

# SCIENCE BOOT CAMP: SUPPORTING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Megan Kocher, Meghan Lafferty, Scott Marsalis, Amy Neeser  
University of Minnesota Libraries

## BACKGROUND

The Science Boot Camp for Librarians is a multi-day, intensive event bringing together librarians to learn about science. The original model paired a speaker presenting a general overview of a scientific discipline with another presenting current research in the field.

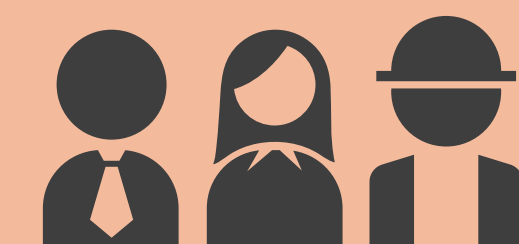


The University of Minnesota Libraries identified a regional need and decided to pilot our own take on the model. Rather than focus on basic science, we designed our program around interdisciplinary research with the intention of better understanding the roles libraries can play in supporting and promoting these efforts. Our pilot was a single day event for University of Minnesota system library staff.

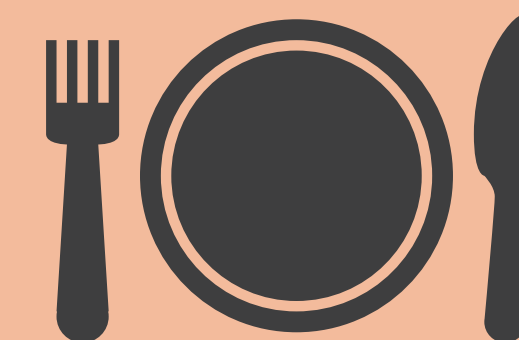
## THE EVENT

### The Setup

3 interdisciplinary researchers recruited from diverse areas of the sciences as speakers.

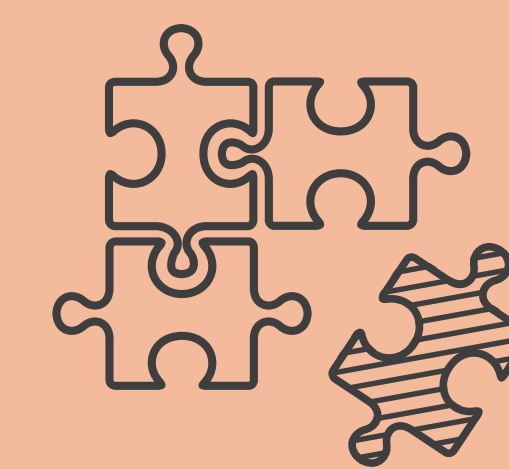


Each speaker gets 50 minutes to talk and take questions.



