사합니다
Bedankt Дěkujeme vám
ありがとうございます
Tack