ANNUAL REPORT 2018

RESEARCH COMMONS
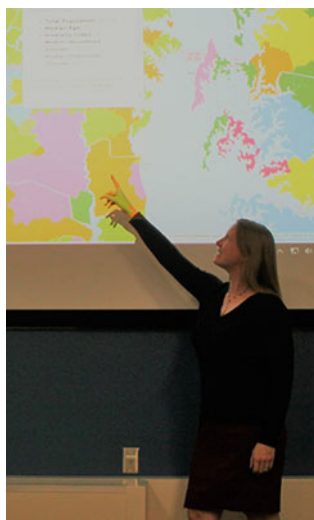
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
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RESEARCH & LEARNING

RESEARCH COMMONS

The Research Commons, which includes the GIS and Spatial Data Center, compiles resources to support high-level research under one umbrella, expanding the boundaries of the traditional library. Our mission is to connect and support university researchers in core areas such as research organization, statistical and geospatial analysis, and data visualization by providing spaces and services that meet and exceed user needs throughout the research cycle, including event series, workshops, panels, one-on-one consultations, and virtual services. We reach a broad audience through services and programming offered in both the STEM Library and the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library.

In 2018, the Research Commons continued to build partnerships and make connections among UMD entities to better support campus researchers. See what we've been up to in this report, including new and noteworthy collaborations, a record number of events and consultations, and strong workshop attendance, at McKeldin, STEM, MSPAL, Art, and Architecture.

2018
DATA
AT A GLANCE

118
EVENTS
including panels, discussions, and workshops were offered

1265
EVENT ATTENDEES
Recorded as *Confirmed* in online attendee tracking

365
CONSULTATIONS
provided by our team, booked using online services

1091
DOWNLOADS
of workshop materials, available to anyone on our website

230
SUBJECT SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS
scheduled with online calendaring widgets on the UMD Libraries website

12K+
PAGE VIEWS
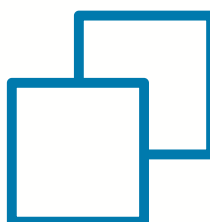on the Research Commons web pages with more than 9K unique page views

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

01
Research Commons' GIS & Spatial Data Center partners on three grants

- *Salt Water Intrusion Mapping with* UMD Plant Sciences on Eastern Shore
- Developing a *Wayfinding Mobile App* for library resources, led by the University of Illinois
- Building a Network for Informal Data Science Instruction with *SESYNC*

02
STATISTICAL CONSULTATIONS NEARLY TRIPLE IN NUMBER
- Statistical consultation appointments saw a 170% increase compared to 2017
- Expanded outreach strategies for statistical services include an improved online experience

03
OPENING OF GIS LAB
- After relocating the GIS Center In Fall 2017, we opened the GIS Lab in Spring 2018 with a series of 10 new and updated workshops and a Geospatial Researcher in Residence program.

04
KEY PLAYER IN CAMPUS-WIDE FACULTY ACTIVITY REPORTING PROJECT
- Developed and taught 2 new workshops to ensure faculty are well-positioned for 2019 Activity Insight rollout.
- Represented the Libraries on the Core Project Team, consulting on ORCID integration, Lyterati Data Cleaning, and publication import strategies.

05
WEB PRESENCE IMPROVES
- Re-vamped events and workshops webpages over Summer 2018, with additional updates in December 2018
- Collaborated with Communications Department to ensure a uniform approach for all Libraries' events.
- Updated site with a concentration on accessibility
- Workshop materials for Systematic Review, Data Science, Common Quandaries, and GIS all available online

COLLABORATION

In 2018, we continued our interdisciplinary efforts by collaborating with numerous units including Digital Systems and Stewardship, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Division of Research, the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy, the Office of Faculty Affairs, and the Graduate School Writing Center. Through collaboration, the Research Commons connects users with the resources they need, regardless of where they are available.

The Research Commons partners with us in the implementation of Activity Insight and it is a true partnership in every sense: They are fully engaged, working with us at every step.

SHARON GOODALL
ACTIVITY INSIGHT
FACULTY DATA SYSTEM
OFFICE OF FACULTY AFFAIRS

SPACES

Research Commons @McKeldin

Located on the 4th floor, the Research Commons continues to be expanded. Our current spaces include the GIS and Spatial Data Center, the Reading Room, the Graduate Student Multipurpose Room, and the Research Commons Study Space. McKeldin, home to many ongoing events, workshops, and collaborations, can look forward to an increase in panels and discussions in MCK 4123, as well as future improvements in the GIS Lab.

