

APPLYING DIGITAL CURATION PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICAL SETTINGS

A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTING FIELD EXPERIENCES FROM THE DIGCCURR PROJECT

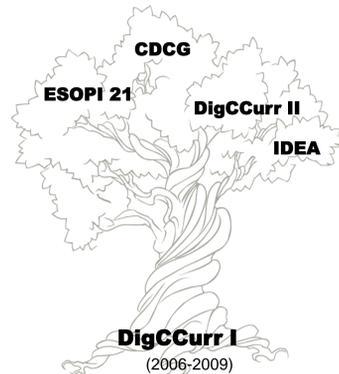


Carolyn Hank & Helen R. Tibbo | {hcarolyn, tibbo}@email.unc.edu | School of Information and Library Science | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Abstract

The DigCCurr I (Digital Curation Curriculum) project is concluding development of a graduate-level curricular framework, course modules, and experiential components. This poster reports on the project's **Carolina Digital Curation Fellowship (CDCF)** program's practicum component (2007-09).

There's tremendous growth in digital curation professional opportunities. To fill these new professional roles, there is need for education to prepare students for digital curation work in a variety of information organizations. The success of DigCCurr I in meeting this need has contributed to additional IMLS-funding for several digital curation curriculum projects at UNC-CH as well as a growing international network of digital curation educators.¹



About DigCCurr I

Guiding Questions

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

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE ranked most important attribute when considering job applicants for digital curation professional positions, followed by TECHNICAL SKILLS.²

Data Sources

- Literature review
- Interviews from 17-member expert Advisory Board
- 2 surveys of digital curation professionals
- Review of course syllabi and professional training materials
- Review of digital curation-related job postings
- Course evaluations
- CDCF program documentation

Curriculum Development

- High-Level Categories of Digital Curation Functions³
- Matrix of Digital Curation Knowledge & Competencies³
- Certificate in Digital Curation (currently under review)
- Module Development
- New Course Offerings

INLS 890
Special Topic Seminars in Digital Curation
Instructors: Hank, Lee & Tibbo

INLS 465
Understanding Information Technology for Managing Digital Collections
Instructor: Lee

INLS 490-161
iRODS Rule Construction
Instructors: Lee, Marciano, Moore, & Rajasekar

CDCF Program

People

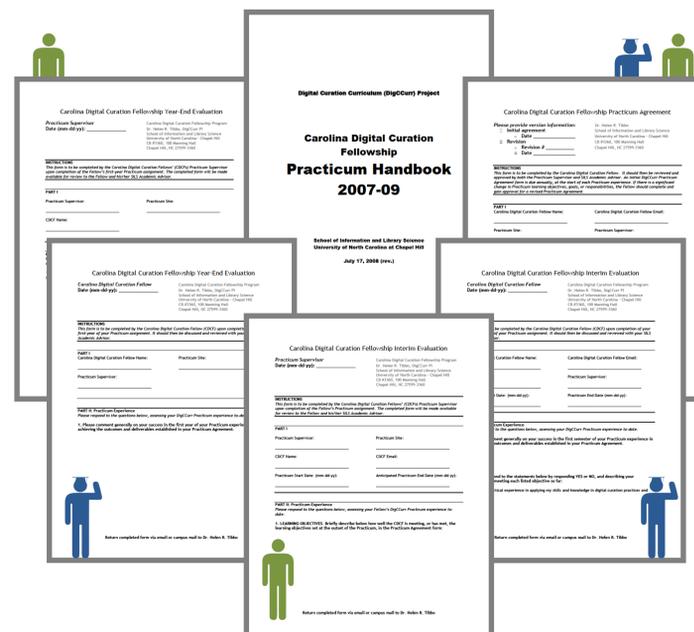
ADVISOR
DigCCurr PIs | Project Manager
Academic advising
Practicum coordination

FELLOW
5 project-funded Fellows (2007-09) | 4 project-funded Fellows (2008-09)
20-hour/week work assignment at partner setting
A stipend of \$13,500 per year
In-state tuition and health coverage

SUPERVISOR
ibiblio.org | ITS | Odum Institute | University Libraries
UNC-CH partners provided practical experience opportunities
Fellows assigned Supervisors at each practice setting

Documentation

Forms and guidance documents developed for Practicum component, including establishment of learning goals and interim and year-end evaluations.³ Completed forms reviewed and discussed with



Applied Learning

Source: Completed practicum agreements and interim and year-end evaluations.

