

An example of a CPD submission by an experienced government statistician

Commentary

The attached submission was made by a CSci registrant who was selected for audit as part of the CSci revalidation process in 2011. The submission consists of:

- a. A 12 month summary (October 2010 to September 2011 inclusive) of the CPD programme taken from the RSS online CPD system.
- b. A completed *Chartered Scientist CPD Revalidation Form*. This form contains the relevant context and reflection information necessary to assess the CPD activity against the Science Council's standards.

As this registrant had used the RSS online CPD system, as well as the submitted CPD summary (which uses the *Reviewed Activities* report from the system) the panel of assessors also had access to the *Benefits Gained* report from the system which shows the reflective practice comments describing the benefits of each activity.

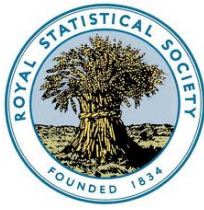
The panel of assessors concluded that this submission fully met the Science Council CPD standards, including the requirements of the RSS CPD Policy.

The submission has been (partially) anonymised for the purpose of providing this exemplar of good CPD practice.

CPD Summary (October 2010 to September 2011)

Activity Type	Title	Start Date	End Date	Learning Hours
Self-directed learning	OpenTech 2010 conference	11/09/2010	11/09/2010	3
Self-directed learning	Learnt to use Many Eyes	13/10/2010	02/11/2010	6
Professional activity	RSS Local Group meeting: Environmental Accounts	20/10/2010	20/10/2010	1
Self-directed learning	Used OpenHeatMap	27/10/2010	28/10/2010	3
Professional activity	SRA xxxx Seminar 'Problem-Solving for Safer Communities xx xxxx : The Role of Social Science'	28/10/2010	28/10/2010	0
Work based learning	xxx Knowledge Services conference	15/11/2010	15/11/2010	1
Work based learning	Census Users Group: methodological tutorial on Census coverage and estimation	23/11/2010	23/11/2010	4
Self-directed learning	Used Needlebase	26/11/2010	28/12/2010	6
Work based learning	Language Rich Europe partners' meeting	02/12/2010	03/12/2010	6
Formal / Educational	Python programming course	17/01/2011	17/01/2011	30
Work based learning	Created Motion Charts in Google docs	21/01/2011	04/02/2011	2
Work based learning	Our Languages in Europe: launch	25/01/2011	25/01/2011	1
Work based learning	Presentation at xxxx conference	29/01/2011	29/01/2011	1
Formal / Educational	Data Mining Techniques course	09/02/2011	10/02/2011	12
Work based learning	Census 2011 Outputs roadshow	25/02/2011	25/02/2011	4
Formal / Educational	The Office of Language Commissioner: The xxxx Model from a Canadian Perspective	31/03/2011	31/03/2011	0
Self-directed learning	Python/sqlite	14/04/2011	14/04/2011	4
Self-directed learning	Explored use of NESS NDE2 API	16/04/2011	03/05/2011	8
Self-directed learning	Explored Python Data Science Tool Kit	23/04/2011	23/04/2011	2
Other	Contributed item to xxxx .com	07/05/2011	07/05/2011	1.5
Formal / Educational	Open Data Master Class	01/06/2011	01/06/2011	2

Self-directed learning	Use of Google Refine extension: reconcile with SPARQL endpoints	02/06/2011	02/06/2011	1.5
Professional activity	RSS meeting	28/06/2011	28/06/2011	1
Formal / Educational	xxxx conference	29/06/2011	29/06/2011	4
Formal / Educational	Analysis of Ordinal Categorical Data course	20/07/2011	21/07/2011	12
Other	Translation of WhatDoTheyKnow website	30/07/2011	30/07/2011	8
Self-directed learning	Learnt to use ggplot2	08/08/2011	22/08/2011	8
Work based learning	Meeting of xxxx Statistical Liaison Committee	08/09/2011	08/09/2011	1.5
Work based learning	xxxx Government Statistics Forum, Sept 2011	13/09/2011	13/09/2011	2
Work based learning	Workshop on migration organised by xxxx	14/09/2011	14/09/2011	3
Work based learning	ONS 2011 Census Roadshow	20/09/2011	20/09/2011	4.5



