

CDI 2016 Virtual Trainings Recap

CDI held a Virtual Training Series this summer in place of an in-person Annual Workshop.

What we did:

- Based on feedback from the CDI IdeaLab, workshop surveys, and CDI coordinator calls, we posed a [list of virtual training topics](#) for the CDI community to vote on.
- We selected the top three topics based on voting:
 - [Reviewing Metadata and Using Controlled Vocabularies](#)
 - [Version Control: Git, GitHub, and Stash \(now called Bitbucket\) & USGS Software Policy Update](#)
 - [Scientific Workflow and Reproducibility](#)
- We identified and recruited volunteer instructors (CDI coordinator comment: non-trivial)
- We held the trainings in July and August 2016
- We [posted the recordings, presentation materials, and Q&A on the wiki](#)

What we learned about the topics:

(a few highlights, definitely not comprehensive)

- Check out the [USGS Software Release Policy Live FAQ](#) to browse previous questions or add your own
- [Elements of a good metadata review](#)
- For reproducible research, Plan for reproducibility before you start.
- A new [Metadata Reviewers Community of Practice](#) in the USGS is getting started.

What we learned about hosting virtual trainings:

- Given the wide spectrum of attendees and their motivation for attending a training, there should be a clear distinction between USGS-focused trainings and external tools. This should be clarified in the announcements for the events.
- There is very high demand for relevant trainings on topics like these, especially in the evolving world of USGS data management and access.

A huge thanks to all of the volunteer instructors that stepped up to meet this need.

We'll be repeating this exercise in FY18 if not earlier, and look forward to hearing what topics CDI wants to learn about in the next training series!

--

[More CDI Blog posts](#)