DIRECTORY of WORKSHOPS
Columbia University Libraries
Directory of Workshops

Columbia University Libraries and its affiliates (Barnard, Teachers College, Law, Health Sciences Library) offer more than 1,200 workshops and training programs annually, serving library users from first-year undergraduates to faculty seeking to sharpen their research skills. Our approach to supporting teaching and learning at Columbia aims to foster critical literacy with sources and systems in a context of equitable access and inclusive participation. We offer open workshops that teach a wide range of skills and literacies and partner with faculty to provide course-embedded instruction. The workshops and training programs listed here represent the range of instruction offerings over the course of the academic year and are open to anyone at Columbia unless otherwise noted. Most workshops require registration.

To explore or register for currently scheduled workshops, or to sign up to receive a weekly digest of workshops during the academic year, please visit our website.

library.columbia.edu/workshops
What We Offer

**Library Essentials**

We offer ongoing, regularly occurring workshops on the basics of how to use your libraries. Offered by either Columbia University Libraries or Teachers College, these sessions are open to anyone at Columbia and are typically appropriate for any level. (No prior library or research knowledge necessary!) Workshops are held weekly on various days and times to easily accommodate your schedule and are all one hour or less.

**Copyright**

Copyright law is integral to how students and faculty can use, distribute, and reuse materials in their own academic work. We support faculty and students in understanding copyright and how it relates to their work to carry out research, publish academic work, use or publish course materials, and communicate the products of research.

**Publishing**

We offer workshops on various aspects of digital publishing and scholarly communication, centering on support for partners in our podcasting and journal publishing programs but open to anyone at Columbia interested in learning more about the mechanics and best practices of scholarly publishing in various media. Frequent workshop topics include the production and dissemination of podcasts, editorial best practices for journal editors, and (for accepted journal-program partners) setting up and maintaining journals using Open Journals Systems (OJS).

**Data & Digital Scholarship Training**

We build critical data literacies for library users at all levels to find, evaluate, understand, steward, and use data. Our experts offer training modules on data-research-related techniques and subjects such as data mining and analysis, text analysis, Python, relational databases, geographic information systems (GIS), web mapping, and more.

Our **Foundations for Research Computing** series, hosted in collaboration with CUIT and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, provides informal training for Columbia University graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to develop fundamental skills for harnessing computation: core languages and libraries, software development tools, best practices, and computational problem-solving.
**Library Essentials**

**Getting Your Bearings**

This workshop will help users feel at home in their Libraries, tailored to their area of study. Learn to navigate the library system and find your way around our many library spaces. Explore new ways to discover and access books, articles, videos, sound files, images, e-books, and more, on-site or at home. Examples of recent discipline-specific sessions include:

- Getting Your Bearings: African Diaspora Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Chinese Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Burke Library
- Getting Your Bearings: Business & Entrepreneurship
- Getting Your Bearings: Film and Theatre Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Graduate Students
- Getting Your Bearings: History & Humanities
- Getting Your Bearings: Japanese Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Korean Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Politics & Policy
- Getting Your Bearings: Science and Engineering
- Getting Your Bearings: Social Sciences
- Getting Your Bearings: Social Work
- Getting Your Bearings: Tibetan Studies
- Getting Your Bearings: Undergraduate Students

**Charting Your Path: An Introduction to Library Research**

Graduate school research may feel daunting, but this foundational workshop will cover key concepts, strategies, and tools to help develop your research skills. The workshop will start with a broad overview of what graduate-level library research can look like, including terms you may come across in your journey, followed by information needed to conduct library research across all research disciplines.

