Software Sustainability Institute

Community and Events

Dr Rachael Ainsworth, Research Software Community Manager

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council

UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

UKRI Medical Research Council

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

About the Software Sustainability Institute

www.software.ac.uk

- A national facility promoting the advancement of software in research since 2010, by cultivating better, more sustainable, research software to enable world-class research
- A collaboration between the universities of Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford and Southampton
- In 2018, SSI was awarded funding from all seven UK Research Councils (and has been supported through grants EP/H043160/1, EP/N006410/1 and EP/S021779/1)

Better software, better research.

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doi 10.6084/m9.figshare.21931299

Teams

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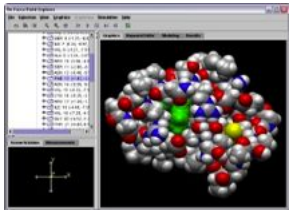
Software

Helping the community to develop software that meets the needs of reliable, reproducible, and reusable research



Training

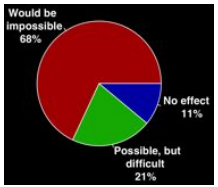
Delivering essential software skills to researchers, partnering with institutions, doctoral schools and the community

Outreach

Exploiting our platform to enable engagement, delivery and uptake

Policy

Collecting evidence on and promoting the place of software in research and sharing with stakeholders



Community

Developing Communities of Practice by supporting the right people to understand and address topical issues

Dr Rachael Ainsworth, SSI @rachaelevelyn @fosdem #FOSDEM2023

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Teams' activities

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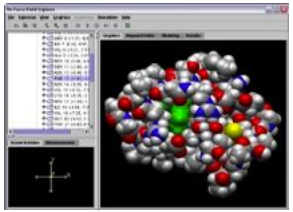
Software



75+ software consultancy projects

200+ evaluations

4 surgeries

Training

460+ Carpentry workshops

9k+ learners, 300+ instructors

85+ guides

Outreach

170+ external contributors

20k unique visitors per month

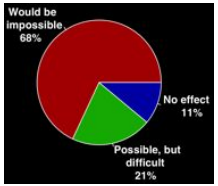
10.3k+ followers

Policy

Hidden REF

Involved in UKRI long-term strategy

On 29 national & international committees



Community

217 Fellows

3800+ RSEs engaged

30+ workshops organised

(14 Collaborations Workshops)

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Community Structure

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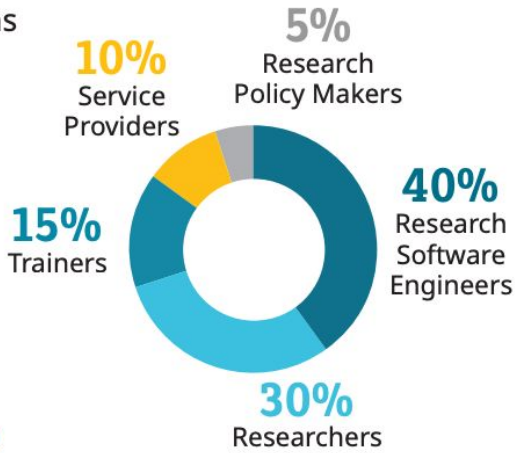
Community Management

Community management is provided via 2.1 to 2.9 FTEs distributed across 4 positions (**Community Lead**, **Research Software Community Manager**, **Community Officer**, and **Community Manager for UK Research Software Engineering**). Additional support is provided by other **SSI staff**. Participants in the **Fellowship Programme** organize events and grow their own communities of practice.

