Background
The Practicum Course in St. Catherine University’s Master of Library & Information Science Program is 120 hours of supervised experience in a library or information center. Student learning outcomes address both learning needs of the student and project needs of a co-operating library. During my practicum, I worked with a University of Minnesota (UMN) Librarian Carolyn Bishoff and The Research Data Services (RDS) Team to redesign curriculum for a graduate student research data boot camp.

Purpose
This poster will discuss results from my work with the RDS Team to develop an inclusive boot camp for all disciplines, and why understanding the needs of researchers was essential to launching a valuable boot camp.

Research Data Boot Camp
- 1.5 days
- Short lectures, discussions, student panel & hands-on workshops
- Led by Libraries staff & invited speakers from campus support units
- Attended by graduate students & researchers managing a research project for the first time.

Discussion
Between June-August 2018, we worked intensely to revamp the learning outcomes for the August 21–22, 2018 Research Data Boot Camp. Understanding researcher perspectives was essential to launching a valuable camp. I learned that these key points need emphasis to encompass researcher experiences:
- terminology researchers use to describe their data
- solutions for organizing their research
- varied skill levels in data management
We learned early it would serve graduate students better to change the event title to Graduate Student Boot Camp: Managing Data and Research Materials, to be more inclusive of disciplines, especially those who gathered qualitative information.

Work still to do
- Interview researchers to understand their needs
- Improve content for humanities graduate students
- Move more towards a college-focused boot camp.

Attendee Analysis
Graduate Student Boot Camp Attendees by College

Attendee Feedback
Graduate Student Boot Camp Feedback
"Most Valuable Experience"

Graduate Student Boot Camp Feedback
"Overall Level of Material"

Next Steps
Based on attendee analysis and feedback, future events will have a greater impact with these improvements:

Content
- Provide definitions for words & vocabulary used
- Share exemplary workflows
- Include a panelist from Humanities

Assessment
- Hold several check-ins during the day
- Follow-up at 3, 6 & 9 months afterward via electronic survey to ask about their management practices
- Survey departments to ask if students are using management tips and tools

Communication
- Encourage researchers to attend training put on by LATIS, Libraries, OIT, etc.
- Follow-up with attendees & provide links to address confusing points.

References