**From Books to Bytes: Navigating the Research Ecosystem: Video Modules**

This series was created by the Libraries in partnership with the Center for Teaching and Learning. The set of video modules will define the research cycle, provide students with practical strategies, and guide students through the vast resources available to them at Columbia. Modules include:

- Develop a Research Strategy
- Recognize Bias
- Understand Research Data
- Archives and Primary Sources
- Cite and Organize Sources
- Preserve and Share Your Research

**Let’s Use CLIO**

Learn how to use CLIO, our library catalog, in your courses and research. This workshop will cover the fundamentals of the information ecosystem at Columbia University and demystify jargon that you may have encountered. You will learn how to find e-books, databases, research guides, and more. This session will also introduce techniques to locate digital alternatives to print resources.
Finding and Understanding Sources

Why search through multiple databases when you can use Google Scholar? How do you know if an article is useful and its author credible? When is it acceptable to use Wikipedia or a podcast as a source? Determining where to find sources and understanding when to use different types of source material for your research can be difficult. To help, this workshop will review database indexing and peer review, and will thoroughly explain the differences between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.

Database Demo: See How Research Databases Work

In this workshop, you will learn how to use a research database to find scholarly research. This workshop compares three database platforms: EBSCO, JSTOR, and ProQuest. You will learn about using Boolean operators, creating a search string, and selecting key terms.

E-Books and Electronic Reading for Study

Reading on the go has never been easier through Columbia University Libraries. This online workshop will walk you through a variety of mobile options, including downloading and reading e-books and other materials on Kindles and other devices. You will also practice using the Palace app to find and read e-books as well as digital archives and audiobooks.

How to Get Your News for Free

Whether you’re interested in keeping up with today’s headlines or looking for old news coverage for a research project, the Libraries provides access to thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the world to Columbia University faculty, staff, and students free of charge. Learn how to sign up for digital subscriptions to select newspapers (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Financial Times), how to search and browse the news through various databases, and how to access articles not available online.

Citation Management with Zotero (Beginner)

Creating citations and bibliographies can be difficult, and so can keeping track of all the reading that you’ll do over the course of a class, a semester, and your academic career. Zotero is a free, open-source bibliographic management program that allows you to collect, organize, cite, and share your research. This one-hour workshop will introduce you to Zotero, help you to use it, and provide strategies for effectively utilizing it in your research and writing.

Citation Management with Zotero (Advanced)

This workshop builds on the beginner-level Citation Management with Zotero workshop to give attendees insights into more advanced features of Zotero, including popular plug-ins. Attendees should have experience with Zotero for general reference management.
Managing Your References with Zotero

Managing bibliographic references is key to the research process, especially as you embark on a major, paper, thesis, or dissertation, or even as you organize readings for class. Managing your citations through resources like Zotero, a bibliographic management software, can keep you organized and in control of your references, allowing you to further engage with your research community.

Database Demo: EBSCO Research Databases for Climate Justice

Columbia University Libraries and EBSCO review EBSCO’s authoritative research databases with a focus on databases that support climate justice initiatives. Library users will learn ways to refine search results and utilize the EBSCO platform’s custom tools and functionality.

Basics of Archival Research

This workshop will provide an overview of how to locate archival resources, how to plan effectively for your research trips, how to make the most of your visit, and how to interpret the information you find (or don’t find!). While this session is geared toward graduate students and undergraduate thesis writers, anyone interested in learning more about archival research is welcome to attend.

Introduction to the Bloomberg Terminal

This workshop offers an introduction to the navigation and functionality of the Bloomberg Terminal, emphasizing popular shortcuts. Some of the topics covered are company and industry research, corporate financial information, Bloomberg Law, Bloomberg University, and the Bloomberg Market Concept certificate program.
Literature Reviews: How to and Why

In this workshop you will learn the basics of conducting a literature review. You will learn how to make a plan for your literature review, how to use appropriate search strategies in library databases, and how to critically evaluate sources. All disciplines and subject interests are welcome, but the librarian teaching the workshop may specialize in a certain subject area.

The Literature Review

A literature review allows researchers to understand the context and conclusions around a specific topic. It can be conducted as a section in a main project, such as a thesis or dissertation, or it can be a stand-alone project for a course or publication. This workshop will introduce you to the concepts and guidelines behind the three primary types of literature reviews: the narrative review, scoping review, and systematic review. We will also cover strategies for locating the sources you need for your literature review.

