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**Extending Data Curation to the Humanities:  
Curriculum Development and Recruiting**

University of Illinois

**Six-Month Interim Report**

From: August 1, 2008 To: January 31, 2009

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## **Progress So Far**

Since the project's inception in August 2008, through January 2009, the DCEP-H project team's efforts have focused on five main objectives:

- (i) analyzing skill set and knowledge needs for humanities data curation professionals;
- (ii) developing an infrastructure to support collaboration and interaction with advisory board;
- (iii) organizing and announcing a Summer Institute on humanities data curation for library and museum professionals;
- (iv) integrating DCEP-H activities into the existing Data Curation Education Program (DCEP) activities;
- (v) announcing and describing our project to the library and information science and data curation communities.

### **(i) Needs analysis**

To support needs assessment, the project team has been collecting job descriptions for positions related to data curation in the humanities and conducting literature searches to identify discussions of needed skill sets. We are particularly interested in mapping traditional curation activities in the humanities to those being articulated in the sciences. The project coordinator has been synthesizing relevant literature on data practices in the humanities, drawing on the base of scholarly information behavior studies that characterize the work co-PI Carole Palmer and the Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship, in addition to identifying protocols used in other studies to illuminate scholarly behavior and data practices in the humanities.

### **(ii) Advisory Board**

The following advisory board members were in place at the start of this project:

- Gregory Crane, Professor of Classics and Winnick Family Chair in Technology and Entrepreneurship, Tufts University. Crane is Editor-in-Chief of Perseus a pioneering and influential digital library with a wide range of object types.
- Lorcan Dempsey, Chief Strategist and Vice President for Research, OCLC. Dempsey leads research and strategy for one of the most important organizations involved in metadata

research and technologies for bibliographic control. He worked for JISC (UK) before coming to OCLC and is a member of the NISO Board.

- Julia Flanders, Director, Women Writers Project, Brown University. Flanders, a recent chair of the Text Encoding Initiative Consortium and vice president of the Association for Computers and the Humanities, is a well-known expert on humanities text encoding.
- Christian-Emil Ore, Unit for Digital Documentation, Faculty of Arts, University of Oslo. Ore is the President of the Committee on Documentation (CIDOC) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
- Daniel Pitti, Associate Director, Institute for Technology in the Arts and Humanities (IATH), the University of Virginia. Pitti is Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and a leading figure in the development of the Encoded Archival Description.
- Harold Short, Director, Center for Computing in the Humanities, Kings College London. CCH is one of the largest humanities computing centers in the world and has been prominent in a wide range of initiatives in European digital resources; currently it is developing, in collaboration with the UK Centre for e-Research, a master's program in digital asset management.

To facilitate our interactions with the board members, we developed an email listserv and a wiki space on the University of Illinois's Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS)'s Confluence wiki site. Kevin Cherry, our IMLS Program Officer, is able to access both of these resources. We hope to schedule a face-to-face advisory board meeting in conjunction with a major conference in Year 2.

### **(iii) Summer Institute on Humanities Data Curation**

Capitalizing on the success of the Data Curation Education Program's Summer Institute in 2008, the project team has developed a summer institute for 2009, focusing on humanities data. The target audience is, as with the previous institute, practicing academic librarians and other information professionals. We have announced the institute, which will take place May 18-22, 2009, and have begun accepting applications.

Invited session leaders include: Julia Flanders (Brown University), Syd Bauman (Brown University), Dorothea Salo (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Michael Sperberg-McQueen (MIT/W3C), Carole Palmer (University of Illinois), John Unsworth (University of Illinois), and other faculty from the University of Illinois. A keynote will be presented by Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President and Chief Strategist of OCLC.

We have announced the Institute through the following professional listservs: digipres ([digipres@ala.org](mailto:digipres@ala.org)), humanist ([humanist@lists.digitalhumanities.org](mailto:humanist@lists.digitalhumanities.org)), diglib ([diglib@infoserv.inist.fr](mailto:diglib@infoserv.inist.fr)), and centernet ([centernet@lists.digitalhumanities.org](mailto:centernet@lists.digitalhumanities.org)) as well as posted to HASTAC (<http://www.hastac.org/>), a consortium of humanists, artists, scientists, and engineers, of leading researchers and nonprofit research institutions. In addition, we have created a web page for the Institute (<http://cirss.lis.uiuc.edu/CollMeta/dcep/SummerInstituteHumanities.htm>) and are currently working with the GSLIS's communication office for other dissemination avenues, in addition to a press release for the school (<http://tinyurl.com/dmyq6x>).

