

Certificate in Digital Information Management: A Cross-Disciplinary Functional Approach

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Abstract

The University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science, the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, and the University of Arizona Office of Continuing Education are collaborating to develop and administer a new post-baccalaureate certificate program (DigIn) that introduces students to the theoretical knowledge, conceptual framework and practical skills required to create, maintain and curate collections of digital information. DigIn is a graduate college-approved study program consisting of six newly developed graduate-level courses delivered virtually. The certificate serves as an entry point for candidates with degrees in other disciplines who are considering pursuing the master's degree in information resources and library science and who also have an interest in technology and digital collections. For those already holding or concurrently pursuing a master's or doctorate degree in library and information science, it serves as a post-master's certificate of specialty or an area of concentration. Finally, the certificate provides current practitioners a practical way to update and enhance their skills for existing employment or in contemplation of new opportunities. Curriculum development is grounded in a functional approach designed to integrate the practices of librarians, archivists, records managers and technologists within a framework of disciplinary knowledge and the work of interrelated communities of practice. The coursework balances subject knowledge and practical hands-on skills within a digital collection context and assures that students acquire an understanding of the professions while demonstrating comfort and proficiency with technology and the ability to continue to develop their technical skills upon completion of the program.