Streaming Video for the Classroom

This workshop reviews streaming video resources available through Columbia University Libraries for teaching and research. We will address educational licensing and personal streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime. This session may be particularly useful for instructors who use video in their classes.

Advanced Search Strategies

How do you know that you are retrieving all the relevant information needed for your research topic? Do you find that your catalog and database searches don’t always yield the best results? This workshop will cover strategies and concepts needed to ensure that your searches provide the most relevant results and teach you to conduct more advanced searches with tools that search in a variety of contexts.
Copyright

Copyright 101
This 90-minute introductory course will provide an overview of the origin and purpose of U.S. copyright law and how it promotes creativity, teaching, learning, and research in ways that have become an integral part of everyday life. This session will introduce copyright concepts most relevant to those working in libraries, archives, museums, and community cultural heritage organizations.

Copyright Limitations and Exceptions
Cultural heritage institutions such as libraries, archives, and museums enjoy a special status in the U.S. Copyright Law with specific limitations and exceptions that provide flexibility within the law. These exceptions allow those organizations to confidently engage in sharing practices such as interlibrary loans, digitization, teaching with copyrighted materials, displaying objects, and lending items to other institutions. This program aims to help participants understand the complicated landscape of copyright limitations and exceptions and gain the necessary skills to apply those limitations and exceptions for the benefit of their work.

Using Images and Navigating Copyright Issues in the Dissertation
Who owns a particular image? What permissions must be secured in order for you to include it in your dissertation? This workshop helps dissertation writers tackle common image-related issues. Writers in the early phases of dissertation research are especially encouraged to attend.

Managing Copyright Issues in STEM Dissertations
The workshop addresses rights in data and data sets; IP ownership of data obtained from third parties; rights concerning graphs, charts, and survey questions; the use of published articles as chapters in a dissertation; IP ownership; and co-authorship in research output.

No Fear Fair Use: Practical Fair Use for Cultural Institutions
U.S. Copyright Law’s fair use doctrine provides flexibility in the system, allowing limited use of copyrighted materials during the copyright term without permission from the copyright owner. The uncertainty about how to apply these factors in practice often leaves cultural institutions with policies that are either overly restrictive, limiting patron services and discouraging new creations, or overly permissive, potentially subjecting the organization to liability. This program aims to dispel the myths surrounding fair use and empower, enhance, and increase attendees’ confidence when handling the wide array of fair use-focused questions and policies.

When Copyright Ends (or Never Was): Understanding the Public Domain
Copyright law’s purpose is to foster the development of a rich public domain of knowledge available to all by permitting rights holders to control certain uses of original works for a limited (although still quite a long) time. When copyright to a work finally expires, the work is said to rise into the “public domain.” Public domain works may be used freely without permission of the (former) copyright holder, making them ideal raw material for other types of published work.
Publishing

Thinking Like an Audio Storyteller
All stories have a beginning, middle, and end. In this workshop students will learn the mechanics of the three-act structure for narrative audio storytelling. They will learn to think (and record) in scenes, like chapters in a book, and how to connect those scenes so they tell a bigger story.

Exploring Archival Audio
Finding a good piece of archival tape is like finding audio gold. You’ll feel a rush in your ears when you hear it. In this workshop we’ll talk about the craft of using archival tape to transform your storytelling. You’ll learn where to find it and how to use it, elevating your story into a more immersive, textured listening experience.

Writing Your Podcast: Scripting
How do you write a podcast script? How do you create an audio experience? This workshop will cover scripting: writing for the ear, crafting segments, creating narrative shape, and ensuring a smooth recording and editing process. The workshop will also explore ways to incorporate rigorous research into your script for academic podcasting.

