Preparing Future Digital Curators

The Carolina Digital Curation Curriculum (DigCCurr) Project

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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:
  – “Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners (DigCCurr II): 2008
DigCCurr Project


• 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:

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
“Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners.”
http://www.ils.unc.edu/digcccurr.

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DigCCurr II Key Activities

- PhD Fellowships
- Digital Curation Exchange (DCE)
- Summer Institutes
  - 1\textsuperscript{st} 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