Digital Curation Governance: The Concept and Implications for Professional Capabilities

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Educating Stewards of Public Information in the 21st Century (ESOPI-21)

• Funded by Institute for Museum and Library Services
• Preparing the next generation of public information stewards by building on the existing dual degree program by UNC-CH's School of Information and Library Science and School of Government
• Fellowships, curricula, courses, and experiential components designed specifically for the needs of public sector information professionals
ESOPI-21 Fellows

• Earning dual degree over three years: Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Science in either Information Science (MSIS) or Library Science (MSLS)

• 15 hour / week position at a partner work site: National Records and Archives Administration, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, University Archives (UNC), Environmental Finance Center (UNC)

• Receive stipend, tuition and health benefits

• Opportunities to engage with experts in public information curation via symposia, conferences and workshops
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Data Sources for Identifying Needs and Strategies

• Review of literature
• Evaluations and input from Fellows and Fellow supervisors
• Semi-structured interviews of advisory board members (7 of 8 completed)
Emergent Concept Based on Preliminary Findings: Digital Curation Governance
Governance

- Exercise of authority and control, in order to advance goals of the state
- Continually evolving and interactive set of processes
- In contrast to “government,” which suggests established structure
- Emergence of many associated terms: corporate governance, information technology (IT) governance, data governance
Effective Governance Requires Understanding of…

- Stakeholder needs
- Existing policies
- Social norms
- Individual behaviors
- Incentive structures
- Characteristics of potential implementation mechanisms
Digital Curation Governance

• Increasingly important arena of activity with associated requirements for professional education and engagement
• Ensuring the quality, integrity, discovery, access, and meaningful use of digital collections over time
• Shared responsibility that requires extensive communication, collaboration and mutual learning
• Requires skills and competencies to navigate the policy arena, manage projects, mobilize stakeholders and dig into the bits of digital collections
Thank you!