Chartered Scientist CPD Revalidation Form
[For use by Royal Statistical Society]

the
SCIENCE
council

Name: xxxxx
RSS Membership No: xxxxxxx
Email address: xxx.xxx@xxx.com

This form is provided for you to assess your CPD activities over the 12 month period October 2010 to September 2011 inclusive and demonstrate that you meet the CPD standards for CSci revalidation.

General guidance on the revalidation process can be found on the CSci website at <http://www.charteredscientist.org/about-csci/cpd-and-revalidation> .

Specific guidance for the revalidation of Chartered Scientists registered through the Royal Statistical Society can be found at www.rss.org.uk/csci_revalidation .

SECTION 1: Career Status & Job Role

Provide a brief summary of your career status and job role during the 12 month period (October 2010 to September 2011). Provide sufficient detail to give an understanding of the scope of your role and the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the role. This will enable the relevance of your CPD activities to your current job role and future career progression to be understood.

It is recommended that your summary is between 100 and 250 words.

I am the sole statistician employed at xxxxx which I joined formally on 1 September having worked there for the past 8 years on secondment from xxxxx. I had been a Statistician within the civil service since promotion in 1983.

I have no supporting staff or management responsibility within xxxxx. My role is to represent xxxxx in all statistical matters and to provide statistical advice and analysis to the organisation.

My representation activities over the past year have included membership of the Census Advisory Group for xxxxx and of the xxxxx Statistical Liaison Committee of the xxxxx.

My other activities are largely technical and varied. They can include commissioning surveys and their subsequent analysis. For example, in the past year I personally designed, despatched and analysed 2 e-mail surveys incorporating on-line questionnaires and involving around 1,000 returns. Analysis included exploratory data analysis, including factor analysis and mapping. I also established a SQL database for a small internal data collection of administrative data involving several sites, and advised on the undertaking of an observational survey in one locality and provided an Access database. My role extends to data cleaning, validation, analysis and report writing in both cases.

Data on xxxxx is collected in many surveys, including the census of population, the schools' pupil level database (PLASC), national curriculum assessments, the annual population survey, etc, all of which I advise on and analyse.

SECTION 2: Summary of CPD activities & the RSS CPD Policy

Have you used the RSS online CPD system to record your individual CPD activities over the 12 month period October 2010 to September 2011? **(Yes/No) ...Yes.....**

If **Yes**, you can leave this section blank and go to Section 3.

If **No**, please complete this Section.

The information that is required in this Section is:

- a) The nature of the system you have used to record your CPD (e.g. employer's system, self-created spreadsheet, etc).
- b) Information to supplement your summary of CPD activities.

Separate to this document you will be required to provide a copy of the summary of CPD activities from the system you have used. This summary may not provide all the information necessary to confirm that you have satisfied the requirements of the RSS CPD Policy (go to www.rss.org.uk/cpd for details). In this section provide any additional information that may be required to supplement your summary. For example, it may be necessary to clarify that you have carried out activities in at least 3 of the 5 categories of activity described in the RSS CPD Policy and/or that you have undertaken at least 60 learning hours.

a) CPD system used :

b) Additional information necessary to confirm compliance with RSS CPD Policy :

SECTION 3: Reflection on benefit to professional practice

Please provide examples of how your CPD activity has contributed to the quality of your professional practice and service delivery.

Those of you who have used the RSS online CPD system to record your activities will have commented on how each individual activity has benefited your practice. The purpose of this Section is for you to reflect on how, in combination, the programme of CPD activities you have undertaken in the 12 month period have maintained or enhanced your professional skills and knowledge in order for you to fulfil the requirements of your job role or progress your career.

