

# **The DigCCurr II Professional Institute: The Process of Developing a New Approach for Contextually-Relevant Continuing Education**

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**Abstract:** Professional education needs both to infuse research-informed theory, practices, and standards into the live-long learning of information professionals, and be a subject of research itself. A persistent challenge of continuing education for information professionals is the adoption and application of material learned at workshops into the day-to-day operation of participants' institutions. The DigCCurr Professional Institute (DigCCurr Pro) seeks to address this challenge through its innovative design, social network infrastructure, and ongoing research and iterative development.

DigCCurr Pro is designed to prepare information professionals to confront contemporary digital curation challenges – applying principles and approaches that are both professionally sound and appropriate to their particular work contexts based on cutting-edge research from around the world. To accomplish these goals the Institute began with a five-day intensive workshop designed to address the management of the lifecycle of digital resources. On the final day of summer Institute, attendees worked with the instructors to create a plan for applying their new knowledge. Six months later the students will return and report on strategies and lessons related to application of the Institute's materials, tools and content. Throughout the process, participants and instructors will share information and ideas through a specialized online forum that is part of the Digital Curation Exchange, an interactive space developed as part of the DigCCurr2 project.

This poster will provide a brief overview of the Institute, its goals and structure, and a variety of data gathering and analysis approaches involving our interactions with the participants for building a truly reflexive and evolving curriculum that assists participants in embedding new technologies, practices, and tools into their work environments.

## **About the authors:**

**Helen R. Tibbo** is a professor at the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). She teaches in the areas of archives and records management; digital preservation, access, and curation; electronic retrieval; and appraisal. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – funded project, “Preserving Access to Our Digital Future: Building an International Digital Curation Curriculum & the Carolina Digital Curation Fellowship Program.” “DigCCurr.” (<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digitalcurationcurriculum/>) Dr. Tibbo is also PI on the DigCCurr II project, “Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners” also funded by IMLS. She was the PI for the recently concluded “NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) Electronic Records Research Fellowship Program”

([www.ils.unc.edu/nhprcfellows](http://www.ils.unc.edu/nhprcfellows)) along with Dr. Paul Conway. Dr. Tibbo was also co-PI with Dr. Elizabeth Yakel from the University of Michigan and Dr. Wendy Duff from the University of Toronto on a Mellon Foundation-funded project to develop standardized metrics for assessing use and user services for primary sources (<http://www.archivalmetrics.org>). The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is funding a second phase of this work looking at the development of user-based evaluation metrics and tools for government archives.

**Heather Bowden** is a Carolina Digital Curation Doctoral Fellow and the DigCCurr II (<http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/aboutII.html>) Project Manager at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her Master's degree in Library and Information Science with a focus of Information Science Technologies at the University of Denver in 2008.

She is conducting research in digital preservation and curation with a focus on media and file format obsolescence/endorsement. She has begun work with Richard Marciano and the DICE group to explore the development of tools to help with the challenges of maintaining viable file formats in digital collections. Her next focus will be on developing a metric to determine levels of file format endorsement which can be applied to digital asset management systems used by different institutions.

She has developed the first iteration of the Digital Curation Exchange website (<http://digitalcurationexchange.org/>), which serves as a community space for digital curation practitioners and educators. She has built the site using Drupal, an open source content management development community. She will continue developing the site while exploring community engagement practices as they relate to research on motivation in online social networking sites.

She is also working with the Long Now Foundation to develop their Format Exchange project and is working to further their long term digital preservation strategies

**Christopher (Cal) Lee** is Assistant Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches archival administration, records management, digital curation, resource selection and evaluation, understanding information technology for managing digital collections, and the construction of policies and rules for digital repository.

His primary area of research is the long-term curation of digital collections. He is particularly interested in the professionalization of this work and the diffusion of existing tools and methods (e.g. digital forensics, web archiving, automated implementation of policies) into professional practice. Cal is editing and providing several chapters to a forthcoming book entitled, *I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era*.

Current projects include DigCCurr and DigCCurrII (<http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/>), which are developing and implementing courses of study and practical engagement opportunities in digital curation. Cal has developed an extensive Matrix of Digital Curation Knowledge and Competencies (<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/products.html>), based on various data sources and grounded in professional literature. He is one of the lead organizers and instructors for the DigCCurr Professional Institute (<http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute.html>).

The VidArch project (<http://ils.unc.edu/vidarch/>) investigated the collection of online video, with a particularly emphasis on contextual information. Cal's contributions included an information model for contextual information in digital collections ([http://sils.unc.edu/research/publications/reports/TR\\_2007\\_04.pdf](http://sils.unc.edu/research/publications/reports/TR_2007_04.pdf)) and several empirical studies of online selection and collecting strategies. In collaboration with members of the Data-Intensive Cyber Environments (DICE) and VidArch project team, he is investigating various strategies for enhancing the sustainability of VidArch's products through the use of iRODS (Intergrated Rule-Oriented Data System).

Past research projects have included CAMiLEON ([http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dig-pres\\_usersperspective.pdf](http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dig-pres_usersperspective.pdf)), which examined migration vs. emulation as digital preservation strategies; and an in-depth case study of the development of the OAIS ([http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dissertation\\_callee.pdf](http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dissertation_callee.pdf)).

Cal has an MSI (with a concentration in Archives and Records Management) and PhD from the University of Michigan School of Information.