Research Commons @STEM

2018 saw an expansion of Research Commons services at the STEM Library. Nearly 30% of statistical consultations were held in STEM, and we continued to attract an interdisciplinary audience at four STEAM Salon talks covering a variety of topics such as utilizing machine learning to improve design, visualizing dancers, rising sea levels, and online privacy. New equipment is being added in the Makerspace @ the STEM Library, and we look forward to adding an Augmented Reality Sandbox in Summer 2019.

COMING SOON
Research Commons @MSPAL

While the Research Commons Space at MSPAL is still being developed, we saw a marked increase in RC programming there in 2018. Audience members were treated to "Songs and Sounds of the Korean War" when Hugo Keesing gave a *Speaking of Books* talk in May 2018, and a new crowd of graduate students were able to take advantage of our long-standing "Speed Geeking" workshop in September.

2018
WORKSHOPS

Common Quandaries focused on graduate writing, research, and publishing

Data Science Series featured data visualization and management, as well as software environments like *R* and *Python*

Systematic Review Workshop Series tailored to specific aspects of the systematic review process

GIS Workshop Series provided instruction on topics such as introductory GIS, spatial data, and Policy Map

▶ Offered 80 Graduate Workshops and 43 workshops from the newly opened GIS Lab

▶ Re-branded and merged workshops to create the *Data Science* Series in recognition of growing topic popularity

▶ UMD Website and LibCal Calendar updated with design improvements to ensure maximum accessibility and ease-of-use

▶ Awarded *Pepsi Enhancement Fund* grant for our *Speed Geeking* social event

> ❝
>
> *I was happy to make connections with other libraries on campus as well as to continue our collaboration with the Graduate Writing Center. We collaborated with the STEM library and the Performing Arts Library, as well as live streamed an Organizing Research and Using Citation Managers workshop! We were also awarded Pepsi Enhancement Funding for our Speed Geeking social event. Here, I was able to use my experience in the classroom to serve high level researchers in a different capacity.*
>
> ABBEY MORGAN
> GRADUATE ASSISTANT
> RESEARCH COMMONS
>
> *I was able to lead 20 GIS workshops for the Research Commons, many of which were in such high demand that they had a wait list. I really enjoyed introducing people to GIS and showing them all of the amazing things they could do with it, and look forward to leading and improving these workshops for next semester.*
>
> JULIA BELL
> GRADUATE STUDENT, WORKSHOP
> PROGRAM MANAGER & GEOSPATIAL
> PROJECT COORDINATOR

2018
EVENTS

In 2018, we continued to position the Research Commons as a center of intellectual life on campus. Through close collaboration with subject librarians, we planned and executed 9 *Speaking of Books*, 4 *STEAM Salons*, and 4 *Interdisciplinary Dialogues*, *attracting a* diverse audience into the Library to hear UMD researchers speak about their work. *Interdisciplinary Dialogues*, which features panel discussions on important topics by scholars from various disciplines, expanded its format and the number of events: Topics in 2018 included big data (a daylong conference); sex and gender in academia; the turbulent year of 1968; and open educational resources.

HIGHLIGHT
SPEAKING OFBOOKS

Speaking of Books hosted the 50th author in the series, Julie Taddeo. "Thanks to this series," she said, "authors across the disciplines have the opportunity to share their work with the UMD community and the larger public in a friendly, engaged environment."

SERVICES
SUPPORTING HIGH LEVEL RESEARCH

DATA/TEXT MINING

Support available for UMD Researcher to arrange access to datasets and text corpora, facilitating data analysis and visualization.

GIS/SPATIAL DATA CENTER

Supports all GIS users through workshops, guest lectures, consultations, and more

STATISTICAL CONSULTATIONS

Provides assistance via one-on-one consultations, in person and virtually, on various topics including statistical concepts, selection of procedures, survey design and analysis.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Expert searchers supporting systematic reviews for faculty, students, and research staff with a successful ongoing workshop series offered throughout the semester.

GIS
& SPATIAL DATA CENTER

- *799 clicks to download workshop materials*
- *213 in-person and virtual consultations*
- *14 instruction sessions in for-credit grad and undergrad classes*

The GIS & Spatial Data Center has become a valued and trusted resource for faculty, staff, students, and the surrounding community. Demand for geospatial services continues to grow in the form of instruction, project support, product creation, grant partnering, and collaborative research requests. The Center's website has proven to be a valuable virtual presence for the campus community.

