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BU's Study Group: Partners in Learning

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BU's Study Group: Partners in Learning

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Objective

We started this project to:
- **build a community** around open science and computational research
- establish relationships with researchers in the sciences
- increase awareness of new library services
- and learn about the technologies researchers are using on campus

Model

Mozilla's Study Group initiative is **community led**. There are over 20 Study Groups on 6 continents devoted to skill sharing, idea discovery, and providing community **support**.

BU's Study Group is facilitated by the BU Libraries. Community members led sessions, help with logistics, and set the agenda. **Sessions are informal** and leaders are encourage to "go with the flow" and to engage the audience where it is.

Technology enables our Study Group. We use git, Gitter, and GitHub to track our work, share session information, and brainstorm.
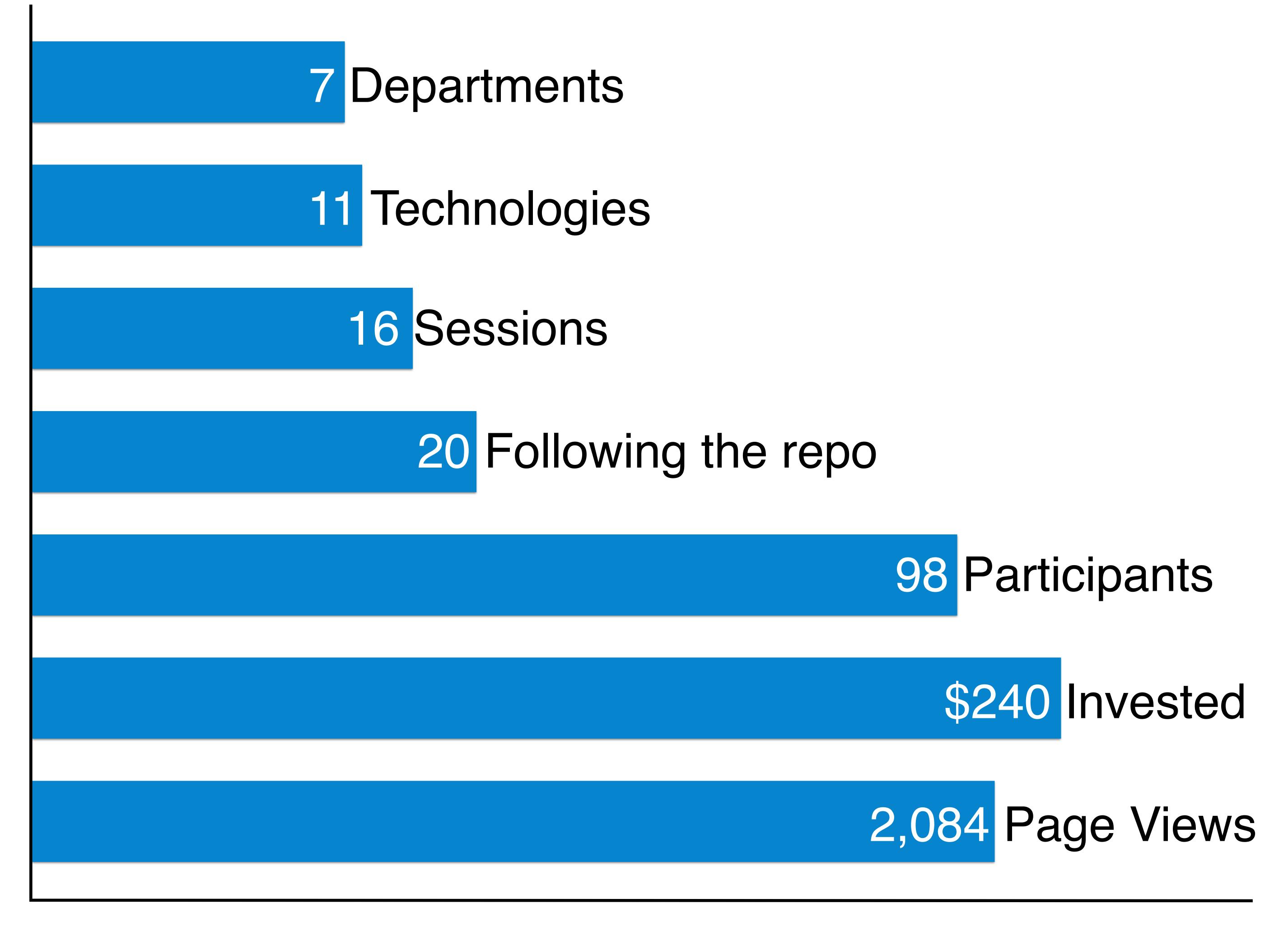
The Study Group is not a "library service." The **library is a member** of the community of learners (and we love learning).

Partnership

Both the Mozilla Science Lab and the BU Libraries are deeply engaged with making **knowledge and research open** and accessible. The Mozilla Science Lab helps "scientists and researchers to **work openly** and do better research, more research, and make that research more **useful by sharing** it widely."[1] The BU Libraries "are responsible for not only the curation and **dissemination of information**, but **facilitating learning** and knowledge creation."[2] We think this partnership helps both parties **accomplish their mission**.

Results

7	Departments
11	Technologies
16	Sessions
20	Following the repo
98	Participants
$240	Invested
2,084	Page Views

Conclusion

We have found our partnership to be an effective way to
- establish relationships with researchers in the sciences
- learn new technologies
- promote open science initiatives
- and improve the libraries' perception on campus.

We also believe this model **can be reproduced at other institutions**.

References

[1] Mozilla Science Lab, "Working Open," http://mozillascience.github.io/open-science-leadership-workshop
[2] Boston University Libraries, "Strategic Plan," http://www.bu.edu/library/about/strategic-plan/

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mozilla Science Lab