



Round Table:

Creating a Common Vision for Digital Curation Education: Building Alliances

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DISCUSSION

The "Framing the digital curation curriculum" conference closed with a lively round table discussion, thanks to all the speakers that participated with enthusiasm to the debate, where the most important issues were again placed under the microscope to be summarized and discussed.

Wendy Duff, Professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Information, chaired the session

Participants were the delegates of the organisations that supported the DigCurV conference and the attendees, which sought to draw on the Curriculum Framework (CF) presented by DigCurV, in order to assess and gain further insights into the contribution of all the organisations in further developments and adoption of the CF.

Wendy Duff opened the discussion by asking the participants which benefits and/or obstacles in adopting the CF could be highlighted.

Andrea Caccia is the delegate from $ANORC^1$, the Italian National Association for digital preservation, a not for profit organisation that acts as a reference point for all the stakeholders involved in the process of digital storage and dematerialisation. ANORC is interested in being involved in the CF development, because it has a precise commitment in delivering training courses to all the professionals involved in digital curation. The CF would significantly benefit from the possibility to transfer the CF into a standardised framework, to help fill the gap of the competences needed by professional at all levels.

Achim Osswald is the delegate from nestor², the German competence network for digital preservation. The nestor network has been involved in the evaluation of the CF and

Achim was pleased for the great opportunity to use the results of the DigCurV project. In the near future he envisages a lot of steps to be done, not only to apply the framework itself (or some of its aspects), but also to try to improve it in some areas. One example would be to create role models or profiles that go beyond the practical lenses. In the German workshops for the evaluation of the CF, they thought the three lenses suggested that there were an equal number of persons involved. Actually there is a great number of practitioners involved in different aspects of digital curation. Therefore a suggestion is that these lenses should be further developed in the future.

Ann Gow, from the DigCurV project, confirms that HATII and the other project partners are committed to continuing the development of the framework.

Wendy Duff asked Achim to clarify what type of roles he is suggesting. Achim indicated that, during the workshops, they discussed different kind of roles and they think that a lens should focus also on IT specialists, on people responsible for technology watch, ans digitization; he suggested there is a great variety of activities in digital curation that can be broken down into roles and in different sectors.

Adam Carter is representing EUDAT³ (European Data Infrastructure), a project involved in large-scale data infrastructures. One of the aims of the project is to provide services for community data centre managers, specifically in the subject area of data repositories. EUDAT is trying to develop services to connect subject area repositories together and make sure that data can be reusable and curated in the long term. The conference topic is a bit on the periphery of EUDAT, but it helped Adam better understand the interface between what EUDAT is working on and subject librarians, and what EUDAT needs to train people in. The CF helps to work out the boundaries to what different people can specialize in. Adam will review the framework in more depth, particularly those skills that EUDAT considers relevant and he will suggest whether the lenses should be split into more detailed roles. In

¹ http://www.anorc.it/index_ing.php?lang=en

²http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de/Subsites/nestor/EN/Home /home_node.html

³ http://www.eudat.eu/



general Adam thinks the CF is very useful, as the tool for accessing the framework. He suggested the online tool needs a "search" feature. Adam thinks that EUDAT would be interested in joining a prospective Network, depending on what membership entails. In any case he would like to keep abreast of what is happening.

Simon Hodson from the JISC management data research programme, which is designed to support the management of research data of UK universities spoke next. JISC looks at policies, strategies, infrastructures and support roles. Simon emphasises that there is a danger in digital curation: experts have turned digital preservation into a daunting and serious challenge. The challenge is to make digital preservation accessible, practical and applicable to every day activity by researchers and this is what JISC seeks to encourage. With regard to the CF, Simon was excited to hear speakers say how useful the framework was in clarifying the language or their approach. A significant achievement would be to use the framework in networks to define skills and competences and to help clarify terminology. Simon thinks it would be interesting to understand to what extent the CF can be used to define the contents that are a little bit less specialised for the digital curation and what researchers have to do with digital curation, or need to be a little aware of, even if they are not specialist. This leads to the question about handover procedures between responsible parties; he thinks this should be built into the framework and training materials. People need to know where their responsibilities start and stop. This is a moving target and so the handovers are also likely to change.

Wendy Duff asks about a 4th lens. What would it be for the framework to identify a lens for the personal record keeper? Simon Hodson thinks that, since today we live in a digital world, a certain amount of digital curation knowledge is a life skill, so everyone needs a certain amount of knowledge about it.

Helen Tibbo is an Alumni Distinguished Professor at the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). Helen thinks that graduate education is quite easy as the teacher has a "captive" audience and defined programmes to follow. Her main concern is about vocational education which is very difficult, not only for the contents to teach, but also for the organisation of the training courses and for the financial aspects (who pays for the classes?). Professionals cannot update their competences in a few hours course. Vocational training is a huge challenge. In Helen's opinion, the CF is great, but it needs to set out some kind of course structures. Helen asks herself if there are organisations in Europe that are going to conduct continuing education: one of the biggest problems is that today projects come and go, as well as funding.

Wendy Duff mentions the Digital Curation Exchange⁴, which contain extensive teaching resources. To deliver a



course, a lot of preparation is needed and not only from the organisational side. Could a Network be of help in delivering training? What role could it have? Should it be international or European? Should we differentiate between secondary education and postgraduate education? In US there are lots of courses with a digital curation component. Wendy is mainly worried about continuing education; at present time there is not an designated organisation with this mission.

Neil Grindley (Programme Manager at JISC) from the audience, declared his interest in the CF and asks how professionals might design courses using the framework. He wonders if there is a scope in student trainees putting the course together themselves choosing from some kind of international catalogue of courses. There is an international community looking for ways of collaborating together to offer this kind of shop window.

