

# Follow the Yellow Brick Road: The Career (and Learning/Skills) Journey of eResearchers Workshop

*Ann Backhaus*

Ann Backhaus<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Lange<sup>2</sup>, Tyne Sumner<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, Perth, WA, [ann.backhaus@pawsey.edu.au](mailto:ann.backhaus@pawsey.edu.au)

<sup>2</sup>Curtin University, Perth, WA, [rebecca.lange@curtin.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.lange@curtin.edu.au)

<sup>3</sup>University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, [tdsumner@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tdsumner@unimelb.edu.au)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This is a proposed ½ day workshop, designed to be mostly hands-on. There are no constraints on the number of attendees. Seating should include three café style working areas (round tables).

As context, the journey of an eResearcher is envisaged as following along a path (yellow brick road). That road is broken up into 3 parts: early career, mid career, and late career eResearch. There will be 3 large, long sheets of white paper that will correspond to those 3 parts.

Small groups of participants will have 30 minutes at each station to use post-it notes to denote 2 key aspects on the road:

- Milestones, responsibilities and/or tasks for that part of the road (key markers), and
- Knowledge and skills needed to reach those milestones, responsibilities and/or tasks.

Each small group of participants will have 30 minutes at their first station to make notations, before they are asked to move to the next station. This will happen 3 times, once for each of the 3 sections. Each group has a specific colour of post-it notes. Using their post-it notes, participants will identify markers and the learning/training to enable the markers. In rounds 2 and 3, participants will be collaborating sequentially, building on each other's contributions.

Participants are also encouraged to include Open Questions and Discussion Points for each part of the road, which will be discussed later in the workshop as well as in a proposed BoF.

There are several Lightning Talks planned to kick-start the workshop. These Talks will focus on the novel approach taken by the presenter's institution to address knowledge/skill building at a particular part/section of the eResearcher journey.

## DESCRIPTION

When Dorothy sets off to see the Wizard of Oz, she has no idea – really – of the journey she is on. She finds herself in a new and different world, unsure of what to ask, when, or to whom. She learns along the way.

If you're a new PhD student or new to research, this "journey into the unknown" might sound familiar.

What if we think about an eResearcher's career journey as one that follows along a road? What markers – milestones and tasks – are on that road? What skills and knowledge do eResearchers need to reach each marker, and in what timeframe? That is, can a skill be acquired in a one-off, hands-on coding workshop? Or, does the knowledge building require a long(er) lead time? Is there assumed skill proficiency and is that “known” by eResearchers?

In this half-day, hands-on workshop, participants will map what the eResearcher's road looks like, identifying key markers on the road. They will identify associated skills and knowledge needed for those markers (milestones and tasks).

The outcome of the workshop seeks to provide a roadmap that can be leveraged not only by eResearchers but also by educators and trainers. If we map out Just In Time (JIT) skill and knowledge building over the entirety of an eResearcher's career - what would that look like? Are we efficiently and effectively collaborating (across institutions) to provide what eResearchers need, when they need it?

This workshop seeks to pose as many questions as it answers, through:

1. Introduction and Environmental Scan/Lightening Talks: 30 min
2. Café Style Working Session 1: 30 min
3. Café Style Working Session 2\*: 30 min
4. Café Style Working Session 3\*: 30 min
5. Working Session Consolidation\*\*\*: 30 min
6. What's next?: 30 min

\*Each small group sequentially contributes “markers” to each part/section of the road (early, mid, late), building on and adding to the previous group's contributions.

\*\*The sequential dialog of working sessions becomes real-time and interactive, enabling participants to dive into topics of interest and debate. Identification of “forks” in the road, coming out of discipline- or technology-specific considerations, are encouraged.

Participants are also encouraged to identify Open Points, to be discussed briefly during Consolidation and to a fuller extent in a proposed BoF.

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

- eResearchers, who can talk about what their journey is/has been like and what milestones and tasks are key; who can talk about the skills and knowledge that would be (or would have been) ideal to have, and when
- Librarians, trainers, educators, technicians and anyone who works with eResearchers to build skills and knowledge (formally or informally)

## **WHAT TO BRING**

No special requirements/equipment needed