

Applying Archival Science to Digital Curation: Advocacy for the Archivist's Role

SAMMIE L. MORRIS

Abstract: Archivists have led digital preservation efforts since the 1990s, as a natural extension of their core responsibilities to collect, preserve, and provide ongoing access to unique information of enduring value. Increasingly, librarians and information professionals are also focusing attention and resources on digital curation initiatives. Examples include data curation, establishment of institutional repositories, and providing virtual work spaces for researchers to collaborate and archive their scholarly output.

Information professionals are relying upon emerging standards such as ISO 16363 for certification of trustworthy digital repositories, to facilitate successful digital preservation and access. Unfortunately, archivists are sometimes forgotten in an institution's digital curation efforts. If archivists allow their exclusion from stewardship of these types of unique digital materials, future archival collections will suffer.

Archivists need successful communication strategies to convince stakeholders of the expertise they bring to digital curation. This poster can serve as one piece in the archivist's overall communication toolkit. It provides a crosswalk from traditional archival practices to criteria in the ISO 16363 Standard for Trusted Digital Repositories. Archivists interested in assuming active roles in digital curation will find this poster valuable in justifying their involvement to stakeholders.

About the author:

Sammie L. Morris is University Archivist and Head of the Archives and Special Collections Division at Purdue University. Previously she served as Associate Dean for Special Collections and Archives at Florida State University. She is an active member of the Society of American Archivists, the Academy of Certified Archivists, and the Midwest Archives Conference. Sammie has served as Chair of SAA's Manuscript Repositories Section and Co-Chair of the Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable. She has served as president of the Society of Indiana Archivists and member of the Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board. Sammie received a MLIS degree specializing in Archival Enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA degree from Louisiana Scholars' College. She is an alumna of the 2008 Archives Leadership Institute.