Recording Your Podcast: Vocal Performance and Sound Design
How do you keep your listeners engaged? How can you create a sense of connection between yourself, the host, and your listeners? This workshop will cover vocal performance and sound design: basic microphone techniques, vocal warm-ups, vocal fry/mouth noises, and music and sound effects.

Editing Your Podcast with Adobe Audition
How do you make your podcast audio sound crisp and professional? This workshop will review the basics of Adobe Audition: recording, editing, and layering audio clips; noise reduction and other effects to enhance your audio; and exporting your project.

Editing Your Podcast with Audacity
How do you make your podcast audio sound crisp and professional? This workshop will review the basics of Audacity audio-editing software: recording, editing, and layering clips; noise reduction and other effects to enhance your audio; and exporting your project.

Publish Your Podcast
You’ve written, recorded, and edited your podcast! How do you publish it? This workshop will explore Anchor, a tool to publish your podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other platforms. The workshop will also address how to write a captivating podcast description, tips on podcast art, and ways to cite your sources in the episode description.

Law Review Editors Workshop
This workshop for both outgoing and incoming editors-in-chief for all publishing law journals at Columbia focuses on the fundamentals of publishing, copyright and licensing, and leadership transition.

Open Journals System (OJS) Workshop
This workshop offers complete, end-to-end training on OJS site maintenance, using the editorial workflow tools, and publishing articles and issues. It is designed for journal editors accepted into the Libraries’ Publishing Partnership Program.
Data & Digital Scholarship Training

3D Printing from Butler
The workshop provides an overview of the Libraries’ 3D printing service available to the Columbia community. Learn about applications that can help you design materials for 3D printing, how to use the equipment, and what to keep in mind when you use 3D printers in the Libraries or outside of Columbia.

Basics of Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro
Are you interested in adding a video component to your podcast? Are you looking to create a video podcast? Or maybe you’re interested in learning more about video editing. This workshop will review the basics of Adobe Premiere Pro, a video-editing software: importing and organizing media, adding effects and text, syncing and separating audio, and more!

Chatbots and AI
Are you using chatbots or ChatGPT? If we assume artificial intelligence (AI) isn’t going anywhere, what are appropriate ways of using it? Is it as revolutionary and threatening as media outlets make it out to be? How should we react to materials we receive that may inadvertently include their ChatGPT origins? We’ll have a brief introduction to ChatGPT and explore various use cases.

Data Manipulation Using Columbia’s Academic Commons API and OpenRefine
This workshop will explore data harvesting and manipulation using the API of Columbia’s institutional repository, Academic Commons, and OpenRefine. Attendees will receive a brief overview of repositories, learn general strategies for how to leverage open APIs to answer scholarly questions, and get an introduction to working with JSON files in OpenRefine.

Deep Learning with MATLAB
Deep learning is a key technology driving the current artificial intelligence (AI) megatrend. The session provides an overview of how MATLAB enables you to take advantage of disruptive technologies like deep learning. This workshop will explore where deep learning is applied in engineering and science and how it’s driving MATLAB’s development; demonstrate a workflow for how you can research, develop, and deploy your own deep learning application; and outline what MathWorks engineers can do to help you achieve success with deep learning.

Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data Series: Video Modules
This asynchronous course introduces learners to principles of structured research data management. It is designed for anyone within the University who interacts with data for research purposes, whether they are part of funded research or not, and whether they are part of a department with resources available for research data management and data management instruction or not. This way any researcher at Columbia will have the
opportunity to produce higher-quality research with research data that lends itself toward contemporary standards in research reproducibility and sharing.

Everyone Uses Research Data | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 1
Projects Are Processes | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 2
Handling Data Ethically | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 3
What Is Good Data? | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 4
Data Management Plans | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 5
Sharing and Publishing Data | Exceptional Scholarship with Research Data, Part 6

**Exploratory Analysis of Textual Data**

Working with unstructured textual data in Python presents new challenges. We can use some of our familiar pandas idioms to organize our corpus of text documents, but even a surface knowledge of the corpus demands new tools for analyzing data. Here we’ll build a corpus of text and begin looking for macro trends in it. We will cover the Python libraries pandas, TextaCy, and Beautiful Soup.

