

## Closing the Digital Curation Gap (CDCG)

A significant gap has emerged between the dramatic progress of research and development on digital curation and professional practices of archivists, librarians, and museum curators. There are many viable applications, models, strategies, and standards for long-term care of digital objects. However, many institutions are either not aware of the options or do not currently have the ability to evaluate and implement them.

CDCG aims to fill this gap by providing guidance resources for professionals in small- to medium-sized repositories. It is funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services in the US and the Joint Information Systems Committee in the UK. We have collected requirements through focus groups and semi-structured interviews. We are applying what we learned to inform the design and implementation of online resources to assist information professionals who are taking on new digital curation roles and responsibilities.

### Getting Started Guides

Based on the CDCG focus groups, interviews, feedback from professionals who have taken part in the DigCCurr Professional Institute, and many informal discussions with working professionals, we have identified five scenarios in which professionals could often benefit from guidance on how to get started. These are archiving web sites, building institution repositories, caring for digitized collections, managing data, and acquiring information off external storage media.

We are building the guides in Drupal and are linking to related resources in the Digital Curation Exchange (DCE). Each guide is organized around seven main verbs, adapted from the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) initiative: prepare, identify, select, store, protect, manage and provide. Under each verb, we provide one or more questions, e.g. "How should I prepare to archive web sites?" and "What do I need to identify in order to archive web sites?" These questions serve as hyperlinks and titles to more detailed pages that summarize considerations and related resources (e.g. documents, workshops, models). We are supplementing the text-based resources with short videos in which domain experts and working professionals share insights about how to get started and make progress related to the identified scenarios.

## Related Activities



The School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill is engaged in digital curation education at the master's, doctoral, and professional levels. The DigCCurr (Digital Curation Curriculum) I and DigCCurr II projects have developed conceptual frameworks, educational offerings, professional field experiences, and research opportunities to prepare digital curation professionals. DigCCurr I focused on developing a curriculum and practicum experiences for master's students, while DigCCurr II is supporting doctoral and professional education, including summer institutes for continuing education of professionals. We have developed a 6-dimensional matrix for identifying and organizing the material to be covered in a digital curation curriculum.



Originally developed by Anne Kenney and Nancy McGovern at the Cornell University Library in 2003, moved to the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research of the University of Michigan in 2008, and now hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries, the Digital Preservation Management Workshops "incorporate community standards and exemplars of good practice to provide practical guidance for developing effective digital preservation programs." The National Endowment for the Humanities has partially funded the workshops. One of the hallmarks of this workshop is the Three-Legged Stool Model, illustrating that a successful digital preservation or curation program must have robust organizational and technological infrastructures, and possess requisite resources. Nancy McGovern has brought this model to the DigCCurr Professional Institute for which she serve as an instructor. As with DigCCurr, the DP Workshop participants develop action plans, in this case to-do lists for developing policies and workflows at home.

### Digital Archives Specialist Curriculum

In 2010, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) formed the Digital Archives Continuing Education Task Force to develop "a detailed professional development curriculum on the subject of digital archives." The Task Force used the DigCCurr Matrix to shape the resulting Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) curriculum. The curriculum and the associated Digital Archiving Specialist certificate were created in response to one of the issues identified in SAA's strategic plan: "Rapidly changing information technologies challenge archival principles, practices, and communication protocols, demanding effective leadership from the archives community to access, capture, and preserve records in all formats."



### Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) Program

The mission of the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) program of the Library of Congress "is to foster national outreach and education to encourage individuals and organizations to actively preserve their digital content, building on a collaborative network of instructors, contributors, and institutional partners." In 2010, DPOE staff conducted a Training Needs Assessment Survey. Before conducting any training, DPOE developed the "Program Pyramid" model consisting of three levels (executive, managerial, and practical) with three types of educational materials and approaches (strategy support, project planning, and hands-on learning experiences) – one for each respective audience. In September 2011 DPOE conducted a nationwide train-the-trainer workshop at the Library of Congress.



Digital Curator Vocational Education Europe (DigCurV) is funded by the European Commission to establish a curriculum framework for vocational training in digital curation. Building from its own environmental scan, the DCC Digital Curation Lifecycle Model, the DigCCurr Matrix, the DPOE target audiences pyramid, the Research Information Network's Researcher Development Framework, and the DAS Curriculum, the DigCurV Evaluation Framework has 6 areas: knowledge and principles; skills and competences; audience/profile types, Part of digital curation lifecycle; teaching methods/training delivery; and professional context. DigCurV is developing graphic models focusing on the skills, knowledge, and competencies required by the various digital curation audiences.