

An Overview of Continuing Education Opportunities, Gaps, and Challenges in Digital Curation

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Thank you!

- The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for their generous support of numerous Digital Curation Education initiatives in the US and especially for support of the “Closing the Digital Curation Gap” project that brings us together today.
- All the hard work from UNC-CH SILS’s digital curation master’s and doctoral students.
- To all of you for attending today.



Open Questions for Professional Education in Digital Curation

- * How long/extensive should training be?
- * Where should training be held?
- * How should training be supported/funded?
- * How much should training cost?
- * “Everything should be 5 cents!”
- * What types of credentialing are appropriate?
- * Who should do the instruction?
- * Should instruction be broad or specific?
- * What should be the content?
- * What prerequisite knowledge is necessary?



Current Professional Education Landscape in Digital Curation

- * Patchwork quilt of course offerings

- * Format of offerings

- * Face-to-face

- * Webinar

- * Length of offerings

- * 1-2 hours

- * ½ day

- * 1 day

- * 2-3 days

- * 1 week

- * 1 week +

- * Multi –workshops over time

- * 5 course certificates

- * 10 course certificate



Venues for Professional Education in Digital Curation

- * College/university – participants come to teachers
- * Have workshop will travel
- * One's computer (webinar)
- * A series in one place
- * A series in multiple places



Sources for Professional Education in Digital Curation

- * Grant-funded projects
- * Income stream for professional organizations
- * Continuing education programs in universities
- * Commercial firms
 - * Conducting and charging for programs
 - * PASIG – Oracle



Gaps to Fill

- * Integrated programs that address technical and professional knowledge and skills across the digital asset lifecycle.
- * Capacity to specialize in various functions, environments, and material types.
- * Programs that address specific digital environments & resource types.

Pedagogical Issues

What to Teach?

- * Curriculum just being developed and following a blend of archival, information, business, and ethical principles along with cutting edge technical and process developments.
- * Core content unclear; range of content is unclear.
- * What is core vs. extended/specialized content?
- * Uncertainty at all educational levels.

How to Teach?

- * Face-to-face vs. remote.
- * Lecture/discussion vs. hands-on, what's the right mixture?
- * What is the role of field experiences/internships?
- * How do we sustain internships when grant money runs out?

Audience Level

- At what audience should digital curation education be aimed?
- What are the implications for pre-requisite knowledge?
- What can we expect various audiences to know in advance?
- What can we teach based on what an audience knows?
- How do we best deal with mixed-level audiences?

Audience Focus

- * How do teaching methods and content change based on the focus of the audience?
 - * Do we provide different content/methods for scientists who need to manage data vs. humanists vs. the general public?
 - * How do we best teach data curation and information management to content specialists (individual curators) vs. professional curators?
- * How do we best segment the marketplace?

Programmatic Duration

- * How long?
- * How do pedagogical goals relate to length of instruction?
- * What can we teach in 2 hours? 2 days? 2 weeks? 2 months? 2 years?
- * How do you get a core of information management and curation to specialized audiences who have a limited attention span for learning about digital curation?

Programmatic Sustainability

- Who is going to pay for all this?
- What is the business model for continuing education?
- Who is going to take this on?
- How is the academic going to be rewarded for working in this arena beyond formal graduate and undergraduate education?
- How can we reach such a large audience (everyone needs to know about digital curation!)?
- Can I-Schools provide the digital curation teaching capacity that the government, military, corporate, scientific, academic, and public sectors will require?

Where Are We?

- * Everything above is exploratory and experimental – even the formal looking concentrations and certificates.
- * There is only an emerging canon for the field of digital curation.
- * Research and development is rapid but not easily translated into workflows of existing professionals.
- * We are working this out.

Educational Needs

- * Digital curation educators need to work together, across national boundaries and across levels, scope, and instructional purpose.
- * We need to share materials and discuss approaches and emerging good practice.
- * We need to ramp-up the educational workforce.
- * We need to ramp-up educational efforts.

Next Steps

- * Analogous to needs in digital curation as a whole, we need to:
 - * Move from hand-crafted approaches to wide-spread and easily replicable solutions.
 - * Produce more educators who can train the trainer.
 - * Be able to certify learning.

