

Technical tools for humanities researchers: a productive placement case report

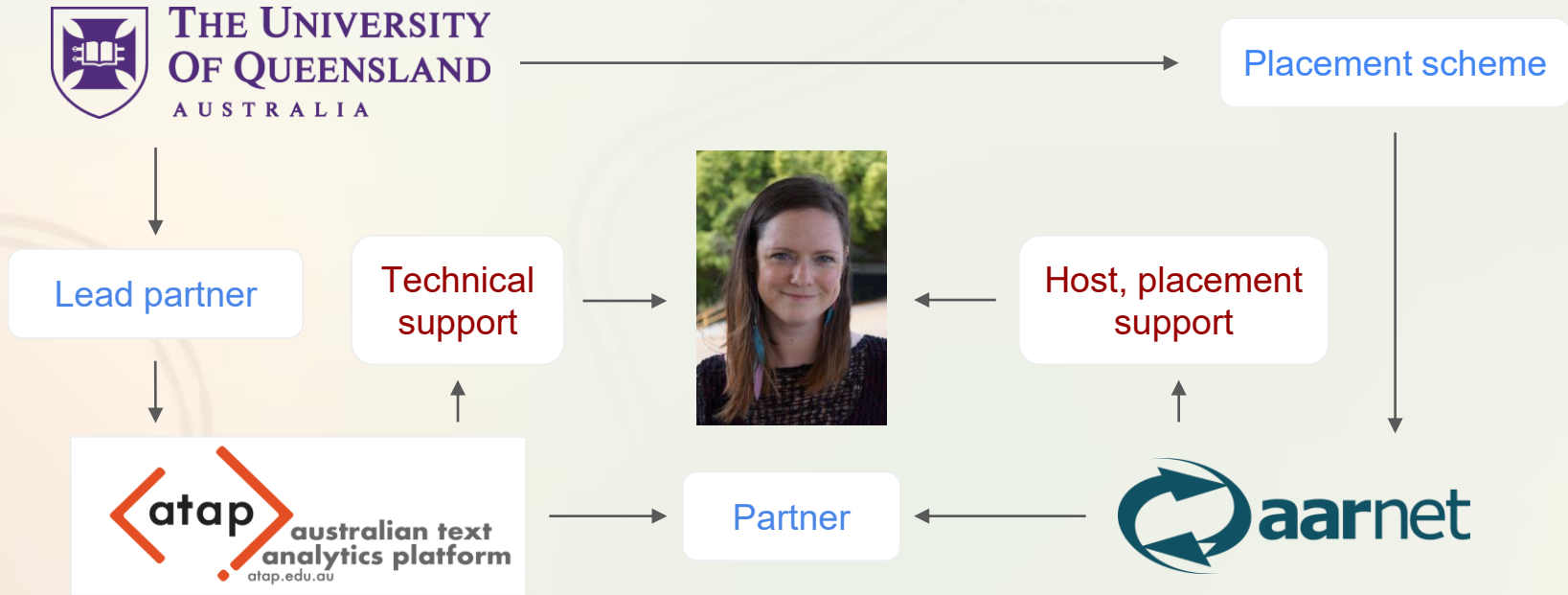
Evelyn Ansell, Simon Musgrave, Sam Hames, Sara King

Context

Research infrastructure for HASS has not been around for long (in Australia)

- **Consequences:**
 - We are exploring ways to engage with researchers (at various levels)
 - Pathways to working in the field are basically non-existent
- **Approaches to addressing these issues:**
 - Are there existing structures in universities (or other institutions) which can be leveraged?
 - What role can infrastructure providers (eg AARNet) and infrastructure projects (eg ATAP) play?
- **An answer to the first question:** UQ HDR Placements scheme
- **An answer to the second question:** the remainder of this presentation

Specific context



What UQ brought

- **Institutional structure**

The Graduate School Career Development Framework facilitates industry experiences, as Placements, to allow you to experience current practice and develop networks while demonstrating and strengthening your transferable, professional and research skills. (<https://cdf.graduate-school.uq.edu.au/hdr-placements>)

- **Financial support** (placement counted towards scholarship extension requirements)

- Through ATAP, Dr Sam Hames provided support:

- Methodological and Ideation
- Project management
- (Computational)

What AARNet brought

- Support for HASS research (partnership in LDaCA program and HASS RDC)
- Carpentries Instructor Training
- Reverse instructional design/Carpentries-based curriculum development/workshop development skills
- Technical support connection into eResearch infrastructure network for HASS research



The project

- A genuine project to begin addressing a problem specific to the field of Conversation Analysis
 - Conceptualise the problem
 - Build a prototype tool to manipulate Jefferson/Mondada transcripts
 - Deliver a workshop to Conversation Analytic practitioners

What the experience was

- Designated working days per week
- Weekly meetings with Sara and Sam
- Guided pathway from project brainstorming to final output

- Invigorating - a relevant interest that was *not* the PhD
- Collaborative - a live example of how interdisciplinary collaborations work
- Privileged - access to working with experts

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Output

- A functional Jupyter notebook
- A [Carpentries-style workshop](#)
- Feedback from workshop participants

The screenshot displays a Jupyter notebook titled "Transcript tool workshop content". The interface includes a top menu bar with options like File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Extensions, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various editing and navigation icons. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main text area. The sidebar shows a table of contents with sections like "Part One - Rationale and Dev...", "Part Two - Interactive Demon...", and "Part Three - Reflection and F...". The main text area shows the content of "Part One - Rationale and Development", which includes sections for "Welcome to the workshop", "Acknowledgement to Country", "Thank you", "Housekeeping", "Zoom", "Open this Google Doc", and "Registration". The text is formatted with blue links and bold headings.

