Embracing the D Word - Placing Archives Development in the R&D Landscape

CHRISTOPHER (CAL) LEE

Abstract: Advancing the archival profession requires active research and development. The archival literature includes several persuasive calls for the importance of research into issues as such user needs and the costs/benefits of archival processes. There has been relatively little emphasis on the role of innovative and systematic development in the archival enterprise. This presentation will articulate the opportunities and challenges in this space. It will draw from experience with several projects, including BitCurator, which is packaging, developing and documenting open-source forensics tools for use by libraries, archives and museums. I will discuss design decisions that we have made, and ways in which archives are incorporating digital forensics tools. There will be a strong emphasis on the types of lessons that only be learned through iterative development of tools and attention to feedback from users of the tools. I'll also discuss potential opportunities for future collaboration and development.

About the author:

Christopher (Cal) Lee is Associate Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches courses on archival administration; records management; digital curation; understanding information technology for managing digital collections; and digital forensics. He is a lead organizer and instructor for the DigCCurr Professional Institute, and he teaches professional workshops on the application of digital forensics methods and principles to digital acquisitions.

Cal's primary area of research is the curation of digital collections. He is particularly interested in the professionalization of this work and the diffusion of existing tools and methods into professional practice. Cal developed "A Framework for Contextual Information in Digital Collections," and edited and provided

several chapters to I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era published by the Society of American Archivists.

Cal is Principal Investigator of BitCurator, which is developing and disseminating open-source digital forensics tools for use by archivists and librarians. He was also Principal Investigator of the Digital Acquisition Learning Laboratory (DALL) project and is Senior Personnel on the DataNet Federation Consortium funded by the National Science Foundation. Cal has served as Co-PI on several projects focused on digital curation education: Preserving Access to Our Digital Future: Building an International Digital Curation Curriculum (DigCCurr), DigCCurr II: Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners; Educating Stewards of Public Information for the 21st Century (ESOPI-21), Educating Stewards of the Public Information Infrastructure (ESOPI2), and Closing the Digital Curation Gap (CDCG).