

Planting the Seed:

How to Teach Yourself Digital Tools

<http://go.unc.edu/BDSC-TeachYourself>

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What is this session about?

1. Choosing a tool
2. Strategizing a plan
3. Integrating skills
4. Finding accountability
5. Setting goals
6. Getting help + resources



1. What
2. Why
3. Where
4. Who
5. When
6. How

What to expect:

We will NOT:

- Learn secret tricks
- Develop technical skills
- Overcome all of the obstacles

We WILL:

- Think through process
- Plan and strategize
- Work through potential challenges

0.

You're doing a difficult thing

Acknowledge the Challenge



You may be worried about...

- No deadlines
- No teacher
- Expected to teach and/or troubleshoot
- Feeling like you're learning slowly
- No immediate consequences if you give up

1.

What

What kind of tool do you need to succeed?



How do I find out about new tools?

- Ask peers
- Ask a supervisor or mentor
- Look at conference proceedings
- Try a search engine, Twitter, Slack
- Test all the options

2.

Why

Why this tool? How is this going to help you?



Choosing Carefully

You may want to...

- Stay up-to-date
- Become more efficient
- Help others with the tool
- Teach the tool
- Be able to participate in new projects
- Develop professionally

Stuck? Try:

- Web development for a personal website
- Data visualization
- Project management tools (Trello, Basecamp, etc.)



Try it:

Work through **What** and **Why** sections of your plan:

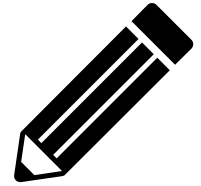
- What type of tool?
- Why? What will you use it for?
- How do you know that this is the tool to learn?

Then share with your neighbors!

3.

Where

What's your setting? How does this fit in with your life or work?



Integration

How does this tool fit into your work/life?

- Add it into existing systems
- Tie it into long-term goals
- Add it to an upcoming project
- Is there a reward?

4.

Who

Are you really working alone? What is keeping you accountable?

Accountability: Don't go it alone!

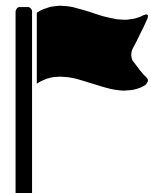


Work with others:

- Set up working meetings or accountability lunches with others
- Find a learning community
- Who is assessing your work?

Share with others:

- Friends or family
- Twitter/Facebook/Instagram
- Your boss or coworkers



Find a lifeline

Where can you go for help?

- Colleagues
- Find friends (including here!)
- Online forums

Try it:



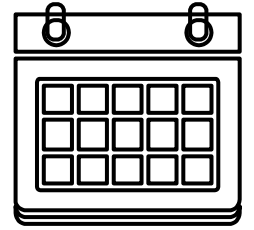
Complain train:

1. What's your biggest obstacle? Share with your neighbors!
2. Take the second 4 minutes to brainstorm workarounds.

5.

When

What's the timeline? What are your goals?



Goals:

1. Decide on major, measurable milestones
2. Set lots of smaller sub-goals
3. Set specific due dates
4. Document everything!

6.

How

How are you going to tackle the nuts and bolts?

Everyone learns differently

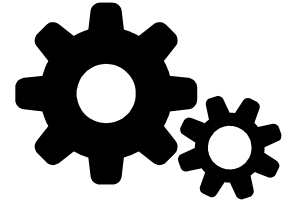
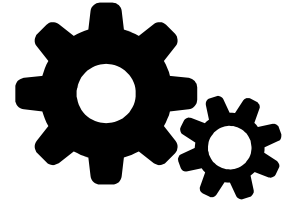


Figure out what works for you and lean into it!

- Video tutorials
- Academic papers or documentation
- Problem-solving
- One-on-one instruction
- Group instruction



Get hands-on!

- Assign yourself a project
- Create fake data
- Click all the buttons
- Try and break something

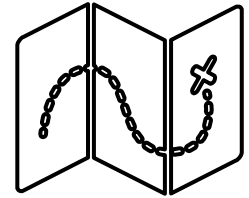
Try it:



Talk with your neighbors:

Brainstorm your learning style and use that to set a goal and/or milestone!

- What kind of resources help you learn?
- How are you going to get hands-on?
- How can you turn those into achievable and measurable goals?



Try it:

Resource Sharing

1. Go to this link: <http://go.unc.edu/BDSC-resource-sharing>
2. Add the tools you'd like to learn
3. Add learning resources you know for others' tools

Thank you!

Questions?

Get in touch:

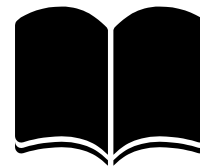
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Reading and References:



-  “Encouraging Continuous Learning for Librarians and Library Staff” by Emy Nelson Decker (2017)
-  *Better than Before: What I Learned About Making and Breaking Habits* by Gretchen Rubin. (2015)
-  “DIY SKILLS: Upgrading for the Teaching Librarian” by Ashley Lierman, A. R. (2015)
-  “Tips for Learning Tools for Librarians” by Laurie Allen (2016)
-  *When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing* by Daniel Pink (2017)
-  “Bridging the Gap: Self-Directed Staff Technology Training” by Kayla Quinney, Sara Smith, and Quinn Galbraith (2010)

Keywords to try:

independent study, self-regulation, continuing education, self-directed learning, self-instruction **26**