An Overview of Continuing Education Opportunities, Gaps, and Challenges in Digital Curation

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Thank you!

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- All the hard work from UNC-CH SILS’s digital curation master’s and doctoral students.
- To all of you for attending today.
Open Questions for Professional Education in Digital Curation

- How long/extensive should training be?
- Where should training be held?
- How should training be supported/funded?
- How much should training cost?
- “Everything should be 5 cents!”
- What types of credentialing are appropriate?
- Who should do the instruction?
- Should instruction be broad or specific?
- What should be the content?
- What prerequisite knowledge is necessary?
Current Professional Education Landscape in Digital Curation

- Patchwork quilt of course offerings
  - Format of offerings
    - Face-to-face
    - Webinar
  - Length of offerings
    - 1-2 hours
    - ½ day
    - 1 day
    - 2-3 days
    - 1 week
    - 1 week +
    - Multi-workshops over time
    - 5 course certificates
    - 10 course certificate
Venues for Professional Education in Digital Curation

* College/university – participants come to teachers
* Have workshop will travel
* One’s computer (webinar)
* A series in one place
* A series in multiple places
Sources for Professional Education in Digital Curation

- Grant-funded projects
- Income stream for professional organizations
- Continuing education programs in universities
- Commercial firms
  - Conducting and charging for programs
  - PASIG – Oracle
Gaps to Fill

- Integrated programs that address technical and professional knowledge and skills across the digital asset lifecycle.

- Capacity to specialize in various functions, environments, and material types.

- Programs that address specific digital environments & resource types.
Pedagogical Issues
What to Teach?

* Curriculum just being developed and following a blend of archival, information, business, and ethical principles along with cutting edge technical and process developments.
* Core content unclear; range of content is unclear.
* What is core vs. extended/specialized content?
* Uncertainty at all educational levels.
How to Teach?

- Face-to-face vs. remote.
- Lecture/discussion vs. hands-on, what’s the right mixture?
- What is the role of field experiences/internships?
- How do we sustain internships when grant money runs out?
Audience Level

- At what audience should digital curation education be aimed?
- What are the implications for pre-requisite knowledge?
- What can we expect various audiences to know in advance?
- What can we teach based on what an audience knows?
- How do we best deal with mixed-level audiences?
Audience Focus

* How do teaching methods and content change based on the focus of the audience?
  * Do we provide different content/methods for scientists who need to manage data vs. humanists vs. the general public?
  * How do we best teach data curation and information management to content specialists (individual curators) vs. professional curators?
* How do we best segment the marketplace?
Programmatic Duration

- How long?
- How do pedagogical goals relate to length of instruction?
- What can we teach in 2 hours? 2 days? 2 weeks? 2 months? 2 years?
- How do you get a core of information management and curation to specialized audiences who have a limited attention span for learning about digital curation?
Programmatic Sustainability

- Who is going to pay for all this?
- What is the business model for continuing education?
- Who is going to take this on?
- How is the academic going to be rewarded for working in this arena beyond formal graduate and undergraduate education?
- How can we reach such a large audience (everyone needs to know about digital curation!)?
- Can I-Schools provide the digital curation teaching capacity that the government, military, corporate, scientific, academic, and public sectors will require?
Where Are We?

* Everything above is exploratory and experimental – even the formal looking concentrations and certificates.
* There is only an emerging canon for the field of digital curation.
* Research and development is rapid but not easily translated into workflows of existing professionals.
* We are working this out.
Educational Needs

* Digital curation educators need to work together, across national boundaries and across levels, scope, and instructional purpose.
* We need to share materials and discuss approaches and emerging good practice.
* We need to ramp-up the educational workforce.
* We need to ramp-up educational efforts.
Next Steps

- Analogous to needs in digital curation as a whole, we need to:
  - Move from hand-crafted approaches to wide-spread and easily replicable solutions.
  - Produce more educators who can train the trainer.
  - Be able to certify learning.
Thank you

Questions?

Resources...
http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/

Feedback...
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DigCCurr Professional Institute:
Curation Practices for the Digital Object Lifecycle

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http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute.html