**Intermediate Textual Data Analysis**

As we investigate our textual data in more detail, the techniques for analyzing such unstructured data rely on new libraries and models provided by machine learning. In this workshop, we’ll look to the cutting edge of contemporary Python text analysis libraries to learn how to mobilize their potential. Topics covered include spaCy, TextaCy, topic modeling, and word2vec.

**Find Datasets for Your Research**

If you are interested in doing quantitative research (especially in the social science disciplines) but have questions about how to find data resources from the library, this is the right session for you.

**Foundations in Research Computing: Python**

This event employs the Software Carpentry curriculum to help researchers get their work done in less time and with less pain by teaching them basic research computing skills. This hands-on workshop will cover basic concepts and tools, including program design, version control, and task automation. Participants will be encouraged to help one another and to apply what they have learned to their own research problems.

**Foundations in Research Computing: R**

This lesson will teach novice programmers to write modular code and to implement best practices for using R for data analysis. R is commonly used in many scientific disciplines for statistical analysis and its array of third-party packages. The materials for this workshop give attendees a strong foundation in the fundamentals of R and teach best practices for scientific computing: breaking down analyses into modular units, task automation, and encapsulation.
Foundations in Research Computing: Bash and Python Combined

This session illustrates how to use Bash to achieve computing tasks more quickly and efficiently. This session also incorporates the Software Carpentry Python curriculum to help researchers accomplish tasks more quickly by building primary research computing competencies using both platforms.

GIS Crash Course

This workshop is a hands-on introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) and related concepts, including data models, spatial analysis, projections, finding data, and working with your own data. The workshop will introduce QGIS as well.

GIS in RStudio

This workshop is a hands-on introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) and related concepts, including data models, spatial analysis, projections, finding data, and working with your own data. This workshop is specific to working in R in RStudio.

Gitsertation: Scholarly Project Workflows with Git, Zotero, and Pandoc

This workshop demonstrates how to use Git to manage a project. Concretely, we use the Git integration in VSCode, along with the programs Pandoc and Zotero, to create plain text documents that can be compiled, with citations, into Microsoft Word or Google documents.

Introduction to HoloViz, Part 1

Make easier, more powerful, and more accurate visualizations. Topics covered include data visualization in the SciPy ecosystem. Open to everyone in the Columbia community, these informal events will start with a presentation on a specific use case for Python, R, Julia, or JavaScript, then open for questions, collaborative work, and discussion. Computation typically occurs within a Jupyter/Colab workflow, and participants of all skill levels are welcome.

Introduction to HoloViz, Part 2

Continue making easier, more powerful, and more accurate visualizations in the SciPy ecosystem.

Introduction to JavaScript through Leaflet

This workshop explains how to make a web map with Leaflet and provides an introduction to JavaScript.
Introduction to NVivo: A Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research Tool

Need help to organize and analyze unstructured or qualitative data such as interviews, open-ended survey responses, articles, social media, and web content? Join us for a hands-on introduction to NVivo, a leading qualitative analysis tool that enables scholars to identify and organize themes through inductive and deductive coding. NVivo aids researchers in filtering thematic material through imported sets of attributes and in searching and analyzing that material in meaningful ways.

Introduction to Pandas, Part 1

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of data analysis using the pandas library in the Python programming language. Pandas is a foundational library for modern data science in science and industry. We will use pandas to load, process, and transform tabular and time-series data. We will then visualize data with Matplotlib, the Python plotting library. No prior programming experience is required.