Format Migration · DRAMBORA · METS · Persistent Identifiers · JHOVE
DSpace · Automated Metadata Extraction · Standards · Dataverse Network
Netarchive Suite · Media Migration · CONTENTdm · Instructional Design
User Engagement · Policy Development · Fedora · UNIX · PREMIS · MODS
Ingest Workflow Design · Web Archiving · Open Library · Perl · Appraisal
Sakai · Institutional Repository Planning · Checksums · DocBook · DDI

Highlighted Activities

- 1-credit introductory seminar on digital curation for incoming Fellows
- Informal focus groups throughout to assess progress
- 2-part CV Workshop
Supervisors served as reviewers during feedback session
- Promotion of project through public presentations
Fellows presented on their experiences at regional and international conferences and symposia, including:³
 - 5th International Digital Curation Conference
 - DigCCurr2009: Digital Curation Practice, Promise & Prospects
 - 2009 Librarian's Association at UNC-CH (LAUNC-CH) Annual Conference
 - First Digital Lives Research Conference
 - 2008 LAUNC-CH Annual Research Forum

Fellows to Graduates

- 2007-09 Fellows** | 3 MSLS | 2 MSIS
Digital curation-themed cumulative Master's Papers, reflective of academic concentration and/or practicum component work
- 2008-09 Fellows** | 1 MSIS | 3 Fellows expected to graduate May 2010

Evaluation

- "I was able to carry out the entire **spectrum of digital curation on a small scale**, from researching best practices, to trying out different tools and writing suggested policies."
- "I was working with a 10 year-old collection of jpeg files and **learned first-hand how important early interception** is to archiving. It was too late to suggest that the creator create tiff images from his pictures."
- "A good setting for recognizing need to steward born digital materials since **a good number of departments are calling and asking for guidance.**"
- "Readings and class discussions have pointed to the necessity and **importance of collaboration** in the digital curation process ... My experience underscored the difficulties in establishing such a team effort."
- "**Her work will be invaluable** as we develop necessary policies and procedures for capture and storage of historically valuable university Websites."
- "..... developing **aspects of what she is learning with what we are doing.** Nothing but superlatives for how things have gone."
- "Effective. Serves purposes we haven't been able to get to."
- "If we could accept more, we **would happily accept more.**"
- "**Many unmet needs** across many projects."

References

- 1 DigCCurr I and DigCCurr II <<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/>>; CDCG: Closing the Digital Curation Gap <<http://ils.unc.edu/gap/index.html>>; & ESOP1 21: Educating Stewards of Public Information in the 21st Century <<http://ils.unc.edu/esopi21/index.html>>. To learn about the International Data Curation Education Action (IDEA) Working Group, see <<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march09/hank/03hank.html>>.
- 2 Tibbo, Helen R., Carolyn Hank, and Christopher A. Lee. "Challenges, Curricula, and Competencies: Researcher and Practitioner Perspectives for Informing the Development of a Digital Curation Curriculum." *Archiving 2008 Final Program and Proceedings*. Bern, Switzerland, June 24-27, 2008 Springfield, VA: Society of Image Science & Technology, June, 2008, pp. 234-238.
- 3 For curriculum resources and presentations, including C.A. Lee's ALISE 2009 paper, "Curation Junction, What's your Function: Defining What it Means to Do Digital Curation in Order to Teach It," see <<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/products.html>>.