THANK YOU



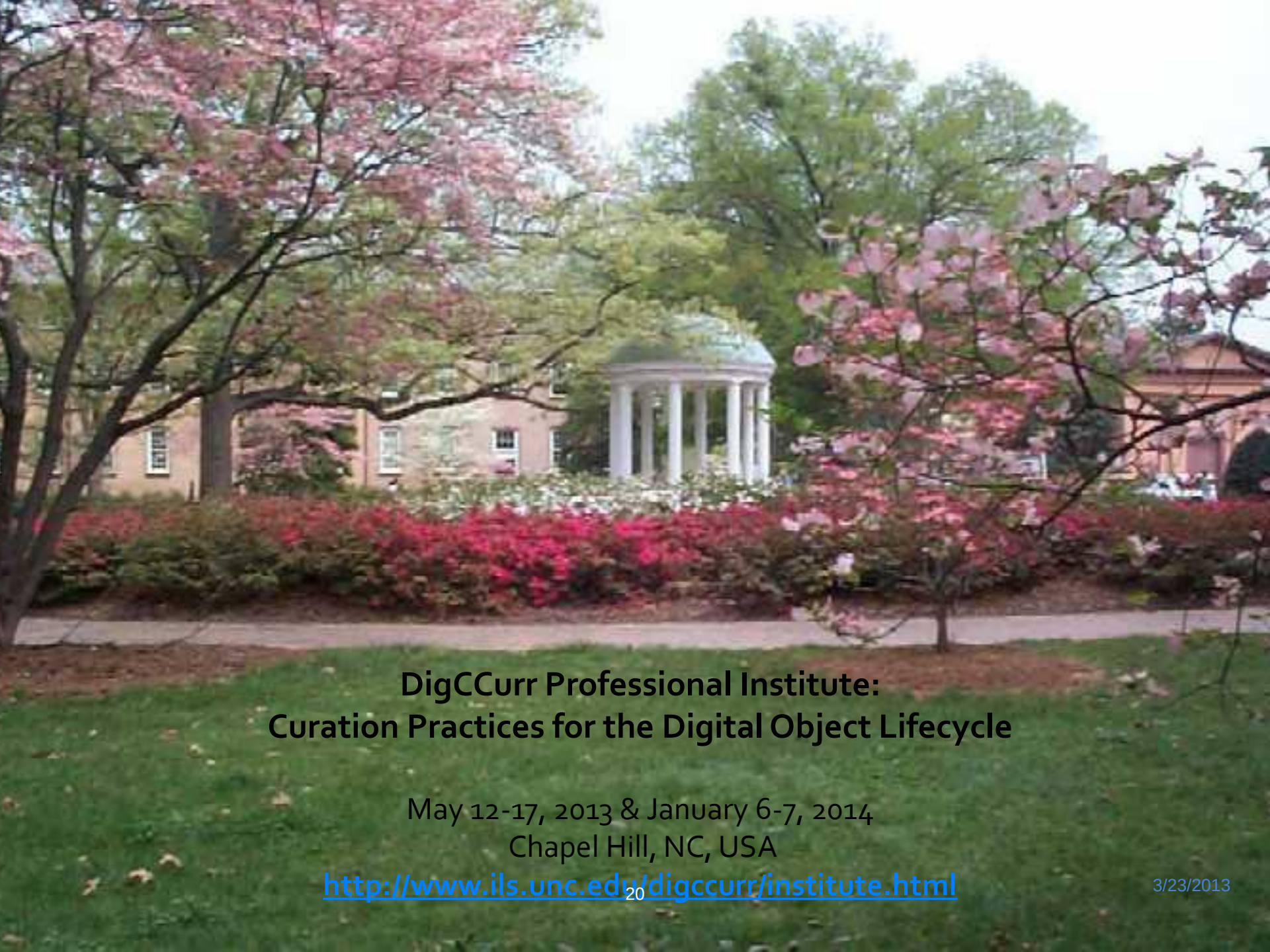
Questions?

Resources...

<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/>

Feedback...

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DigCCurr Professional Institute: Curation Practices for the Digital Object Lifecycle

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<http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/institute.html>