

# The DigCCurr II Professional Institute

## The Process of Developing a New Approach for Contextually-Relevant Continuing Education

Helen Tibbo, Heather Bowden, and Christopher Lee • The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### About the Institute

Professional education needs both to infuse research-informed theory, practices, and standards into the life-long learning of information professionals, and be a subject of research itself. A persistent challenge of continuing education for information professionals is the application of material learned at workshops into the day-to-day operation of their 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 by 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 will begin with a five-day intensive workshop designed to address the management of the life cycle 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 related to application of the Institute's lessons. 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 DigCCurr II project.

### Institute Design

#### - Phase One -

June 21-26, 2009

Institute participants attended lectures and participate in interactive demos, exercises, and labs.

#### - Phase Two -

January 6-7, 2010

Institute participants return to report on and share strategies for application of the Institute's lessons, tools and content.

#### Throughout

Institute participants and instructors share ideas and documents using the interactive blog, wiki, and group capabilities built into the Digital Curation Exchange website  
[www.digitalcurationexchange.org](http://www.digitalcurationexchange.org)

### Data Gathering

Data is being gathered from the Institute participants using the Qualtrics online survey software in order to assess the value of the two-stage institute method as well as the addition of the Digital Curation Exchange website to maintain communication and cooperation with the Institute participants and instructors throughout. One survey was administered to the participants before they arrived at the first installation of the Institute in June of 2009, and a second survey will be administered to the participants at the conclusion of the two-day follow-up meeting in January of 2010.

#### Survey 1

*Institute participants were asked to provide information about the following:*

- Content of the digital collections for which they are responsible.
- What they already know about digital curation
- What they would like to learn through attending the Institute.

#### Survey 2

*Institute participants will be asked to:*

- Assess what they feel they learned from the Institute
- Assess the effectiveness of the two-phase design of the Institute.
- Rate the usefulness of [digitalcurationexchange.org](http://digitalcurationexchange.org) as a tool to facilitate ongoing communication between the Institute participants and the instructors.

### Research Questions

1. Is the content presented via the Institute helpful and applicable to everyday digital curation challenges?
2. Is the format of the delivery of this content helpful in presenting the content of the Institute?
3. What is the role of remote assistance (email, Digital Curation Exchange website, etc.) in the uptake of the Institute content?
4. Will the Institute participants return to their workplace and apply the lessons of the Institute to their own digital curation challenges?
5. Of those who applied the lessons to their digital curation work, did they engage in the Institute community discussion and did this engagement assist them in applying the lessons?
6. How do you address the continuing education needs of the diverse community who are involved in any degree of digital curation?