

**Gathering Geospatial Practitioners on Campus:
One Neophyte's Experience**

Lightning talk speaker notes - WAML Conference, September 2018

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I was new to campus and position - August 2016

In talking to "old hands" at GIS on campus, one suggested a brown bag

Brown bag outreach meshed with GIS Day poster outreach

Got ArcGIS license list; created spreadsheet with name, position, area of interest

Sent emails

First meeting: mid-October 2016

7 faculty and 2 staff

Since then: 96 individual attendees

Average 2017-18: 16

Lured in from: Outreach for & attendance at events

Word of mouth (including from other librarians)

Library social media, website, signage - includes Eventbrite

Who attends:

Faculty, campus staff, researchers, ITS (instructional design, site license administrators, student tech support), grant facilitators, Extension, GIS consultant, Esri staff

Postdocs, grad students, undergrads

Discussion: Campus coordination (no geography dept or other focal point)

Technology issues - having trouble with ____, what's the best software for _____

Instruction (classes, workshops) and other opportunities for students

Upcoming events

One year in: added 15 minute presentations / Q&A

Often have lingering side-conversations afterwards

Timing and Location: Often varies by quarter

Constant: 12:10 - 1:00 pm, held in a bookable library meeting room

Listserv: for core people

Includes Brown bag; other announcements, random fun/interesting geo-things
I maintain a couple of separate Outlook contact groups for more selective contact

Logistics: Calendar invite 2 weeks prior
 Reminder email day before
 Type up and distribute notes
 Takes 4-5 hours/month

Positive Outcomes: Technical and other solutions
 Community / connections
 A student GIS club is forming as an offshoot
 Chance to present

Secret sauce: Communication and organization
 I try to be proactive and responsive to community
 Keep it casual
 Mutual gratitude