Members



Community Configuration

Woodley, Lou, Pratt, Katie, Kobilka, Sara, & Ainsworth, Rachael. (2021). CSCCE Community Profile: Software Sustainability Institute Research Software Community. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4947236

Programming

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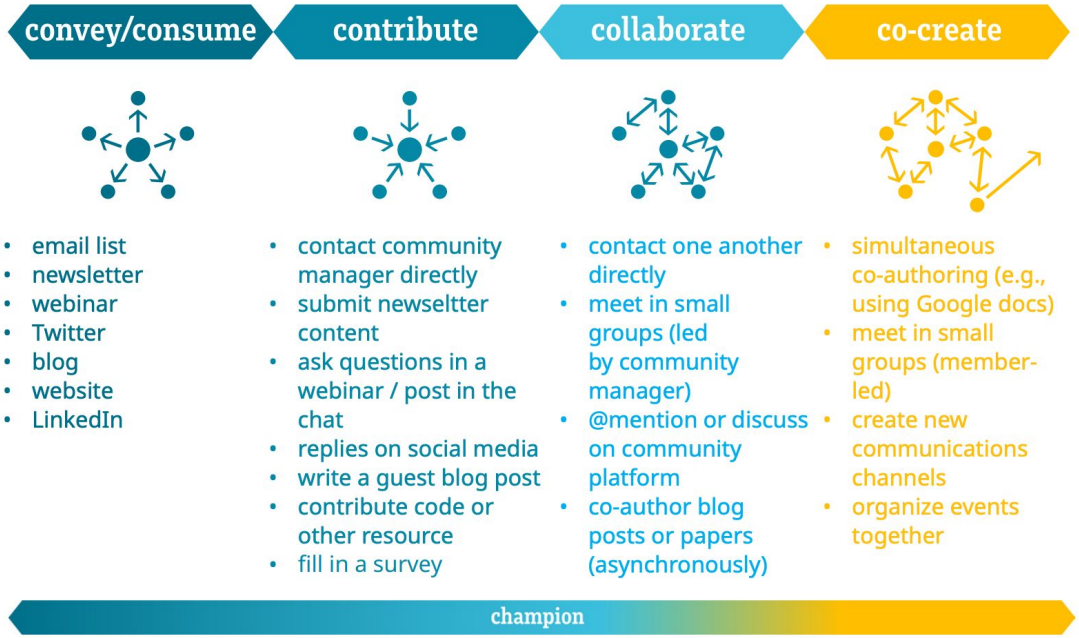

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Fellowship Programme

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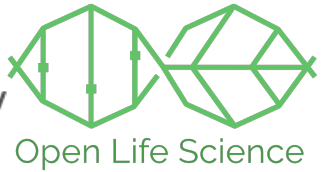
- Engaging with natural ambassadors of better software practice from the research community
- £3k funding to empower those involved with improving software practice; helping form communities of practice
- Fellows help SSI discover important information about software in different research domains
- Fellows help guide SSI training, policies, community work and consultancy engagements

https://software.ac.uk/fellowship-programme

Examples of Fellows' Activities

www.software.ac.uk

- Carpentries Offline by Jannetta Steyn, Abhishek Dasgupta, Alison Clarke, Colin Sauze, Emily Lewis, Rebecca Wilson, et al.
- Reproducible Research and R workshops for Archaeologists by Alison Clarke & Emma Karoune
- Good mental health, good research software by Dave Horsfall
- Intermediate Research Software Development in Python at UKAEA by Matthew Bluteau
- RSE@Northumbria Launch Event by Lucy Whalley
- Software Carpentry at STFC by Eli Chadwick
- Great R packages for Ornithologists by Philipp Boersch-Supan
- Reusing Research Software and Tools in Digital Humanities Scholarship by Emily Bell & Anna-Maria Sichani
- Open Life Science by Yo Yehudi & Malvika Sharan
- Library Carpentry by James Baker



