Data Science Week – Engagement Learnings

Luke Edwards¹, Aditi Subramanya²

¹Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, Perth, Australia, luke.edwards@pawsey.org.au
²Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, Perth, Australia, aditi.subramanya@pawsey.org.au

ABSTRACT

Data Science Week (DSW) has grown in size since it began as Big Data Week in 2013. The week has grown from a few Perth-based events to nearly 20 events, over 700 attendees and across Australia in 2019.

Data Science Week brings together a community of data science professionals across Australia to network and discuss data science projects and ideas across domains. This year’s events showcased Women in Data Science, involving a range of organisations such as Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, National Computational Infrastructure (NCI), Women in Big Data and Women in Technology chapters, the Australian Computer Society, CSIRO, Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia, Curtin University, Bankwest and more.

DSW is organised via a distributed model where organisations run their own events and publicise via one website - https://www.datascienceweek.org/. As Data Science cuts across all disciplines and enables engagement between organisations and professionals that normally would not interact.

A highlight for 2019 saw the development and promotion of data science educational material using real scientific data. Education Services Australia (Digital Technologies Hub) and Australian Data Science Education Institute (ADSEI) produced lesson plans for teachers using WAMSI Kimberley data.

This lightning talk is relevant to this year’s theme of ‘eResearch Diversity’ by highlighting ways to engage with non-traditional ‘eResearch’ users. It will also discuss how DSW is promoting data science across all fields and uptake of Australian eResearch infrastructure, along with future plans for the week.