



Introduction to the DigCurV Project

The DigCurV project began life in 2010 as a proposal to the European Commission's Education and Training agency for a project to address the gap in the education and training available to people working in cultural institutions and managing digital collections. We proposed to build a stakeholder network involving leading individuals and organisations in establishing a curriculum framework as the base from which programmes of vocational education and training could be developed in future. The project was funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme and work got underway in January 2011 at a kick-off meeting in London where the members of the consortium -HATII, Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, Goettingen State and University Library, Trinity College Dublin, Vilniaus Universiteto Biblioteka, MDR Partners and the University of Toronto – met to plan the project's activities.

In the thirty months since that meeting we have aimed to involve as many stakeholders with an interest in this field as possible. During the summer and autumn of 2011 we carried out surveys both of the existing training opportunities and to invite feedback from people working in cultural institutions on their training needs. The response was tremendous with more than 550 individuals taking the time to complete our online questionnaires – a figure which, as the survey was undertaken during the summer holiday season, in its own right makes a statement about the need for training and education in digital curation.

The information, which we collected through the surveys and via a series of focus group meetings and workshops, has directly helped to inform the Curriculum Framework that we are proud to launch at this conference. Along the way we developed the Curate! game as a means of stimulating discussion about digital curation and the surrounding education and training issues. Both the Curriculum Framework and the Curate! game have generated a lot of interest and discussion amongst the international network of people involved with Digital Curation Education.

This conference, which happens in the final months of the DigCurV project, is an excellent opportunity to bring together people who are actively involved in developing training and education for digital curators, to exchange ideas and to plan future developments. Our aim is to encourage people to make use of the tools which DigCurV has developed but ultimately our aim is to promote the emergence of new training opportunities in the field of digital curation.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped to inform the Curriculum Framework by sharing their knowledge and experience, in particular all the members of the DigCurV project team who have worked with such enthusiasm and commitment.

Kate Fernie

DigCurV project coordinator