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Collaborations Workshop

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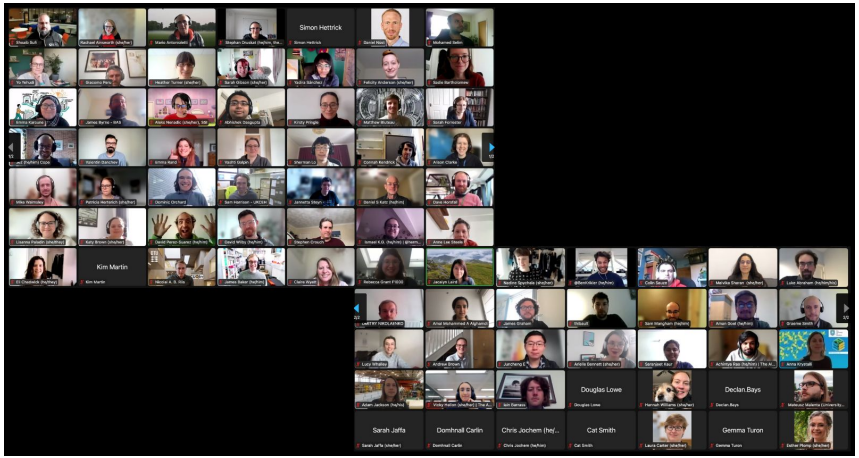
- Brings together researchers, developers, funders, publishers, educators & more to explore important ideas in software/research, & start interdisciplinary collaborations
- Unconference: keynote presentations, mini-workshop/demo sessions, discussion groups, lightning talks, collaborative ideas, speed blogging and a hack day
- CW23 will take place 2-4 May 2023
  - https://software.ac.uk/cw23
  - Hybrid in Manchester, UK
  - Theme: Sustainable Career Development - looking after your software, your career, and yourself
  - Deadline for submissions: 24 February 2023
  - Deadline to register: 24 March 2023



Collaborations Workshop Flow

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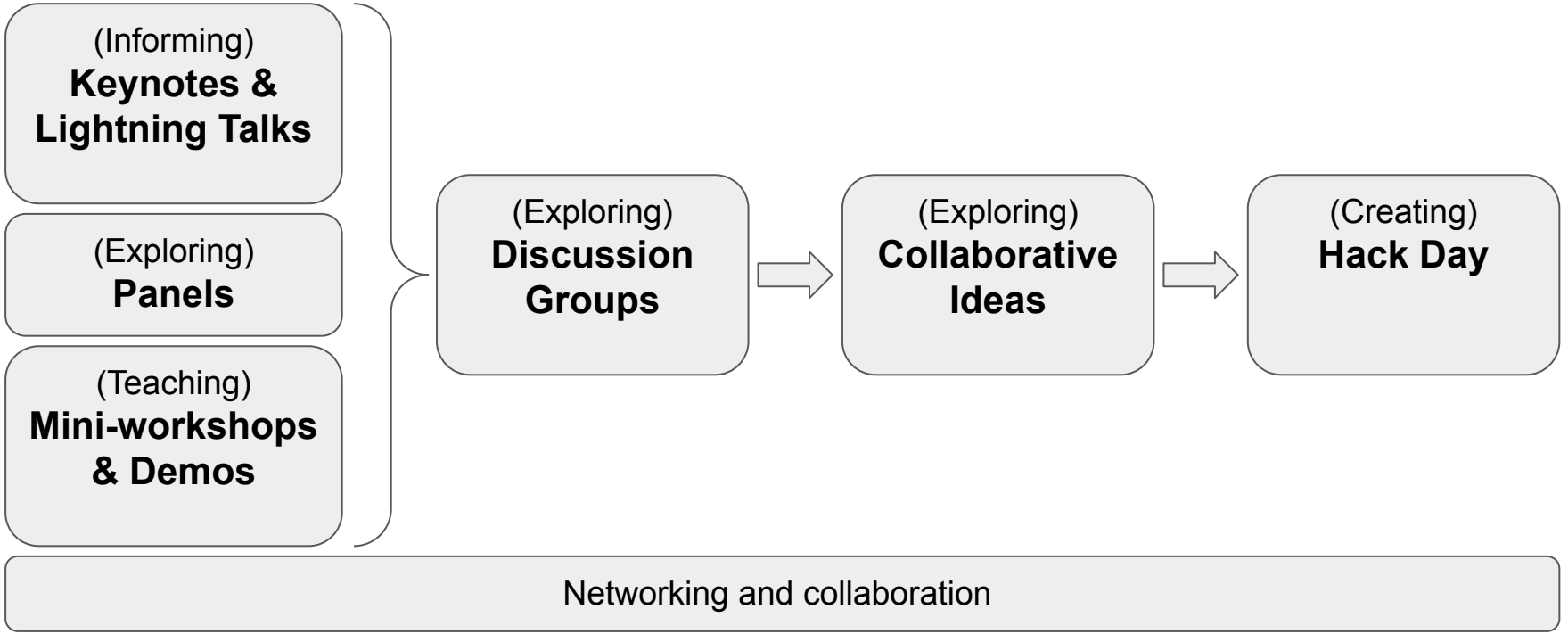