The original schedule was to hold the DCEP-H Summer Institute in 2009, rather than 2010, but last year's institute made evident the very high demand for in-service data curation education, and so we are scheduling the a humanities data institute for 2009, followed by one on social scientific data in 2010.

#### **(iv) Integration with existing DCEP procedures and activities**

Integration of this project's with the broader Data Curation Education Program at GSLIS has involved joint meetings between the two project teams, revising the DCEP grant website (<http://cirss.lis.uiuc.edu/CollMeta/dcep.html>), and combining recruitment activities. In September/November 2008, recruitment materials for the Data Curation Education Program were sent out to all undergraduate Library and Information Science programs in the United States. We will continue these recruitment activities in 2009, with a more targeted mailing directed at digital humanities centers and humanities departments at historically black colleges and other universities more generally. We will also be modeling our efforts in establishing internship sites on DCEP's work in this area in the coming months.

#### **(vi) Involvement of wider community**

An IMLS travel subsidy made possible participation in the International Data curation Education Action (IDEA) Working Group Meeting at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Digital Curation Conference 2008 in Edinburgh. There we made important connections with other data curation curriculum projects and learned more about current educational

strategies in data curation education. We anticipate an ongoing involvement with this group, and expect to be making contributions, from the humanities data perspective to the identification of core educational requirements in data curation. Our involvement with the wider professional community included:

Initial award announcement: (<http://tinyurl.com/e3cljl>)

Poster: Palmer, C. L., Renear, A. H., & Cragin, M. H. (2008). Purposeful curation: Research and education for a future with working data. Poster presented at the 4th International Digital Curation Conference "Radical Sharing: Transforming Science?," Edinburgh, Scotland, December 1-3, 2008. Available: [http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2008/programme/posters/Purposeful\\_Curation.pdf](http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2008/programme/posters/Purposeful_Curation.pdf)

Workshop: Renear participated in the International Data Curation Education Action (IDEA) Working Group Meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland, December 4, 2008.

Panel: Tibbo, H. R., Bradley, J, Botticelli, P., Palmer, C. L., & Cragin, M. [Panelists]. (2009). *Emerging Education Initiatives in Data Curation, Digital Information Management, and Digital Curation*. Panel organized by C. L. Palmer and M. Cragin. Moderated by J. Ray. Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference: Transforming LIS Education for the 21st Century: i-CREATE, Denver, CO, January 20-23, 2009.

Panel: Tibbo H. R., Winget, M., Kraus, K., & Renear, A. H. [Panelists]. (2009). *Going Digital — Culture, Information and Preservation: IMLS Grants Support a New Vision for LIS Education*. Panel moderated by M. Krause. Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference: Transforming LIS Education for the 21st Century: i-CREATE, Denver, CO, January 20-23, 2009.

Poster: Renear, A. H., Tefteau, L. C., Hswe, P., Dolan, M., Palmer, C. L., Cragin, M. H., & Unsworth J. M. (Forthcoming). *Extending an LIS Data Curation Curriculum to Include Humanities Data*. Accepted poster session for the DigCCurr 2009 Conference: Digital Curation Practice, Promise and Prospects, Chapel Hill, NC, April 1-3, 2009.

## Future Plans

**Summer Institute:** The next six months will continue work on the Summer Institute, culminating in the Institute itself, in May.

**Needs Assessment:** Needs assessment now has a high priority. Because we moved up the Summer Institute one year, time originally allocated for needs assessment was reallocated to developing the institute. We will now be refocusing on needs assessment during the next six months of the project,

**Recruiting:** We have also started reviewing incoming MS applications to identify possible DCEP-H candidates for the 2009-2010 school year. We will also be active recruiting for 2010-2011, as well as establishing internship sites.

**Curriculum development:** We will continue to analyze existing course offerings to understand how to integrate them, with or without modifications, into an emerging data curation curriculum. This includes planning additions to the Foundations of Data Curation course to accommodate humanities data. We are also working with DCEP team members to make data curation an official concentration for the University of Illinois.

**Collaborations:** Ongoing collaborations between the project team, the advisory board, and the Data Curation Education Program will be maintained.

## **Summary of Significant Achievements:**

### **Activities**

1. Establishment of the project team, including the hiring of a project coordinator and graduate research assistant.
2. Development of a wiki space and listserv for the advisory board.
3. Extensive coordination between the project team and the Data Curation Education Program.
4. Recruitment of Library and Information Science undergraduates for the Data Curation Education Program.
5. Organization of the Summer Institute for 2009 and subsequent announcements to the professional community.
6. Participation in professional conferences by project team members.