Is there one for data wranglers?
What is a Community of Practice?

- Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis. ...

- These people do not necessarily work together every day, but they meet because they find value in their interactions.

- As they spend time together, they typically share information, insight and advice. They help each other to solve problems.

(Wenger, McDermott and Snyder, 2002)
What does it do?

• It moves away from individual learning and focuses on shared and improved practice
• It has 3 components:
  • A **area of knowledge** which defines a set of issues: in this case data journalism
  • A **community of people** who care about this domain: journalists and (?)
  • A **shared practice** that they are developing to be effective in their domain: wildlife crime reporting

Sequence is everything

...
Practices and skills...
Data Journalism as a practice
Data Journalism as a practice

Understanding data

Rights of access

Cleaning data

Paid information

Open access

Scraping

Getting data

Tools of the trade

Data literacy

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Telling stories with data
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**Getting data**
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**Delivering data**
- Rights of access
- Combining data with stories
- Data driven applications
- Audience

**Telling stories with data**
- Data visualisation
A community of practice is built on:

- Sense of urgency and purpose
- Feelings of interdependence amongst members (what is a commonly held interest or goal)
- Members organise themselves around opportunities for interaction and assistance
- A degree of confidence that working together will benefit all (trust)
- Accepted systems for interaction (WhatsApp, #Wildeye etc)
- Willingness to learn and make mistakes and learn within the group
Do data wranglers need a community of practice? Why?