

Fostering Data Literacy: Helping People Be Curious and Confident

Tuesday morning, 9:15 - 10:45 a.m.

NNIP partners play a crucial role in building [community data capacity](#), including data literacy for individuals. If people have practice in asking the right questions as they interpret data, they will be better equipped to make informed decisions and engage meaningfully with the information around them. This panel discussion will feature NNIP peers sharing their insights on this nurturing curiosity and confidence in data use in their communities.

Partners define data literacy in different ways, using different terms, and for different audiences. While we do not need one common NNIP definition, we do want to encourage Partners' definitions to include practical skills for critical thinking about data and data sources and applying the data to benefit neighborhoods, not only accessing data on a website or understanding a margin of error. Whatever the definition, we know partners build data literacy in a variety of ways: training curriculum, fellowship programs, events, and/or technical assistance.

The purpose of this session is to promote a broad definition of data literacy and share lessons about engaging different audiences to increase their confidence and curiosity about data. We hope the conversation will provide inspiration and concrete examples for NNIP partners to promote data literacy within their communities.

Three panelists will discuss their data literacy efforts and explore how NNIP partners can promote data literacy within their own contexts. Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Director of the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, will moderate the session. Following the panel discussion, there will be a Q&A session, and attendees will have the opportunity to engage with partners at their tables to discuss how to apply these lessons and skills in their own work.

Panelists:

- **Stephanie Quesnelle** is a Senior Research Analyst and Project Lead at Data Driven Detroit. She developed and implemented [Detroit's Data University](#) and developed an array of data explainers during COVID for the community. One of her greatest passions at D3 is providing data literacy support through AskD3, blog posts, and workshops.
- **Liz Monk** directs Community Engagement and Special Projects at the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research and is the project manager for [Civic Switchboard](#), which works to connect libraries and community information networks. She has extensive experience in creative ways of helping people build their data literacy skills.

- **Amy Carroll-Scott** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention at the Drexel Dornsife School of Public Health. While at UCLA, she directed and evaluated a statewide initiative which provided courses in research skills and health assessment methodology for community leaders in underserved communities. In Philadelphia, she has built resident data literacy through their work with the Promise Neighborhood, and now is thinking about the data literacy plans as the coordinator of the NIH [ComPASS Coordination Center for Health Equity](#).

Questions:

- What role do you see your organization playing in increasing data literacy? What other groups are involved?
- What are approaches that would work or already work in your community?
- How could data literacy programming enhance existing projects or efforts?
- What are the gaps and impediments to data literacy programs?
- How have you assessed the effectiveness of data literacy programs?
- What are ways the network can share practices and lessons?

NNIP Strategic Framework Connections:

- Goal: A stronger and expanded NNIP network supports influence and impact in NNIP cities and nationally.
- Strategy: Increase visibility and understanding of the network's values, approach, and insights among our target audiences.

Resources:

- [Detroit's Data Literacy](#): A page with many Data Driven Detroit workshops, blog posts, and video tutorials on topics such as margin of error, conscious data consumption, and data collection biases. They also have a [summary](#) of available workshops including tutorials on accessing data, data analysis, and storytelling.
- [Adoptability and Reusability of Data and Digital Literacy Materials](#) (Civic Switchboard)
- [Core Principles for Adult Learning](#): worksheet from Global Learning Partners
- [Thinking Critically When Using Indicators about Young People](#)": A guide with key questions to consider when selecting and interpreting indicators about young people but is applicable across age groups and issues.
- [NNIP's Data and Tech Training Catalog](#): This searchable catalog includes descriptions of training courses that advance data and technology literacy and downloadable materials for primarily in-person training (circa 2016).

- [Integrating Community Knowledge into Data Analytics](#) (Case Western Reserve University, aimed at data science students): Their FAIR2 framework complements the ethical standards of [FAIRification](#) (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles (Wilkinson et al., 2016) with a set of four additional principles (Frame, Articulate, Identify, Report) specific to working with social data for social impact.
- [Data Literacy Course \(Re\)Design Institute](#) (Tulane University): A syllabus to provide faculty the knowledge and resources to (re)design a course infused with data literacy principles.
- [Data Literacy Camp Notes | NNIP \(neighborhoodindicators.org\)](#): Notes from the NNIP Oakland Camp Session in November 2023.