Applying Digital Curation Principles in Practical Settings
A Framework for Implementing Field Experiences from the DigCCurr Project

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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.

CDCF Program

People

DigCCurr PI | Project Manager
Academic advising
Practicum coordination

5 project-funded Fellows
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. Completed forms reviewed and discussed with Fellows.

Highlighted Activities

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

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 firsthand how important early intervention is to archiving. It was too late to suggest that the creator create a timestamp for the images."

"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.""Prer 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/].


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?

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 Functions
- Matrix of Digital Curation Knowledge & Competencies
- Certificate in Digital Curation (currently under review)
- Module Development
- New Course Offerings

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