It is recommended that your summary is between 100 and 250 words.

During the past 12 months I have made a special effort to widen my knowledge of what is becoming known as "Data science". In particular I've worked at gaining some familiarity of both a variety of data visualisation software and software providing means (new to me) of accessing data from on-line sources. This has undoubtedly been of benefit to my professional practice as I now have several new tools in my toolkit.

Some of my experimentation proved of immediate benefit to both my practice and survey delivery but I also feel that I have gained a better appreciation of trends in data science and that I'm well placed to spot opportunities to use new IT approaches to data collection, analysis and dissemination.

I've been able to follow relevant developments in the analysis of the use of social media through having experimented in collecting tweets (using a Python program written using Scrapperwiki) and text mining using a R package, and I anticipate possibilities for using similar techniques personally in the work context.

SECTION 4: Reflection on benefit to users of your service

Please provide examples of how your CPD activity has benefited the users of your work (e.g. employers, clients, colleagues, students, etc).

Those of you who have used the RSS online CPD system to record your activities will have commented on how each activity has benefited users of your service. The purpose of this Section is for you to reflect on how, in combination, the programme of CPD activities you have undertaken in the 12 month period have enabled you to better deliver to users of your service (e.g. complete projects, give advice to clients, make decisions, manage your group, supervise colleagues, teach students, etc.)

It is recommended that your summary is between 100 and 250 words.

Through knowledge I've gained in the past year I've been able to provide some novel analyses and presentations of results and data, including some based on data garnered using new approaches. With the newly gained knowledge and expertise I've also been able to provide advice in some new fields and been able to follow developments in a more informed manner.

For example, I used techniques learnt in the two statistical courses I attended, for a latent class analysis of attitudes and of pupil performance. Visualisations prepared using OpenHeatMaps, Many Eyes and Motion Charts were disseminated and some incorporated in presentations. Some on-line maps were produced (using Yahoo Pipes, ScraperWiki, and Google maps), based on linked or scraped data. New insights have been gained from some of these analyses, and being able to demonstrate that such analyses are being produced brings some prestige to the organisation. One OpenHeatMap, for example, was incorporated in a newspaper's web site.

SECTION 5: Summary of supporting evidence that is available, and can be provided on request.

Only complete this Section if you are included in the Audit.
Otherwise go to Section 6.

Please provide a list of documents that you hold in your CPD portfolio and that provide evidence of the activities undertaken. It is not expected that you will have documents for all activities (particularly the more 'informal' activities), but it is expected that most of the key activities will have such documentary evidence.

There is no need to provide these documents, unless requested to do so by the panel of assessors undertaking the Audit process.

Activity title or brief description	Evidence of activity i.e. certificates of attendance, course material, reports, research papers
OpenTech 2010 conference	Receipt and conference timetable
Learning to use ManyEyes	url
Used OpenHeatMap	url
Used Needlebase	url
Language Rich Europe, Vilnius meeting:	Confirmation of attendance
Created Motion Charts in Google docs	url
Presentation at x Conference	url
Data mining techniques course:	Receipt, timetable and course notes
Census 2011 Outputs roadshow (February):	Papers
Open Data Master Class:	Agenda
XXXX Conference	Papers
Analysis of Ordinal Categorical Data course	Certificate of attendance
XXXX Statistical Liaison Committee 8 Sept 2011:	Agenda
XXXX migration workshop:	Agenda and PowerPoint presentation
Census 2011 Sept 2011 roadshow:	Papers
Python programming course	Module Assessment Form
Learnt to use Ggplot2	Copies of charts produced for reports

Section 6: Declaration

This Section is to be completed by all CSci registrants.

I hereby agree that the information given is correct and supports my wish to revalidate as a Chartered Scientist (CSci).

Please tick the box below to indicate your agreement to the declaration.

I agree to the declaration ✓

Print name: XXXX

Date: 21 October 2011