

The background is a dark blue and purple space-themed illustration. It features a large planet with horizontal stripes in the top left, a ringed planet in the top center, a small astronaut floating in the bottom left, and a cratered moon in the bottom right. The scene is filled with numerous small white stars and larger, multi-pointed starburst patterns.

Jo Klein, GIS & Data Viz Librarian at UNCG

You can find me at [@elk2klein](#)

Or email me at ejklein@uncg.edu

Is anyone there?

Using Discord to facilitate networking and discussion
at virtual conferences



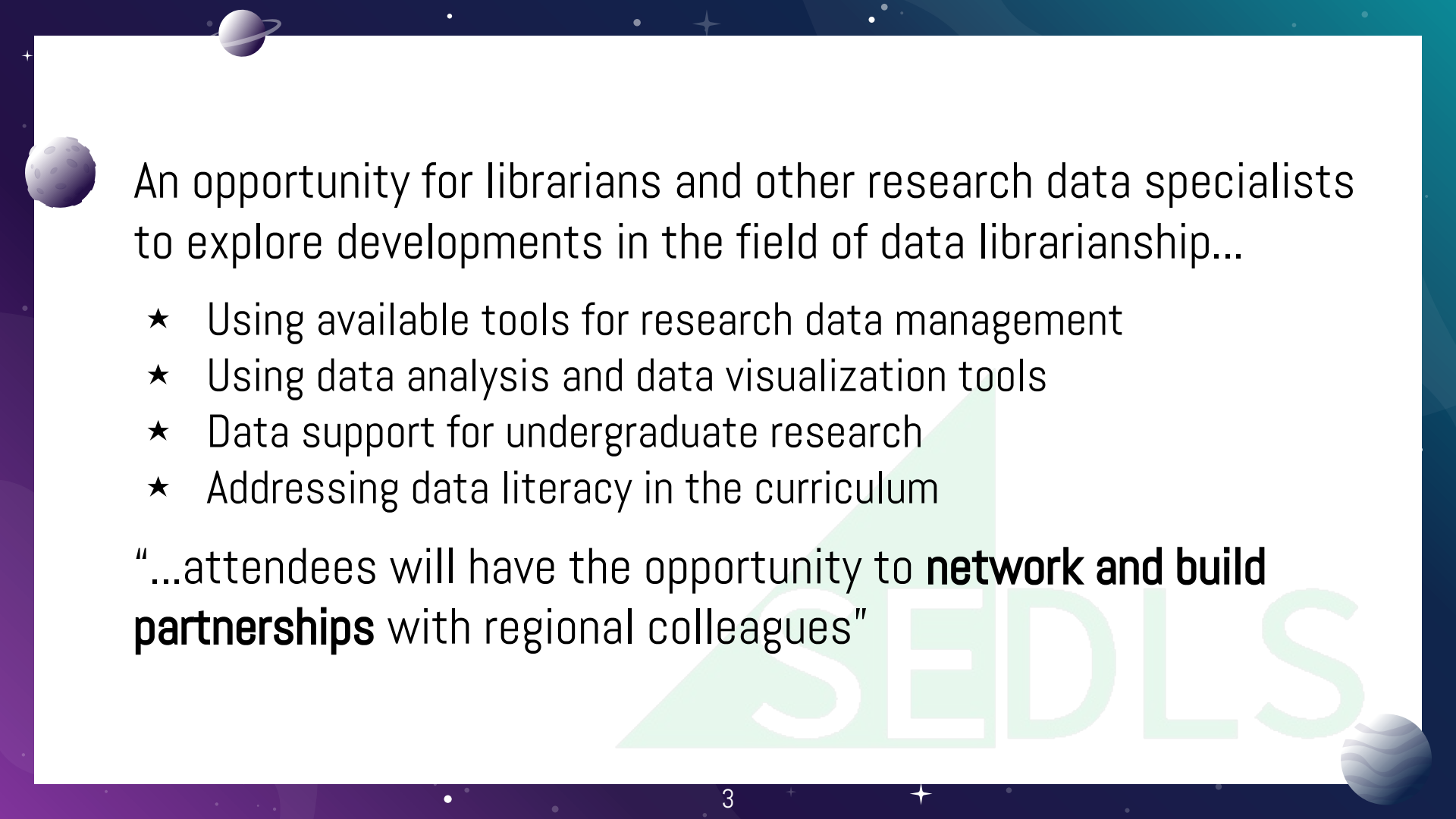
Hello!

I am Jo Klein, GIS & Data Viz Librarian at UNCG

I'm part of the team putting together the now-virtual
2020 Southeast Data Librarian Symposium.

You can find me at [@elk2klein](#)

Or email me at ejklein@uncg.edu



An opportunity for librarians and other research data specialists to explore developments in the field of data librarianship...

- ★ Using available tools for research data management
- ★ Using data analysis and data visualization tools
- ★ Data support for undergraduate research
- ★ Addressing data literacy in the curriculum

“...attendees will have the opportunity to **network and build partnerships** with regional colleagues”

Social presence and the virtual conference





Why Discord?

- ★ Multiple ways for attendees to communicate
- ★ Options for organizing topics and moderating discussion
- ★ In-browser, desktop, and mobile app access
- ★ Large userbase with forums, open source projects, FAQ and other support
- ★ FREE



Limitations

- ★ Accessibility
- ★ Yet another thing to learn/install/make an account for
- ★ Bugs and technical issues with video
- ★ Dedicated moderator(s) recommended
- ★ Literal limitations of Discord
- ★ Universal virtual conferencing plagues



Strategies to provide a great experience

- ★ Share information about how Discord can be used
- ★ Train moderators, show attendees
- ★ Be upfront about limitations
- ★ Provide alternatives

In summary...



Resources

Castro, L. F. (2019). Social Presence in an Online Professional Conference. *TechTrends; Washington*, 63(4), 408–419.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11528-019-00382-6>

Cherrstrom, C. A. (2012). Making Connections: Attending Professional Conferences. *Adult Learning; Bowie*, 23(3), 148–152.

Discord Server Limits. (n.d.). The Discord Wiki. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.discordia.me/en/server-limits>

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