

Please let us ([Laura Norén](#), [Brad Stenger](#)) know if you have something to add to the newsletter. We are grateful for financial support from the Academic Data Science Alliance.

2019 newsletter stats

The past year was full of challenges. We saw increasing interest in the social impact of AI and data science; increasing demand for computer science training; increasing evidence that the impacts of climate change will be significant and upon us sooner than we thought; increasing fiscal pressure on universities that may or may not be linked to universities taking money from morally questionable donors (e.g. Jeffrey Epstein, the Sackler family), high rates of anxiety and depression among grad students and postdocs, and protests against campus leadership. The momentum continues to build toward establishing open access publishing as an academic norm across the disciplines, though not without pushback.

In data science, more universities are opening interdisciplinary centers, though there are still far more Masters in data science programs than there are full-fledged research centers. The centers that exist are dominated by men (76%) and have a paucity of black scholars (~1.5%). There is evidence that academic data science is doing more than paying lip service to interdisciplinarity, with only about half of the members coming from the 'usual suspects' of computer science, math, statistics, physics, and engineering. We do note that professional disciplines — medicine, law, and business — are less well-represented, which may lead to difficulty transferring research advances into viable commercial products.

In 2020 we will continue to follow the relationship between the energy-intensive computational demands of data science and climate change. We will continue to follow universities' responses to demands for more training in computer science, statistics, and data science. We will continue to follow changes in policy at city, state, and federal levels around facial recognition technologies, open access publishing, and shifts in funding priorities. We will continue to keep an eye on the enormous collective footprint of Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple.

In 2020 we will also usher in changes in the newsletter as the [Academic Data Science Alliance](#), our key sponsor, introduces a new web presence. Most of the jobs, events, calls for papers (CFPs), software tools and tutorials will be hosted on the web. The newsletter will be shorter, visually tidier, and more interactive.

Our readers make us great and keep us relevant. We get much of the news we cover from the links you're sending around on Twitter (with your permission) and from tips you send us directly. We've got new features in the works to make sure we're satisfying the curiosities of our readers...without exhausting you. :)

Let's commit to being the most rigorous scientists, the most enlightening educators, and the most inclusive data science community we can be in 2020. Especially in this young interdisciplinary field equipped with methods that have tremendous promise to deliver broadly beneficial outcomes, we are stronger together.

Thank you for your loyalty,

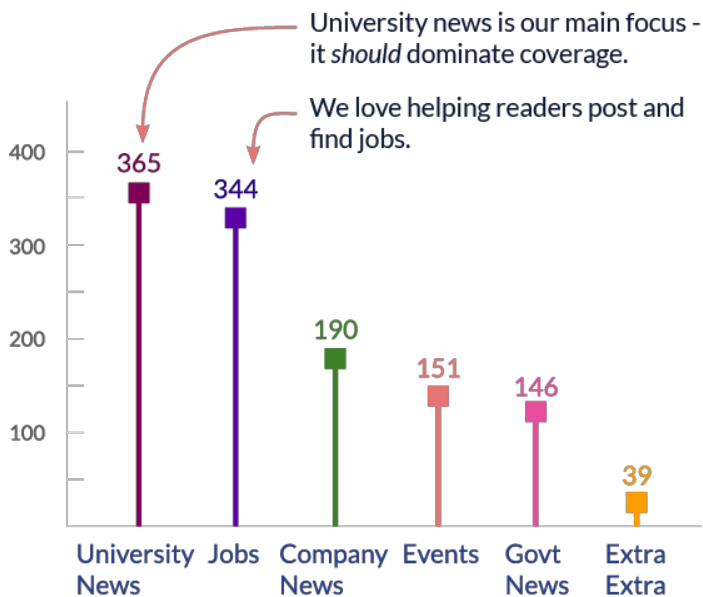
-Laura and Brad

Readership growth in 2019

On average, we netted 84 new readers per issue published.



Links posted in 2019, by category



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To send us an announcement for the newsletter, please email laura.noren@nyu.edu and brad.stenger@gmail.com. We retain curatorial discretion.

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