Organisations look to academia as a data literacy incubator
To address the data skills gap, businesses take inspiration from academia with training and certification.

Digital transformation demands that businesses be data-driven, so organisations are forced to address the analytics skills gap across their employee base, with Gartner estimating that 80% of organisations will initiate data literacy efforts in 2020. More people have greater access to data than ever before, but are unable to "speak the language" of data. Companies are overcoming this barrier to growth by cultivating analytics capabilities outside of data scientist roles. Academic institutions have been developing critical-thinking and analytics skills in students for years, and corporations are taking a page out of academia’s book by forming their own data literacy programmes, centres of excellence and communities, and subsidising certifications. Data-literate workers have the agency to understand and to use – to "translate" – the data they are increasingly exposed to, empowered to answer business questions and add greater value to their companies.
One thing we see is important for basic data literacy is really understanding where your data is used and how it's used and why it's important.”

— Anthony Brown, Enterprise Analytics Leader, Lockheed Martin
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI moves from abstract to actionable
Domain and technology experts overcome the hype to create a shared vision for artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Artificial intelligence is on everyone’s lips as the next wave of digital transformation, while new technology and services have set the foundation for a new stage of AI maturity. Instead of piloting AI projects in innovation labs, organisations are taking a more practical approach, starting with how they structure the teams responsible for AI and machine learning. Instead of developing AI projects in a silo, organisations are starting to bring domain experts into the strategy and planning process to ensure that AI-powered recommendations are useful and actionable. This approach is also resulting in domain experts becoming AI champions and educators, teaching business users how to leverage AI recommendations effectively for decision making.
79% of enterprises say they have already developed specific strategies for their AI infrastructure, and a further 18% plan to do so.

“Business units must lead AI projects and be responsible for their success.”

— HBR, *Building the AI-Powered Organization*, 2019
DATA STORYTELLING

Personalised data stories go mainstream
Brands apply narratives to consumer data for more authentic and enlightening engagements.

Data storytelling is an effective way for brands to illustrate our behaviour and engage us in ways that pure facts and figures could never achieve. We’re accustomed to companies collecting our data and even anticipate their recaps of our habits in weekly or yearly summaries. Now, these insights are more pervasive than ever. Brands are taking it to the next level, boosting consumer engagement by making our data stories more meaningful, convenient and interactive. This also offers significant value to us as consumers, including creating more meaningful interactions for people who don’t typically engage in data analysis.
Accenture Interactive found that 87% of consumers think it’s important to purchase from brands or retailers that understand ‘the real me.’

ACCENTURE INTERACTIVE, 2019 CONSUMER PULSE SURVEY

“It’s the context around the data that provides value and that’s what will make people listen and engage.”

— Christy Pettit, Gartner, Use Data and Analytics to Tell a Story, 2018
DATA EQUITY

Transparency around workplace data leads to equity and organisational success
Data as a resource shows equity is a prerequisite to improved employee satisfaction and business performance.

Data is becoming a critical resource for organisations working to increase equity. Transparent data allows organizations – from non-profits to corporations and beyond – to uncover inequity and be intentional in identifying individuals or groups who are under-represented or facing barriers to full representation. Beyond addressing the moral imperative, establishing equitable environments has positive impacts on both individuals and the organisations that initiate them. For corporations, transparency about their workforce data creates the opportunity to improve employee retention and satisfaction, while also accurately reflecting the communities and customers they serve. Research shows that diverse and equitable workplaces experience increased profitability, optimal operational efficiency and competitive talent acquisition, among other benefits.
Data can show schools their inequities and the pathways to more equitable environments. With data at their fingertips, we’re not making up stories, we’re using data to help schools have more dynamic views.”

— Sasha Rabkin, Equal Opportunity Schools Chief Strategy Officer

A Deloitte report shows that inclusive organisations can deal with individual performance problems 3.6 times better than those that lack intentionally inclusive talent strategies.

DELOITTE, TALENT MATTERS, 2017
Accountability for data stretches across the C-suite
Executives share responsibility for the future of data & analytics

In the digital era, organisations are looking for ways to stay competitive, starting with data. While Chief Data Officers are driving digital transformation efforts, now all executives are committed to treating data and analytics as a shared responsibility. All functional leaders – not just the CDO and CIO – are expected to inform their organisation’s data and analytics strategy with critical inputs from their own teams. This creates a holistic view of data and analytics across the entire organisation and ensures that executives have a more informed perspective when advocating for data initiatives. When executives model and support data-driven behaviour, it creates a trickle-down effect, embedding data into the fabric of day-to-day conversations and behaviours for every department and role.
By 2022, 90% of corporate strategies will explicitly mention information as a critical enterprise asset and analytics as an essential competency.

— Danielle Beringer, Regional Data Officer, Nissan North America

“Data formed the unifying bridge to help achieve the best outcomes.”

GARTNER, WHY DATA AND ANALYTICS ARE KEY TO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, 2019
Data integration is the catalyst for IT business harmony
Organisations expand data management participation to support data-driven decision-making at scale

With more applications creating more data and use cases for analytics than ever before, organisations are challenged to integrate, govern and promote their data assets at scale. Traditional methods no longer work at scale – preparing and moving data through centralised warehouses can’t maintain governance and keep up with the business needs. Technologies are already evolving to bring data management functions closer to the business, including self-service data preparation and data catalogues. Now, organisations need to evolve roles and processes so business can share data management responsibilities, helping IT to curate and promote governed data at scale.
We need to help everyone understand the story that we're telling. And one of the ways that we do that is by using a data catalogue. We can start helping our residents and those who are consuming information to understand what we mean when we say those specific words.”

— Jefferson McMillan-Wilhoit, Director, health informatics and technology, Lake County Health Department
tableau.com/reports/data-trends