Introduction to Pandas, Part 2: Extending Pandas with Dask

Do you have too much data to process locally? Do you want tools to probe datasets larger than your laptop can handle? This workshop, the second in a two-part series on pandas, will introduce participants to Dask DataFrame, a Python library that parallelizes pandas’ efficient computation and lazy processing. We will explore how Dask DataFrame operates and use it to reduce large datasets to manageable size.

Introduction to Python

Bring your curiosity and a laptop to the first Data Club of the semester, where we’ll cover the absolute basics of Python. Aimed at those who have never programmed before, this workshop will introduce the basic structure of using Python in a code notebook to allow participants to pursue their paths as Pythonistas. Topics covered include code notebooks, data types in Python, conditionals, methods, and functions.
Introduction to Relational Databases
This workshop will explain how to connect to SQL servers to query and update databases.

Introduction to Xarray
This workshop on Xarray will explain how to use labeled, multidimensional arrays in Python. Topics covered include using Python and Google Colab, basic data structures, and labeling arrays to interface with data, ease computation, and avoid errors.

JavaScript Is Not a Toy
Since its arrival almost 20 years ago, JavaScript has been considered a toy language. Here, we’ll look at Observable Notebooks to see how JavaScript is redefining the space of possibility for conducting experimental pedagogy and research with the web.

Live Streaming with OBS
This session covers how to model the OBS workflow of the Studio livestream and stream on your own.

Music Technology Workshop Series
This workshop series covers topics such as recording, mixing, audio editing, sampling, digital signal processing, and more and will include sessions on music software such as Ableton Live and Max/MSP. Examples of recent sessions include:

Additive Audio Synthesis in Ableton and Max
Drum and Percussion Audio Synthesis in Ableton and Max
Drum and Percussion Synthesis in Max
Frequency Modulation (FM) Audio Synthesis in Ableton
Max 4 Live: Making a Sequencer for Ableton
Max for Live
Subtractive Audio Synthesis in Ableton and Max
Open Data and REST APIs

We’ll be building a low-impact Python notebook that shows researchers how to use open data that often sits behind a REST API. We’ll start with the Metropolitan Museum of Art Collection API before moving on to other open data sources. This should be a perfect introduction for digital humanists who don’t yet know how to turn JSON into a spreadsheet.

Open-Source Qualitative Data Analysis

The ecosystem of qualitative data analysis software has been overrun by proprietary and expensive tools. It’s not right or fair that researchers without funds cannot afford software to do qualitative research. In this workshop, you will learn about three free and open-source tools for qualitative data analysis that seek to make access to qualitative data analysis tools more equitable: Taguette, QualCoder, and qcoder. Each tool has complementary functionality to support a wide range of qualitative methods.

Python and Relational Databases

Topics covered include SQL, SQLite, MySQL, and pandas. Typically, when working with data in a Python notebook or in pandas, we rely on the abstraction of the dataframe, a matrix of columns and rows. However, a lot of data is still stored in relational databases like MySQL, and lightweight databases like SQLite may help Pythonistas with their data.

R

R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. Our “Basics” workshop introduces the RStudio integrated development environment (IDE) features and how to manage your work in RStudio. Subsequent workshops will introduce basic functions from dplyr and tidyr packages, important data terms and structures in R, and basic functions from the ggplot2 package for data visualization. Examples of recent sessions include:

R 101 for Social Scientists

R, which is free and open source, is the most widely used programming language for statistical computing and graphics. This introduction to R is designed for participants with no programming experience. The workshop starts with the building blocks to use RStudio to develop and explore the data structures available in R. We will then review basic tools for inspecting, extracting, manipulating, summarizing, and visualizing data.
**Research Data Management: Plans and More**

As using some kind of data becomes a part of research programs in more and more fields, the need for good research data management also grows more acute. In this workshop learners will be introduced to conceiving of research data as part of a cyclical process of research, the research data life cycle. They will also be introduced to specific services that Columbia provides to help manage research data.

**Survey Data Analysis Using Stata**

This workshop is an introduction to basic descriptive and inferential analysis for survey data using Stata.