> *A huge thanks to Dr. Kelley O'Neal and her staff at UMD Libraries for their assistance and guidance... I thought it was a great project, the students loved it - and they saw how useful ArcGIS & Storymaps could be to them in the future.*
>
> DR. KAREN LIPS, PROFESSOR
> DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

HIGHLIGHT
YEAR OF DATA SCIENCE INITIATIVE: SOFTWARE & DATA CARPENTRY

UMD Libraries and the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESNYC) have teamed up to build a cohort of certified Software and Data Carpentry instructors at UMCP. Awarded and sponsored by the UMD Year of Data Science initiative in 2018, the newly established cohort of Carpentries instructors will then coordinate a workshop series during the 2019 spring semester to teach data science skills across campus as part of the Year of Data Science.

STATISTICAL CONSULTATIONS

Staff
10.9%

PhD
10.9%

Undergrad
21.7%

170%

Increase in consults
from 2017 to 2018
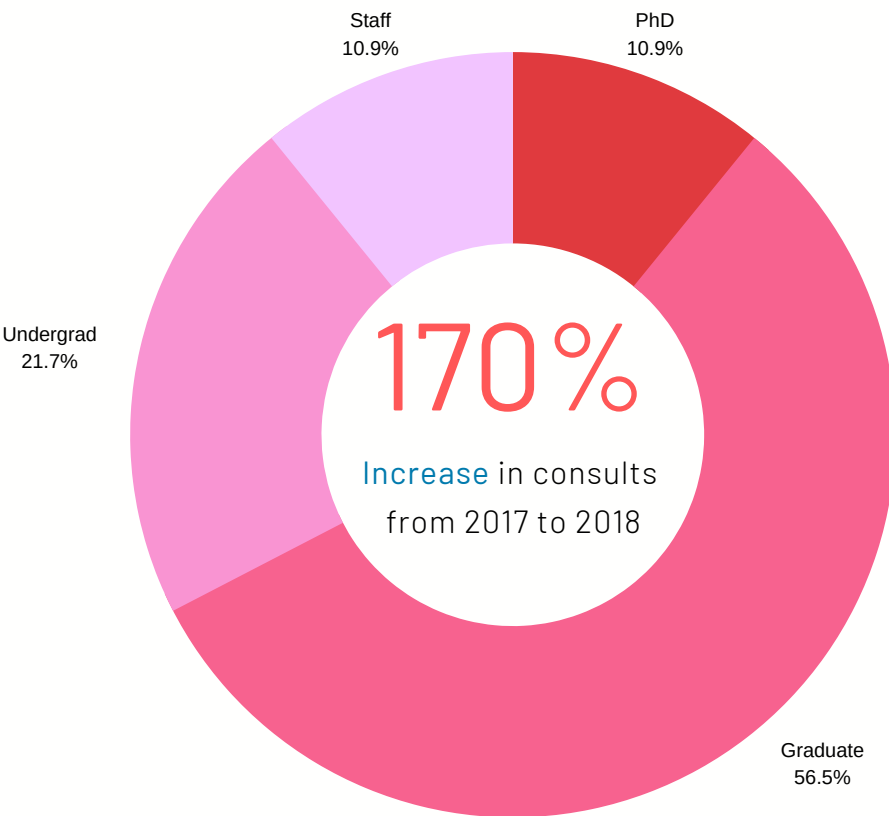
Graduate
56.5%

◄ Patrons

Our patrons came from various groups that are affiliated with UMD, including undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. The biggest group is graduate students, especially PhD students from non-statistical departments. A typical consultation lasted 45 minutes to an hour.

To ensure the smooth progress and efficiency of the consultations, the patrons were all contacted before their meeting to get details on their questions and datasets if available. Generally the patrons left the consultation with their questions solved or some direction in future work.

Topics ▶

Various topics related to statistical concepts and application were covered during consultations. Frequent topics included data cleaning, model selection and software coding. More than half of the consultations are related to a particular statistical software (though their consultations might not be entirely focused on software usage). Half of the patrons who have inquired about software asked about R coding, and the other software commonly mentioned includes SPSS, SAS, and STATA.

