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Knowledge building and roles in Citizen Science – findings from the CS Track survey 2021

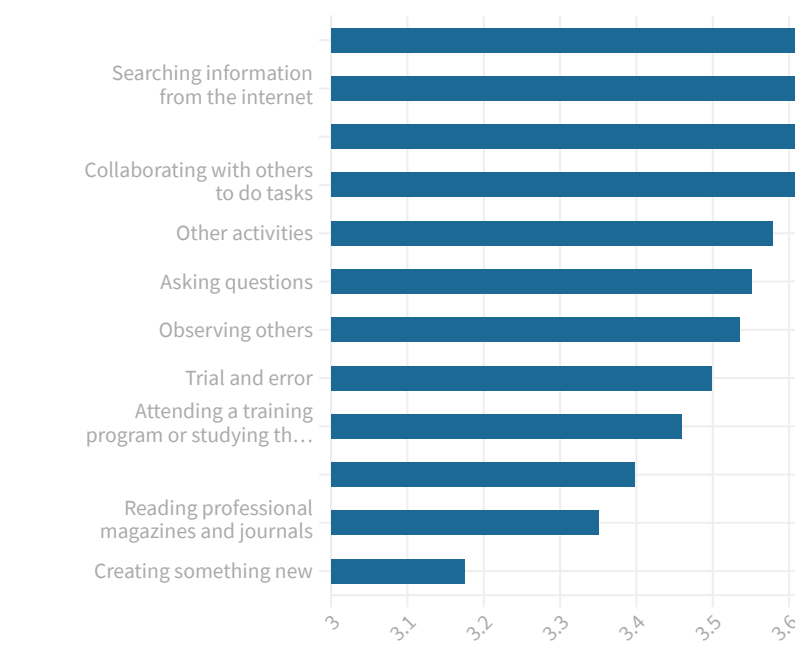BY AARON PELTONIEMI, HELI KAUPPINEN, RAIJA HÄMÄLÄINEN AND JONI LÄMSÄ | OCT 29, 2021 | GRAPHICAL ARTICLE

⧗ Reading Time: 3 minutes

> Talking and interacting with others, searching for information from the Internet and reflecting on previous knowledge and actions were the three types of activities in which learning was most often reported.

> When looking at the adopted roles and activities, citizen scientists felt like they had learned the most while searching for information from the Internet. In turn, individuals who adopted leadership roles, such as being the leader of a CS project, felt like they had learned the most while talking and interacting with others.

CS provides the public and professionals with opportunities to have a variety of learning experiences as they engage in different social and scientific activities. Interestingly, of the 12 different activities identified in a recent *CS Track survey*[1] in which CS participants reported learning experiences, interaction with others and the search for information online as well as personal reflection were the three reported activities that provided the most significant

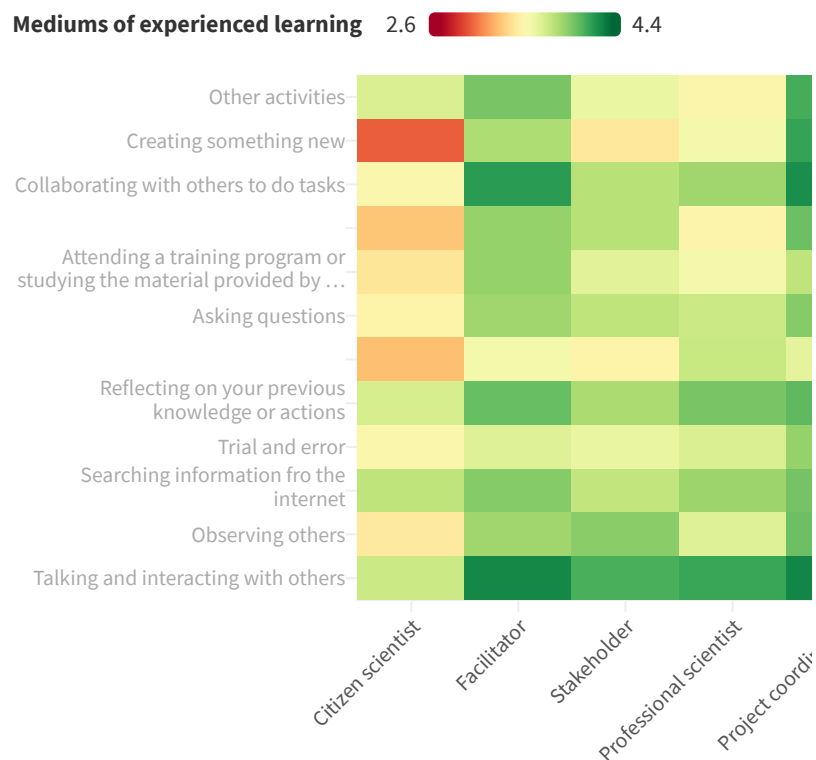PRIVACY POLICY AND COOKIES

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Activities reported to offer the most significant learning experience

Figure 1. Activities reported to offer the most significant learning experience.

🟊 **A Flourish chart**

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Mediums of experienced learning   2.6 [color scale] 4.4

Other activities
Creating something new
Collaborating with others to do tasks
Attending a training program or studying the material provided by …
Asking questions
Reflecting on your previous knowledge or actions
Trial and error
Searching information fro the internet
Observing others
Talking and interacting with others

Citizen scientist · Facilitator · Stakeholder · Professional scientist · Project coordi…

☀ **A Flourish data visualization**

Figure 2. Heatmap.

How to interpret this data

CS activities also require participants to adopt different roles throughout a project, and these roles may shape their overall learning experience. This was also evident in the CS Track survey, which found that those *who* [2] functioned as citizen scientists experienced the most learning through searching online for information. In contrast, those who served in managerial positions, such as managers and coordinators, experienced the most learning through interaction with others.

The slight difference in values between the tables is attributable to the fact that some respondents indicated adopting more than one role in CS projects.

Data Source

Based on the analysis collated in July of a survey conducted by the CS Track team from January until July 2021 in which adult citizen scientists (16 years or older) were asked to

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Audience: Academics | Citizen Scientist | Educators

Categories: Graphical article

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