

Preparing Future Digital Curators



The Carolina Digital Curation Curriculum (DigCCurr) Project

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<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/>

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Digital Curation Education

- Developing sustainable and evolving digital curation educational programs for:
 - Professional, continuing, life-long education
 - Graduate, professional education
 - Doctoral education
- Programs need to be:
 - Integrated
 - International
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Linked to practical experiences, internships, etc.

IMLS-Funded Curriculum Projects

- Common theme: Prepare students for digital curation with wide variety of organizations, contexts & types of resources:
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:**
 - Data Curation Education Program (DCEP): 2006
 - Extending Data Curation to the Humanities (DCEP+): 2008
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:**
 - Preserving Access to Our Digital Future: Building an International Digital Curation Curriculum (DigCCurr I): 2005
 - “Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners (DigCCurr II): 2008

DigCCurr Project

- Preserving Access to Our Digital Future: Building an International Digital Curation Curriculum.
<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr>.
- IMLS Grant # RE-05-06-0044
- Collaboration of School of Information & Library Science (SILS), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) & U.S. National Archives & Records Administration (NARA)
- Runs July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009

DigCCurr Components/Goals

Curriculum: To prepare students for digital curation with wide variety of organizations, contexts & types of resources:

- Graduate-level curricular framework
- Course modules
- Course development
- Experiential components
- International guest speakers

Two International Symposia:

- DigCCurr2007: April 18-20, 2007 in Chapel Hill - <http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr2007/>
- DigCCurr2009: Practice, Promise and Prospect: April 1-3, 2009 in Chapel Hill - <http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr2009>

Carolina Digital Curation Fellowship program

Guiding Questions

- What knowledge and competencies do professionals need in order to do digital curation work?
- What should students learn in the classroom?
- What should students learn through field experiences?

Carolina Digital Curation Fellows

- 5 Digital Curation Fellows pursuing degrees at SILS - began fall 2007; funded through 2009
- UNC partners providing practical experience opportunities: ibiblio, ITS, Odum Institute, and University Library
- 4 additional Fellows supported by UNC partners for 2008-09

Carolina Digital Curation Fellows



Sources of Data

- Literature review
- Interviews from 17-member expert Advisory Board
- Two surveys of digital curation professionals
- Review of syllabi and materials from existing courses and workshops
- Review of digital curation-related job postings
- Course evaluations
- Fellowship evaluations

Guiding Principles

- Build on work of others
- Digital curation activities span entire life of digital resources
- Build from and for modules rather than entire courses
- Emphasize core, generalizable modules
- Avoid tying curriculum to specific institution types

Matrix of Digital Curation Knowledge & Competencies

- Tool for thinking about, planning for, identifying & organizing curriculum
- Each unit of curriculum content can address one or more dimensions
- Helping to address fundamental issue: core vs. specialized (optional) education elements

1) Mandates, Values and Principles

- Professional ethics
- Legal requirements
- Standards
- Interoperability and sustainability requirements

2) Professional, Disciplinary or Institutional/Organizational Context

- Professional context:
 - History of professional activities
 - Professional development
- Disciplinary and Institutional/Organizational Contexts
 - Characteristics of information and record keeping environments

3) Transition Point in Life of Digital Object

- Pre-creation design and planning
- Creation
- Primary use environment (active use)
- Transfer to archives
- Archives (preservation environment)
- Transfer copies or surrogates to secondary use environment
- Secondary use environment

4) Type of Resource

- Types of storage media
- Types of digital objects
 - Format, genre
- Level of aggregation
 - Component, object, collection
- Level of abstraction
 - Work, expression, manifestation, item

5) Prerequisite Knowledge

- Terminology
- Characteristics of information communication technologies (ICTs)

6) Functions and Skills

- 24 High-level functional categories across six activity areas:
 - Technical infrastructure
 - Information resource treatment
 - Metadata treatment
 - Human interaction
 - Strategies, prioritization, and judgments
 - Administration

High-Level Functions

- Administration
- Advocacy & outreach
- Analysis & characterization of digital objects/packages
- Analysis & evaluation of producer information environment
- Archival storage
- Common services
- Collaboration, coordination & contracting with external actors
- Data management
- Description, organization & intellectual control
- Destruction & removal
- Identifying, locating, & harvesting
- Ingest
- Management
- Preservation planning & implementation
- Production
- Purchasing & managing licenses
- Reference & user support
- Selection, appraisal & disposition
- Systems engineering & development
- Transfer
- Transformation of digital objects/packages
- Use, reuse & adding value to accessed information
- Validation & quality control of digital objects/packages

