Preparation future digital curation faculty: Three doctoral fellows as examples

Sarah Ramdeen, Kaitlin L. Costello, Mike Brown
(ramdeen, kaitcost, brownmeb) @email.unc.edu
School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What is digital curation?
Digital curation involves anyone responsible for managing, storing, or retrieving digital items for long term use and re-use. It incorporates many of the values and systems developed for maintaining physical collections. In practice, digital curation applies to a wide range of document types, including scholarly, scientific, and cultural heritage materials. Digital curation stresses the importance of the lifecycle model in order to successfully manage, preserve, and curate digital materials for immediate and future use.

DigCCurr II and the Doctoral Fellows

- Funded by an IMLS grant, "DigCCurr II: Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners" (2008-2012)
- Cultivates a new generation of digital curation faculty to educate 21st-century digital curators
- Provides funding for six doctoral Fellows; three began in Fall 2009, three more enter in Fall 2010
- Fellows assist in planning and leading DigCCurr II's Institutes for Professionals in Curation Practices for the Digital Object Lifecycle; work includes course development with a team of international instructors
- Fellows extend the curriculum and course development from DigCCurr I (2006-2009) by creating and enhancing modules, syllabi, reading lists, and course content that can be used by digital curation programs worldwide

Sarah Ramdeen
Interests:
Information seeking behavior, management of scientific materials, and retention of institutional knowledge
Research Topics:
• Looking at overlap between Information and Library Science and growing need for management of digital scientific collections
• Investigating how geologists and other scientists are expected to manage and maintain their digital collections
• Development of educational modules for educating scientists in managing digital collections, modeled on their own workflows
Activities:
• Research project "Email Habits in the University Setting" with Dr. Helen Tibbo and Dr. Rob Capra at UNC
• Co-organizer of DigCCurr II Professional Institute

Kaitlin L. Costello
Interests:
Archival appraisal, interactive digital media, social networks
Research Topics:
• Developing cost-effective, scalable methods of selection and appraisal of web-based interactive media and social networking systems
• Harnessing the social power of the web to involve users in selection and appraisal
Activities:
• Study of digital preservation education at the graduate level (preliminary results presented in the poster "Digital preservation education in iSchools" at the 2010 iConference in Urbana, IL)
• Assisting Dr. Helen Tibbo with teaching a master’s level class in archival appraisal at UNC
• Co-organizer of DigCCurr II Professional Institute

Mike Brown
Interests:
Organizational communications, workflows, impact measures, personal information archiving
Research Topics:
• Exploring how an institutional repository (IR) can build communities and coalitions both within and outside its parent organization
• Researching workflows that benefit all stakeholders in an IR’s designated communities
• Exploring the intersection of personal information management and personal information archiving
Activities:
• Digital curation job ads study at UNC
• Co-organizer of DigCCurr II Professional Institute

Work supported by IMLS Grant Award IRE-05-08-0090-08