

CF training: overview and discussion

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On behalf of the CF training committee, with special thanks to Alison Pamment (chair), and first training session presenters

2022 CF Workshop

Instituto de Física de Cantabria, Santander

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Background

- **‘TLDR’: first dedicated CF Training held last week!**
- Initial official training into the CF Conventions held virtually 15:00 – 18:00 UTC, 8th September ‘22
 - Successfully delivered, 50+ registered attendees
 - First session aimed primarily at users new or fairly new to CF
 - Intention is to continue as a series, also to target those with more experience
- **Context:**
 - No formal/consolidated training/instruction into, or closely relating to, CF metadata existed before
 - Many realised that something like this would be really useful
 - By 2021(?), plans were made to begin organising some training

Overview of session

- We wanted to take this great opportunity, fresh after the first training, to ask you all about how we can shape the training to meet your needs
- Therefore, this session will consist of:
 - ~10 minutes where I summarise the first training;
 - ~5 minutes where I pose some questions to you all as prompts;
 - **~15 minutes, continuing into the coffee break for those who wish, for discussion time so you can have your say!**

The first training: summary

- Aimed at beginners or those fairly new to CF...
- ... as the first in an intended series targeted at increasingly advanced users (to be debated/confirmed)
- Designed to be self-contained and sustainable
Videos, pre-recorded to avoid inevitable disruptions from live sessions, and uploaded (or soon to be) to new dedicated YouTube channel available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKLq7PCVonFJA0ec98SMFZ>
- Many (<figure>?) attendees
 - 50+ registered to attend, 30+ (<more precise>?) in attendance
 - Some questions asked by poll during the live session, shown next...

The first training: agenda

3 hour slot, with agenda (copied from the new website page for the training,

<https://cfconventions.org/Training/2022-Training-Workshop.html>):

- Introduction to the training session (Alison Pamment)
- A brief introduction to CF (David Hassell)
- An introduction to using CF standard names (Alison Pamment)
- Why use CF? (Jennifer Sevadjan, Andy Heaps, Antonio Cofiño)
- [10 minute break]
- Starting to use tools with CF (Ethan Davis)
- An example of creating CF metadata (Guilherme Castelão)
- How to contribute to CF (Sadie Bartholomew)
- General Q&A (All presenters)
- Wrap-up (Alison Pamment)

The first training: poll stats

- Q: *Have you ever used CF metadata when reading or writing data?*
A: Yes/No → **17/20, 85% said 'Yes'**
- Q: *Have you ever used CF standard names for variables?*
A: Yes/No → **17/20, 85% said 'Yes'** (same as above!)
- Q: *Do you/will you use CF mainly for: (choose all that apply)* A: **Searching for data [25%, 5/20], Reading and analysing data [70%, 14], Writing data [70%, 14], All of the above [20%, 4]**
- Q: *How would you rate your knowledge of the CF conventions?* A: **I'm a complete beginner [10%, 2/20], I know a little [75%, 15], I know quite a lot [15%, 3]**

The first training: feedback

- Q: *Did you find this training session useful?* A: Very useful [13/17], Fairly useful [4], Not at all useful [0]
- Q: *How should CF training be organized?* A: Short (up to 1 hour) overview of a single topic [6/20], Longer session (1 - 2 hours) on a single topic [3], Longer session (2 - 3 hours), several topics [11]
- Q: *How often should we offer CF training?* A: Once per year [12/19], Twice per year [6], More often [1]
- Q: *What other topics would you like us to cover in training?* A: More basic trainings [?/2], More of CF Tools [?]

Prompts for discussion

- What would you like to see covered by training?
- How to best deliver training (international audience)?
- What knowledge about CF is/was missing to you:
 - right now?
 - back when you first started working with/around CF metadata?
 - when you had a little bit of CF experience, but less so than now?
- What are potential barriers to people using:
 - CF metadata *when they should (when applicable, data-wise etc.)?*
 - CF metadata *correctly* (e.g. using/creating *fully-compliant data*)?
- Where would you like to see CF in the following number of years, and how might training help to achieve that?
 - 1
 - 5
 - 20+ (!)

Thanks for listening. Any questions?

If you have any thoughts or comments regarding the training later, relating to the questions posed here or otherwise, please either talk to myself, Alison or others on the CF training committee. Later, please email *sadie.bartholomew@ncas.ac.uk*. All comments welcome!

- Quick links regarding the training:
 - New training page on the website:
<https://cfconventions.org/Training/>
 - Page dedicated to the first training session:
<https://cfconventions.org/Training/2022-Training-Workshop.html>
 - New YouTube channel for the CF Conventions, especially training:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKLq7PCVonFJA0ec98SMFZA>