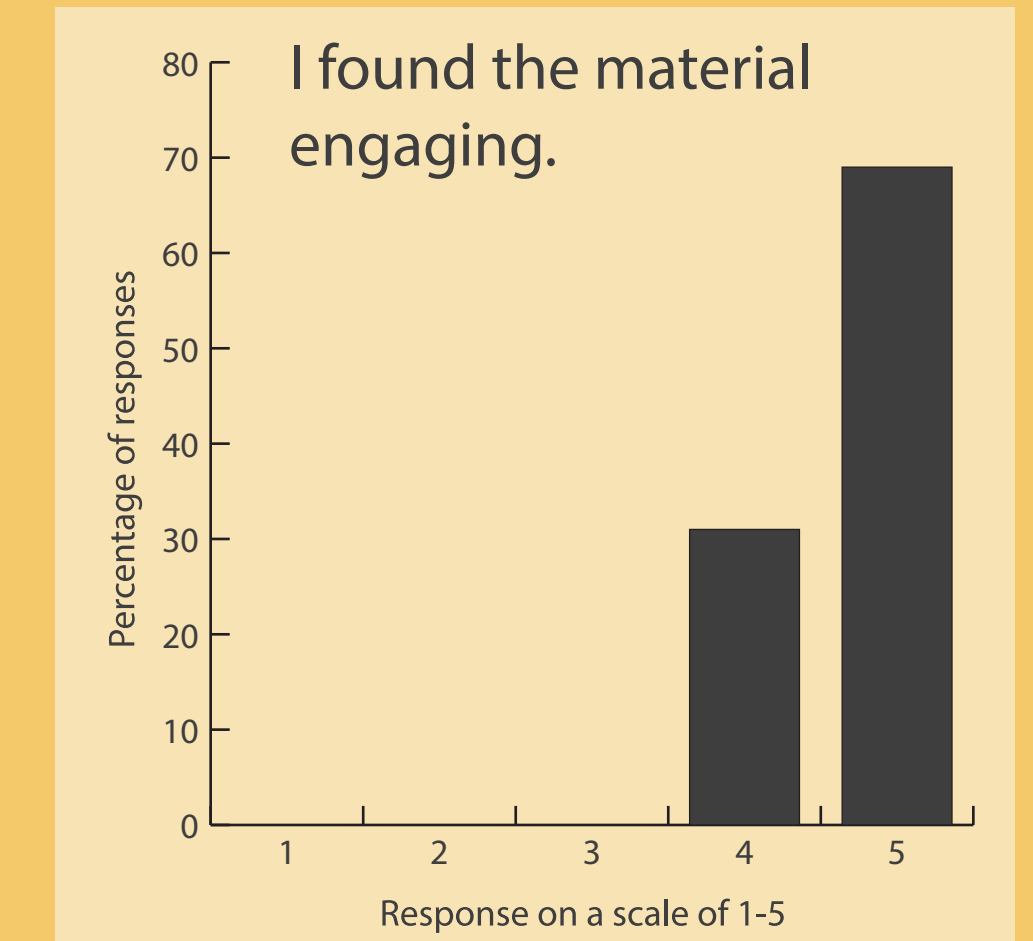
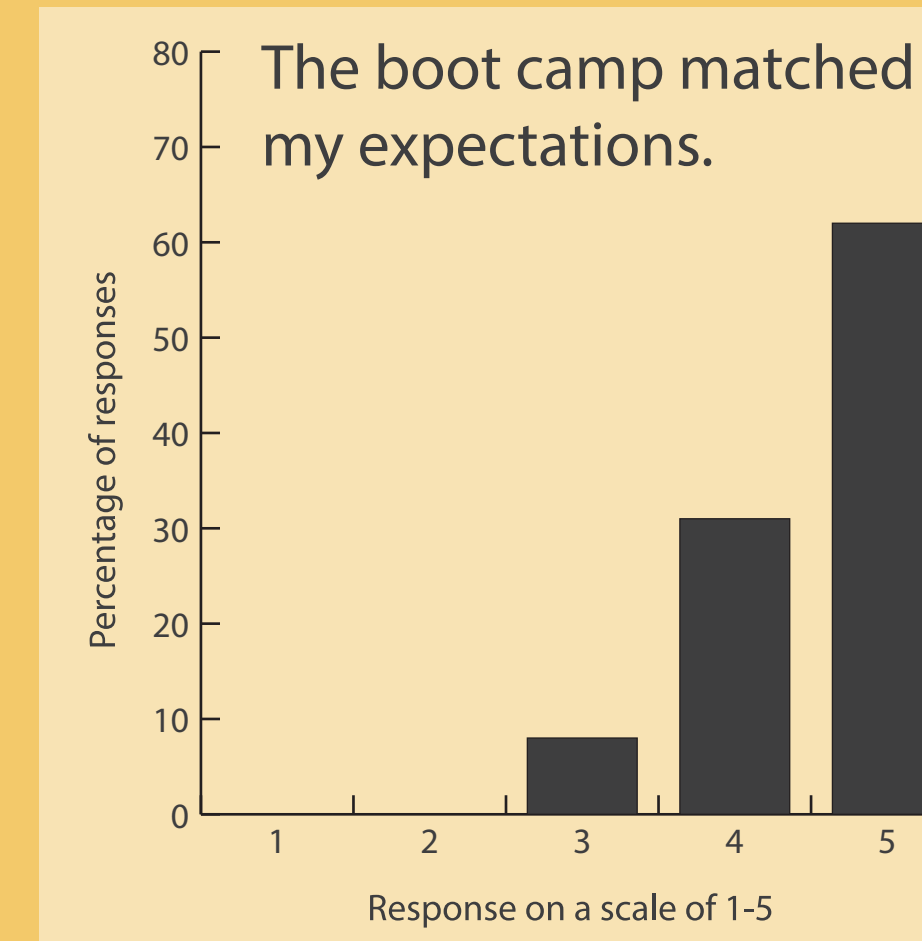
Participants eat a yummy lunch from a local cafe and discuss what they heard.

Speakers and participants reconvene to discuss how this applies to librarians.

