



**UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND**
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

Digital research skills at the University of Auckland

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**eResearch Australasia
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Centre for eResearch

- Support researchers to apply digital technologies to scholarship.
- Research computing, data, visualisation, skills, projects.
- 28 FTE, range of skills and backgrounds
- 3,000 researchers using our services
- Raising the floor of digital skills, workforce development

Regular Workshops

- Managing research data
- Tidy Data / OpenRefine / R
- Python
- Machine Learning
- Command line
- REDCap (pilot)

Challenges

- Institutional complexity
- Compliance with policies
- Volume and types of data
- Expectations of impactful research
- Researcher learning preferences

Machine Learning

A case study

- Training a model to derive insights
- Introduced in 2023
- Awareness and skill building – opportunities
- Based on 2 x Carpentries Incubator lessons
- Initially 5 days: 2 x Python, 1 x ML, 2 x DL

Feedback

Positive

- Well paced
- Experienced instructors
- Informative
- Live coding

Improvement

- Fast paced
- More explanation of the code
- Five days was intensive
- Would prefer Python separately

Changes

- Removing Python to reduce cognitive load
- Improving content – dataset choice
- Clear learning outcomes

2024: Permanent workshop delivered 2.5 times.

Local lesson changes have been accepted centrally.

Metrics

	CHANGE (APRIL to SEPT 2023)
I felt comfortable learning in this workshop	-2.8
The set up instructions were easy to follow	5.9
The workshop description and level were accurate	2.7
The workshop taught me what I wanted to learn	2.9
I can immediately apply what I learned	-8.1
I feel confident enough to continue learning about machine learning on my own	1.3

Summary

- Researchers digital skills needs are always changing.
- We are experimenting with content, format, delivery.
- We're eager to hear about your experiences.

- How do you decide what to teach?
- Why do you teach workshops the way you do?
- Do you have any guiding principles or objectives?





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