



What have we learnt from the RSE journey so far

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RSECon26
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Why Warli



- ❖ Illustrations are hand drawn and then adapted to digital format
- ❖ Inspired by Warli painting, a tribal art form from Maharashtra, India

- ❖ Routes 2 Roots, a non-profit dedicated to bridging the gap in cultural education in remote areas across India and internationally



The RSE Journey

- ❖ Evolving role of RSEs
- ❖ Analysis of international survey data from 2016-2022



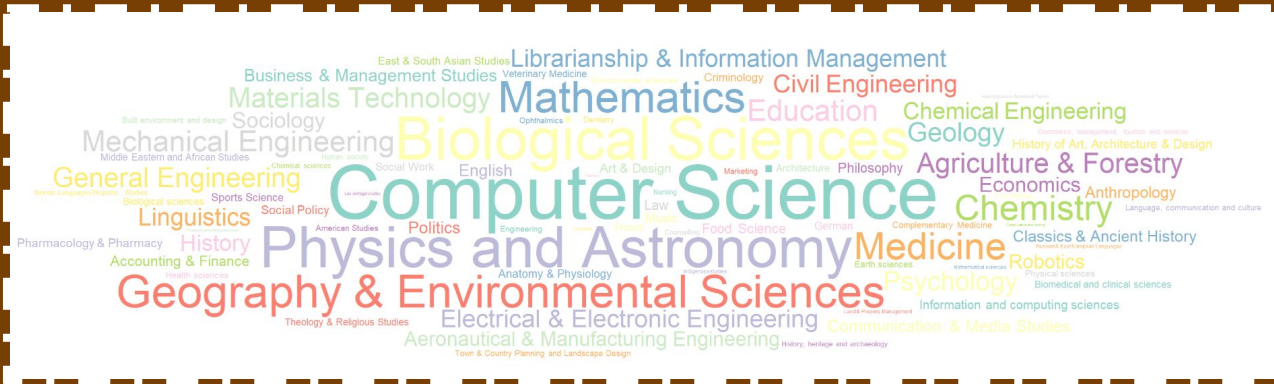
Focus on 5 questions:

- ❖ Where do RSEs work?
- ❖ How do they test software?
- ❖ How do they track their work?
- ❖ Who supports their work?
- ❖ Why do people choose to become RSEs?

Science

Technology

Society



How are RSEs typically testing software

No formal testing



Users testing the product



Developers conducting the test



Automated testing with continuous integration



How do RSEs track the history of their work



2017: 24% no use of version control

2022: 3% no use of version control

2022: 87% use Git

Who waters the roots

Less
volunteer
basis



More
institutional
support

Why do RSEs choose to be an RSE

Opportunity to
develop software



Freedom to choose own
working practices

Desire to work in
research environment, to
advance research



It takes a village



***"That the powerful play goes on, and you may
contribute a verse.***

What will your verse be?"

*- Walt Whitman
(As adapted in 'Dead Poets Society')*



Details

- ❖ Full analysis available at: https://saranjeetkaur.github.io/RSE_historical_analysis/
- ❖ Shortlisted entries for RSE Data Competition:
<https://www.software.ac.uk/news/rse-data-competition-winner-announced>

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