Short Course: Interactive Web-Based Visualizations and Decision Support Tools in Shiny/R for Quantitative Scientists

Time of Event:
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 - 09:00 to Friday, May 15, 2020 - 17:00

In trying to close the disconnect between science and decision making, an important challenge is translating scientific findings into interpretable results and tools that decision makers can use. Web applications (in contrast to traditional desktop programs) are particularly useful because they function across platforms, are widely available to and easily accessed by a wide range of users without installing additional software, and are free at the point of use. Traditionally, the development of interactive web applications required coding in JavaScript, HTML, and CSS. The Shiny package in R is a novel development framework that enables users to create interactive web applications using only the R programming language. Because R is a popular computer programming language that many scientists regularly use for data analysis (among other purposes), Shiny enables a relatively straightforward transition from standard scientific workflows involving data analysis, modeling, and visualization to the prototyping of decision-support tools.

Web-based interactive tools can facilitate stakeholder engagement and provide greater transparency in decision making, which can be particularly useful for controversial topics. By promoting greater involvement as well as a shared understanding of trade-offs that are often unavoidable among different scenarios, these decision support tools can help forge a path forward for wicked problems.

This course aims to introduce quantitative scientists interested in socio-environmental synthesis to Shiny/R as a way of shrinking the gap between information generation in science and policy making or public outreach through the creation of web-based tools.

To learn more about the Short Course, click here [1].

Event type: Project Meeting
Event Attendance: Private Working Group

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