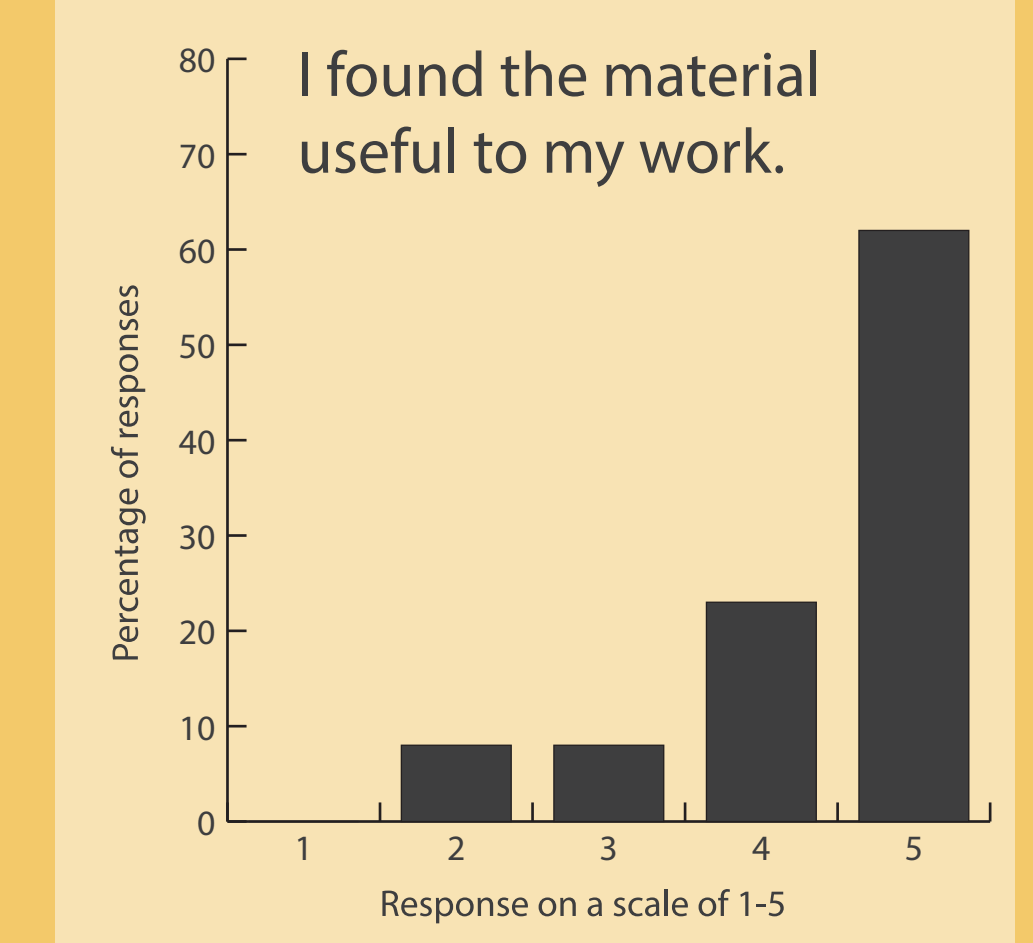


## FEEDBACK

We had 44 registrants from across the UMN system including 8 online. Participants were surveyed after the event. Thirteen participants (30%) responded to the survey.



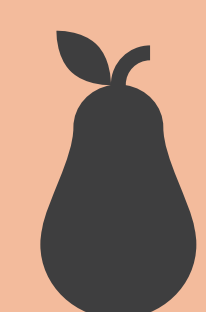
"I liked the variety of speakers' background and presentation styles. It was great that they not only represented three different domains, but that they represented different expected outcomes"



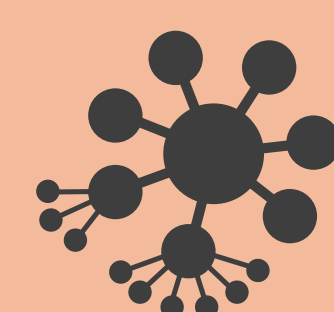
"I liked seeing the connections across disciplines from the eyes of the researchers. It was also a good experience to learn about how they see the research process and roles they see the library potentially playing."

## Discussion Prompts for Speakers:

- How do you see your own research activity and interests as they relate to interdisciplinarity at the University of Minnesota, especially any relationships to MnDRIVE?
- What have you found to be the most exciting and the most challenging in your work?
- What kinds of resources or support do researchers in your field need to continue advancing their work?
- How do you see the work of science librarians fitting into support for your research?



**Karen Everstine, PhD**  
Research Associate  
National Center for Food Protection and Defense  
Topic: food fraud



**Mihailo Jovanovic, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Topic: modeling dynamic distributed systems

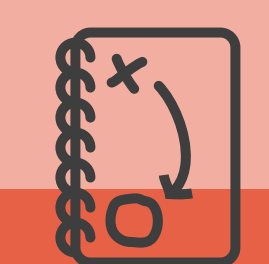


**David Redish, PhD**  
Distinguished McKnight University Professor in Neuroscience  
Topic: rat regret



## FUTURE PLANS

- Follow-up meetings were scheduled with boot camp speakers and subject liaisons/Interdisciplinary Research Initiative lead.
- The group is collaborating with other institutions to develop a larger regional boot camp for Summer 2015.
- Participants are integrating information learned into liaison and strategic activities.
- We plan to initiate further conversations with the other Science Boot Camp groups to look for overarching themes, topics, or possible actions.



## ATTRIBUTIONS

Pear designed by Edward Boatman from the thenounproject.com; Network designed by Jerry Wang from the thenounproject.com; Rat designed by Gilad Fried from the thenounproject.com; People designed by Reza Mostafand from the thenounproject.com; Clock designed by dylan voisard from the thenounproject.com; Place Setting designed by Stanislav Levin from the thenounproject.com; Puzzle designed by Kelcey Benne from the thenounproject.com; Speech Bubble designed by Daiya Nakano from the thenounproject.com; Library designed by Sathish Selladurai from the thenounproject.com; Sketchbook designed by Edward Boatman from the thenounproject.com