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The Third Annual Science Boot Camp West for Librarians, Hosted by Stanford University Libraries

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It was a very productive two-and-a-half days at the [Science Boot Camp West 2015](#), hosted by Stanford University Libraries on July 27-29, 2015. The event featured [workshops and educational presentations delivered by scientists](#) with time for discussion and information sharing among all the participants. I enjoyed learning about innovative technologies not previously known to me that have been used in laboratories, classrooms, and research collaborations. The knowledge I gained offers great opportunities for me to reach out to colleagues, faculty, and researchers across the UC Irvine (UCI) campus for possible collaborations. I also had a wonderful time getting acquainted with other science and data librarians!

The first day's conference theme was *Perspectives from the Lab and Classroom*, presented by scientists from [Gladstone Institutes](#) and [Stanford University](#). [Dr. Kathy Ivey](#) highlighted the efficiencies and enhancements of using [LabGuru](#) in her laboratory over a traditional and troublesome manual recoding system. I found [Dr. Audrey Ellerbee's](#) presentation *Lighting the Way to Better Health* enlightening. She discussed the use of [Optical Coherence Tomography](#) (OCT), an emerging imaging technology for medical diagnosis. She further shared her experience using a knowledgebase management system to help in developing research ideas, collaborating with students, keeping projects and research papers moving consistently, tracking requests and purchases, and minimizing waste experiments. [Dr. Mark Smith](#), Head of the [Medicinal Chemistry Knowledge Center](#), provided an overview of his work on [ChEM-H](#). He further shared his experience assessing [Dotmatics](#), an Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN) tool that could integrate with data collection, enterprise querying and visualization tools for drug discovery in his Lab. Currently he and his collaborators from participating universities are building an academic version of ELN for use in Academic Drug Pipeline.

For the rest of the day, the product managers demonstrated how academic research laboratories used ELNs (Dotmatics, LabGuru, and LabArchives) to enhance research, collaboration, and teaching. The role of libraries and opportunities for librarians were also discussed. One of the participants, [Stephanie Simms](#), Research Data Specialist from the California Digital Library (CDL), summed up the opportunities in the [California Digital Library's DataPub Blog](#). In the late afternoon, I had the option to attend the LabArchives workshop where I learned one of our UCI faculty has been using the classroom version of LabArchives for her chemistry class.

On the second day of the conference, we learned about *Water Issues in the West*, led by three Stanford

faculty from [Water in the West](#), which I found very interesting and informative. Talking points included the drought challenges facing California, complexity of our water systems, preserving and removing contaminants in urban storm water to produce drinkable water, and the passage of the [Sustainable Ground Water Management Act of 2014](#). *Big Data* was the afternoon topic theme presented by Jaeho Sho, a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford. He introduced us to a new type of data processing system, [DeepDive](#), that has “the ability to extract structured SQL-like databases from unstructured text and tables (Dark Data) with higher quality than human annotators.” In other words, they built a machine that can do the reading for humans. DeepDive is currently in use in tracking applications in the fight against human trafficking, [MEMEX](#); [PaleoDeepDive](#); [GeoDeepDive](#) to extract data from journal articles; and [Wisci](#), an “encyclopedia by the machines, for the people.” Due to its ability to extract information from text, tables, figures, and images, I recognized that DeepDive might have the potential to enhance the functionality of diagnostic clinical decision support systems such as [VisualDx](#).

Software and Data Carpentry Tools for Researchers was the topic theme on the final half day of the Boot Camp. Drs. K.C. Huang and David Goldhaber-Gordon provided an overview and addressed the complexity of their research with the massive amount of data they collected. They shared the challenges dealing with large amounts of data. After their presentations, we learned about [Software Carpentry](#) and [Data Carpentry](#) from Tracy Teal, Executive Director of Data Carpentry, and [Amy Hodge](#), the Science Data Librarian at Stanford. They have been offering a [two-day workshop](#) teaching scientists basic software skills and tools for more effective and productive programming and data handling. These workshops are relatively inexpensive. With administrative support, my colleagues and I could request and organize [a software carpentry workshop](#) for our graduate students, researchers, and faculty at UCI.

My overall participant experience at the 2015 Boot Camp in the West was excellent! Kudos to the organizers (Helen Josephine, Suzanne Rose Bennett, Julia Gelfand, Jeffra Bussmann, and several others) and the sponsors (National Network of Libraries of Medicine – Pacific Southwest Region, Greater Western Library Alliance, Stanford University Libraries, SPIE, IEEE, Springer Science+Business Media, Annual Reviews, and Elsevier.) [Video recordings and slide presentations](#) for most meeting sessions are available.

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