

#### Kirsty Pringle

#### RSE Theme Lead for N8CIR

Centre for Environmental Modelling And Computation

University of Leeds

https://n8cir.org @N8CIR

#### N8 Computationally Intensive Research

The aim of N8 CIR is to help N8 researchers gain a competitive edge in their research.

Two themes: Digital Health and Digital Humanities.

Hold local meetings to identify the common needs of these communities.





### What might an RSE be able to do?

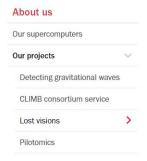
- **1. Training -** Do researchers lack skills in particular program languages? Could this be address via workshops or would one-to-one training be better? Training could be on something like version control, which helps with making sure data is reproducible in the future.
- 2. Software Are there common software packages that you would like to use but can't get running? Are some codes you use slow, would making them faster help? Help with visualising data? Documenting code that has multiple users? Future proofing software to ensure that invested time isn't wasted in the future.
- **3. Hardware** Do you have a computer system that you would like to use but that isn't set up for your requirements? New packages need installed, increased security required for sensitive datasets? Access to supercomputers perhaps your software could run faster on a supercomputer?
- **4. Websites:** Would an interactive website help? Something that allows users to explore the data? Or collect data from users? Code that automatically collects data from websites e.g. twitter?
- **5. Datasets:** Are there datasets that many people use that are tricky to work with? e.g. some of the health datasets. Would a different format be better? A tool to pull out the relevant data?



Digital Humanities researchers at Kings College London were looking for software to improve their analysis of text-based data. The only suitable product available was <a href="TextGrid">TextGrid</a>, an internet-based collaborative environment that offered tools and services for the analysis of texts stored in digital archives. TextGrid, however, had been written specifically to run on the German national grid service, <a href="D-Grid">D-Grid</a>. It was therefore decided to create a new, easy to use version specifically for humanities researchers across in the UK.



The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership has been established at UCL with the generous support of the Hutchins Center at Harvard. The Centre will build on two earlier projects based at UCL tracing the impact of slave-ownership on the formation of modern Britain: the ESRC-funded Legacies of British Slave-ownership project (2009-2012), and the ESRC and AHRC-funded Structure and significance of British Caribbean slave-ownership 1763-1833 (2013-2015).



#### Lost visions



Researchers are working to make thousands of neglected images dating back to the 18th century available for the public to search online and find out more about how they have shaped our culture.



# Aim of this meeting - Identify the barriers in the research process



What would you wish for?

- 1. Where are the roadblocks / inefficiencies in your research process which we could help with?
- 2. Where would you like to see resources targeted?
- 3. Document a list of known issues. We need (i) and idea of how many people are affected, and (ii) enough details to understand the bottlenecks

At this stage - be bold, and take a broad scope!



## After this meeting

- N8CIR management meeting 14<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Look for common themes amongst Digital Humanities researchers across the N8.
- Write a roadmap / plan of work
- April 2019 RSEs will be assigned tasks.
- Jan 2020 Review of Impact on research output and efficiency.