

## Introduction to the Sessions

With the increase of digital content in the broad areas of Institutional and domain specific Repositories, Libraries, Archives and Museums, digital curation is becoming a central activity and a challenge. The need for skilled professionals to manage digital collections is evident in Europe and internationally, yet there are limited numbers of institutions currently offering professional training and education programmes to prepare individuals to work in the field. One of the main objectives of the DigCurV project was to address the availability of educational curricula and vocational training for digital curators in the library, archive, museum and cultural heritage sectors needed to develop new skills that are essential for the long-term management of digital collections.

In line with those general objectives, it was felt that the inclusion of some Contributed Papers Sessions in the final conference of the DigCurV project would have added value to the project and interest to the conference. The objectives of the conference were to promote discussion and sharing of experience among the participants, and to start building some consensus among the main stakeholders for what concerns the criteria and requirements needed to develop training courses for professionals in digital curation. The presentation of results from projects and initiatives actively involved in education, training and professional development in the field of digital curation and digital preservation was therefore mostly welcomed.

A Call for Papers was issued, soliciting contributions on concrete examples of training initiatives and educational programmes in digital curation, illustrating approaches, methodologies and success stories of training addressed to an increasingly qualified workforce of the library, archive, museum and cultural heritage sectors. A number of topics of interest were suggested, from lifelong learning in digital curation to opportunities and challenges in developing training curricula, from training the trainers to sustainability of training initiatives. The complete Call for Papers can be seen at the DigCurV web site:

<http://www.digcur-education.org/eng/International-Conference/Call-for-Contributions-Closed>.

The call was quite successful, and the Program Committee in the end selected sixteen papers and twelve posters (of which only four were presented at the Conference, due to budget restrictions at the submitting organizations). The accepted papers were divided into 4 sessions, broadly based on the main topics dealt with within the paper, but this classification is rather coarse, as many papers could belong to more than one session, so we encourage the reader interested in browsing through the papers to look more at the abstract of a paper rather than at the title of the session.

By looking at all the accepted papers, an interesting consideration that can be done is that many of them are dealing with the curation and preservation of "research data", despite the fact that this topic was not specifically mentioned in the Call for Papers. Today practically all the research activities are based on digital sources, and therefore a particular aspect of Digital Curation is the storage, management and preservation of digital research data. Digital research data can take many different aspects, such as previous publications, images, video, audio, data bases, email, web sites, etc., and most of the time those data are specific to the research field. The term Data Curator is more and more used to indicate the person/organization responsible for all the activities connected with the management (curation) of research data. However, it is not (yet) clear which of the existing professional roles are best suited for this activity. Should there be a Data Librarian, or a Data Archivist, or a Data Museum curator ? Or is this a new role to be invented from scratch ? Or should the responsibility of curating research data be given to the "data producers", i.e. the researchers themselves ? As previously stated, it is interesting to note the different approaches and solutions to these topics that are presented in many of the papers.

We thank the readers for their interest in Digital Curation, and we hope that this set of papers can stimulate further thoughts, discussions and cooperation. Enjoy your reading !

Vittore Casarosa, Program Chair,  
and the whole Program Committee