Transcript tool workshop content ☆ 📄 🌐
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– Part One - Rationale and Dev...

Welcome to the workshop

Acknowledgement to Cou...

Thank you

Housekeeping

Zoom

Open this Google Doc

Help, questions, commen...

Registration

Introduction

Content

Terms

Jupyter Notebook

Binder

Cells

Widget

The process of development

Part Two - Interactive Demon...

Preparation

Prepare transcript

Open Jupyter Notebook

Finally, the little tool

Binder

Part Three - Reflection and F...

1

Part One - Rationale and Development

Welcome to the workshop

Acknowledgement to Country

I acknowledge the Turrbul and Jagera people as Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we meet here at UQ today. For anyone on Zoom, I invite you to name the Traditional Owners of the land you are on at the moment. I pay our respects to their Ancestors and their Descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to [Country](#). We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

Thank you

I was fortunate to have undertaken a Career Development placement with Australia's Academic and Research Network ([AARNET](#)), and very greatly assisted by the [ATAP](#) team. The [Jupyter Notebook tool](#) and this workshop has been developed during that placement. None of this would be possible without the hard work and support provided by Sara King, Sam Hames, Simon Musgrave, and Michael Haugh.

This workshop represents the official output of the placement, and as such I would like to thank you all for attending. I'm lucky to be part of such a great community.

Housekeeping

Zoom

tinyurl.com/Eve-Ansell-Zoom

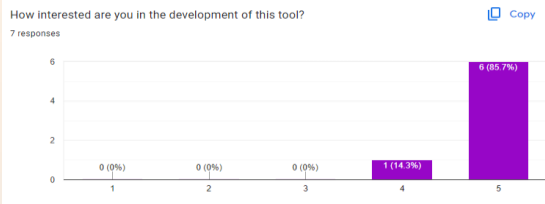
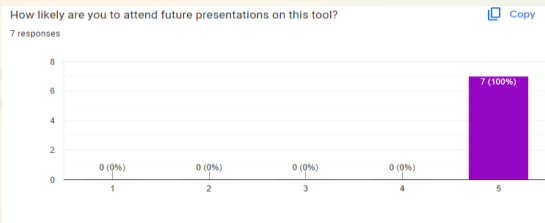
Open this Google Doc

tinyurl.com/transcript-tool-content

At the top of this document, click view -> outline, and then click the list icon. This will help navigate around the document as we proceed.

Output

- A functional Jupyter notebook
- A Carpentries-style workshop
- Feedback from workshop participants



What is one thing you learned today?

7 responses

jefferson notation makes it very difficult to search transcripts

How complex Jefferson transcripts are!

The complexities involved in searching CA transcripts!

This tool would be really useful for people who don't have verbatim transcripts and want to quickly find terms of interest from their data.

There's still some needed functionality that is in progress :)

There're always different ways of doing things when you think creatively. I find coming up with developing a new transcription tool with search function really creative and useful.

How much opportunity there is for improving CA workflows

Any other thoughts that you would like to share?

4 responses

A mechanism for changing the file being analysed is a very important addition to be made.

Keen to see where it goes in the future.

I think this will be a useful tool for CA practitioners

I am interested in keeping updated on the development of this tool in the future particularly to see if multiple upload is possible and also if the tool works for transcripts in languages other than English are available.

Outcomes

- **For the student**
 - Employment opportunities through exposure to the field of research infrastructure
 - Non-PhD contribution to research field
 - Publication opportunity
- **For the organisations**
 - Engagement and visibility (news articles, case study)
- **For the technical expert**
 - Publication opportunity
- **For the future**
 - More opportunities! AARNet now has a work experience program in place

Benefits

Eve - now a knowledgeable advocate for digital tools in Humanities, comfortable conversing in infrastructure space

Sara - a strong advocate for Humanities in research infrastructure + pathways for HASS graduates in eResearch careers

Simon - keen to find existing institutional pathways which can be leveraged or repurposed

Sam - detailed discipline specific exposure and ideas for future research/research infrastructure projects

Why did this work?

- Existing institutional structure
- The right people in the right places
- Driven by a genuine research agenda

*“I feel you should not wait and see what technology will do with you
– pardon me, technologists will say ‘for you’ –
but rather you should tell technologists what you want to be done.”*

Heinz von Foerster



SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE - JULY, 1930.



Australian Research Data Commons



The Language Data Commons of Australia Data Partnerships (LDaCA-DP), Language Data Commons of Australia Research Data Commons (LDaCA-RDC), and Australian Text Analytics Platform (ATAP) projects received investment (<https://doi.org/10.47486/DP768>, <https://doi.org/10.47486/HIR001>, & <https://doi.org/10.47486/PL074>) from the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC).

The ARDC is funded by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).





Thank you

For more information,
please contact:

Evelyn Ansell UQ & QCIF

e.ansell@uq.edu.au

Simon Musgrave UQ & ATAP

s.musgrave@uq.edu.au

Sam Hames UQ & ATAP

s.hames@uq.edu.au

Sara King AARNet

sara.king@aarnet.edu.au

Specific context



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Placement scheme



Lead partner

Technical support



Host, placement support



Partner