HLM6
1.2%

Medcalc
1.2%

STATA
11.9%

SAS
11.9%

~49%

asked about R Coding

R
48.8%

SPSS
22.6%
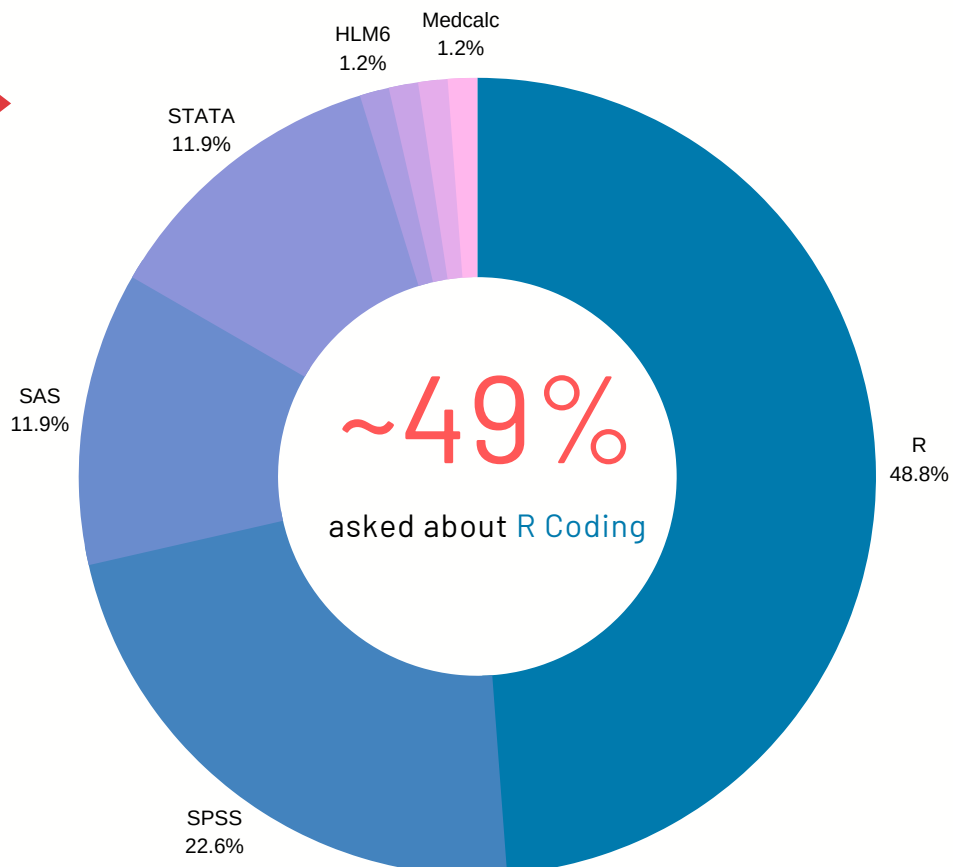
LOOKING AHEAD

In the Research Commons, we aim to support UMD researchers throughout the research cycle, leveraging technological resources and staff expertise to surpass user expectations. As we enter 2019, we continue to focus on connecting and collaborating to develop innovative, inclusive, and interdisciplinary programming for University researchers.

CONNECTION

In addition to offering established programming in several locations, the Research Commons is developing various workshops and events to not only connect our users, but to support the growing research community interest in data science, interdisciplinary learning, and geospatial systems. The UMD community can look forward to new MATLAB, LaTeX, and ORCID workshops, an *Interdisciplinary Dialogue* on Immigration issues for the *Year of Immigration*, GIS Center events for *Maryland Day*, and more.

COLLABORATION

Our success in 2018 was enhanced by collaborations with our talented UMD partners. As we look ahead, the Research Commons strives to establish collaborative partnerships aligned with the Libraries' mission and to provide meaningful experiences for our users. Continuing collaborations include *Building a Network for Informal Data Science Instruction*, offered in partnership with *SESYNC* and funded by the *Year of Data Science* initiative, along with a new addition to the Faculty Affairs APT workshop series that focuses on Research Impact.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All data found in this annual report was calculated using information from LibCal, Google Analytics, workshop surveys, and self-reporting. Special thanks to the UMD Libraries Communications Team for images, as well as the wonderful team of librarians, faculty, and staff that make our events and workshops possible.

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Director, Research and Learning

KELSEY CORLETT-RIVERA
Head, Research Commons

KELLEY O'NEAL
GIS & Spatial Data Librarian

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