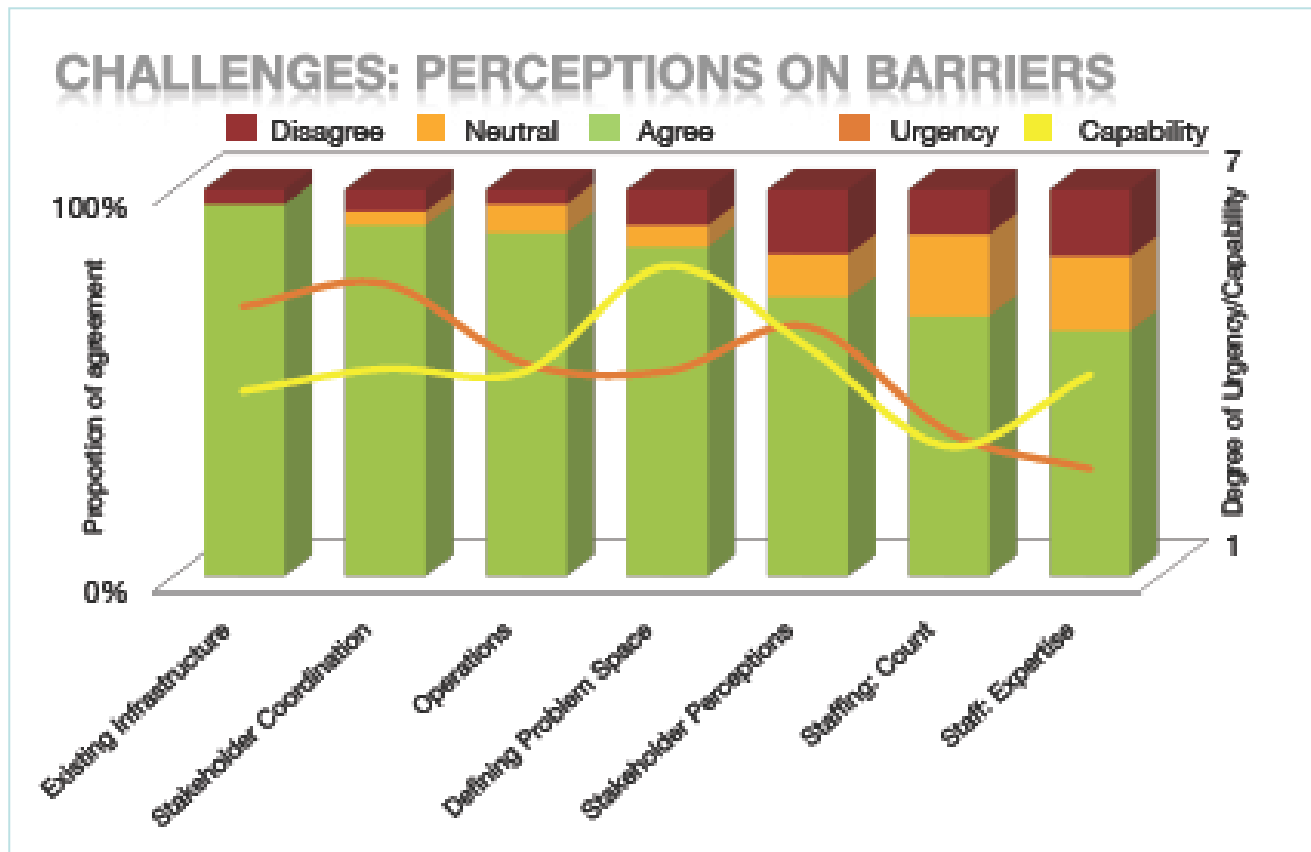
Meta-level Functions

- Analysis and documentation of curation functions
- Evaluation and audit of curation functions
- R&D to support curation functions
- Education and sharing of expertise and guidance on curation functions

Professional Competencies

- Personal attributes
- Interpersonal skills
- Technical skills
- Administration and management skills
- Core ILS course background
- Practical experience

Barriers to Practice



http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/poster_hank_lee_tibbo.pdf

DigCCurr II

- “Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners.”
<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr>.
- This project is funded through IMLS Laura Bush funds.
- A collaboration of the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Project to run August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2012.

DigCCurr II Key Activities

- PhD Fellowships
- Digital Curation Exchange (DCE)
- Summer Institutes
 - 1st Week-long summer workshop for practitioners, June 21-26, 2009 in Chapel Hill.
 - Follow-up session January 2010.



DigCCurr2009: Digital Curation Practice, Promise and Prospects

April 1-3, 2009

Chapel Hill

www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr2009