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Collaborations Workshop Outcomes

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- Blog posts authored by discussion groups are published to the SSI website
- Collaborative Ideas groups feed into Hack Day projects
- 70% of participants start 1-2 collaborations based on conversations at the workshop (CW21)
- 80% of participants intend to carry on working on the hack day project, for example (CW21):
  - Carpentries Offline (formerly CarpenPi) https://carpentriesoffline.github.io/
  - Coding Confessions https://coding-confessions.github.io/

Event Organisation Guide

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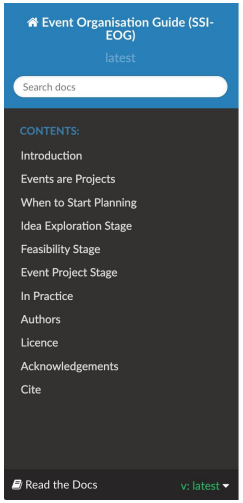
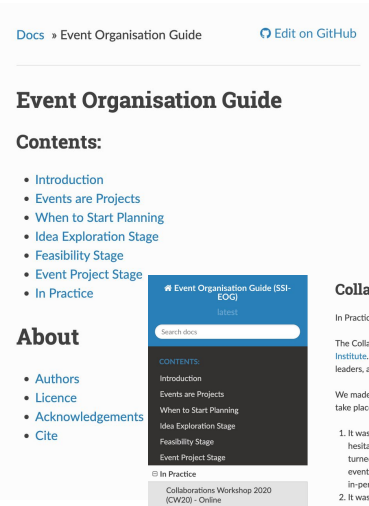
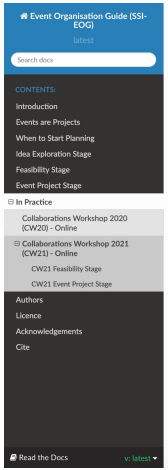
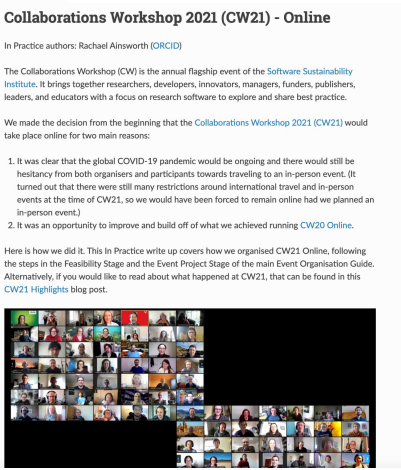
- Guide on how the SSI organises events (project management of events) with CW as the main example
- Templates (e.g. venue requirements, budget, event timeline, duties roster, event roles, risk management)
- In Practice section, including detailed write-up of how we organised CW21 from Feasibility Stage to Closing
- Open for contributions
- event-organisation-guide.readthedocs.io/









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Research Software Camps

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- Free online events twice a year over the course of two weeks
- Each Camp focuses on introducing and exploring a topic around research software, thus starting discussions among various research communities
    - Supporting Mental Health (November 2022)
    - Next steps in coding (May 2022)
    - Beyond the Spreadsheet (Nov 2021)
    - Research Accessibility (Feb 2021)
- Sessions include panels, training, workshops, guides, blog posts, and social media discussions
- Many opportunities to get involved as part of the mentorship programme and software surgeries

SSI Collaborators and Partners

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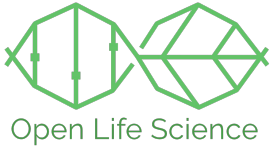

Contact us

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