Wendy Duff believes that today the business models for universities are changing. There are thousands of students taking courses which are based world-wide. An example is the course on introduction to computer science that was free: 100.000 students signed up, and only 9.000 finished!

Helen Tibbo thinks that a lot of these courses are broad, then people take more specific courses. Another issue is that, to plan a training course, besides text books, you must include exercises and hands-on activities.

Seamus Ross, Dean of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, points out that DCC 101 offers a whole series of introductory topics with exercises. The University of Toronto is also currently offering MOOC, free online courses to experiment with the business models planning.

Mary Molinaro, Associate Dean for Library Technologies at the University of Kentucky Libraries, shares concern about sustainability of training programmes. She believes that low cost solutions should be provided for a wide range of people in vocational education with professional responsibilities for digital contents. She asks if it would be useful to overlay the DigCurV Curriculum Framework over the DPOE curriculum⁵, in order to make them converge. This action would be beneficial for the international collaboration on the definition of curricula. Moreover to have a unique curriculum as a reference could be a benefit as would be easier to maintain and update. Someone is more likely to pay for this joint effort. There is a lot of duplication of events calendars, Library of Congress, Digital Curation Exchange: it may be helpful to have a European one and US one. We need to think about duplication of effort and see if this can be reduced. Overcoming this obstacle is not an easy task; she suggested another grant might help. She shares concerns about the DPOE programme, as there have been cutbacks in the US. Also the Dean of the University of Kentucky supports this work.

⁴ http://digitalcurationexchange.org

⁵http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/education/curriculum.htm



Jurate Kupriene is the Director for Innovations and Infrastructure Development at Vilnius University Library. She is partner of the DigCurV project and contributed to the development of the CF, that she considers good to start work. Lithuanian situation is not very developed, there is a big gap in the availability of training for MLA professionals. In 2011 more than 70 structures are going to have a repository and they are talking only about digitization: curation is quite a new thing. The DigCurV framework is useful for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to create a movement to go out and talk to colleagues. In parallel the Open Access Movement has been active since 2006, today an Open Access repository for Lithuania is available. This year they started to create a national open access repository for scientific publications and a big project for national research data archive was funded, and Lithuanian Vilnius University is the project manager. The DigCurV CF is a good tool to help explain to managers what they will be responsible for in the initial stages of the projects and to start planning. The CF could also be translated into the Lithuanian language for older people. The framework can be a used as a business plan to develop training for academic librarians as we are planning to have a good national training centre for academic librarians, archivists and museums.

Achim Osswald added a note about the national focus that Jurate mentioned. The DigCurV framework offers the opportunity to connect between different experiences and also different nationalities. Although at the conference there were lots of good and enthusiastic presentations from colleagues from the United States, we should be aware that we are talking about the results of a European project, and the main focus was to tackle and solve the problems that are present in Europe. To help to do this, the conference brought in partners from the US to discuss their experiences. Also Britain can be considered sometimes inside and sometimes outside Europe. The main issue is that the CF provides an opportunity to delineate what we have achieved in our national educational activities to get a common understanding and to identify which are the levels we are achieving and the programs that we apply. In Achim's opinion it is important to discuss these issues within the national context. Another important subject is the business model: in many European countries, higher education is not a business area, rather it is a state-funded area: in fact it's up to the university and the activities of the deans of the departments if programs have to be applied, in relation to the demands of the labour market. So the perspective of the business model should be taken into account.

Wendy Duff poses a question to the group regarding how the CF will be maintained, since people's reactions have been very positive. She does not think that looking for the next grant is the answer. So a possibility could be to set something up, so that people's experiences in using the framework can be fed back into the development of the framework.

Neil Grindley suggests that there are contexts where the DigCurV framework could be discussed. He refers about a conference in Tallin in 2011, "Aligning national approaches to digital preservation", which was an excellent discussion of



potential alignment strategies across various national preservation programs. The second edition has been scheduled for Barcelona, Spain, on November 18-20⁶. There are certainly other initiatives that would benefit from having the DigCurV framework included in their programme.

Anna Maria Tammaro, from the Governing Board of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), intends to support this framework. There is a working group in IFLA on convergence of associations. She invites DigCurV to participate in the IFLA conference in Lyon on August 2014⁷: there is a satellite event dedicated to the convergence issue. Moreover if interested, this DigCurV framework can be included in the strategic initiatives of IFLA (standardization, digital contents). Anna Maria offers to take on the role of diffusing the DigCurV framework within IFLA.

Wendy Duff is interested in what professionals from Archives think about the Framework. The ICA (International Council on Archives) could be interested in the CF. Jenny Bunn offered to take DitCurV Framework to the Archives organization. The ICOM (International Council of Museums) is an international group that might be interested. Wendy Duff asks Ann Gow and Laura Molloy what they think about taking the Framework to various conferences and professional associations. Ann would be pleased to see the Framework used, the only concern is with the EU funding for travel. Laura encourages people to send comments as soon as possible (short focused pieces of feedback would be great). Wendy asks the speakers who spoke about using the framework to send feedback to Laura.

Maurizio Lunghi, from FRD (Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale), invited the PrestoCentre initiative that agreed in principle to share a common approach and in cooperating even if they are not able to attend the conference.

Wendy Duff spoke about the history of Drambora. Anything that can be done to move the Framework towards associations and sustainable contexts would be good.

Andrea Caccia refers about CEN (European Committee for Standardisation), a EU standard organization. They already had workshops about DRAMBORA. If we are able to reach an harmonized competence framework, it would be of help for the mobility of competences across Europe.

Wendy Duff reminds people about business schools, computer science groups that also have educational components.

Wendy Duff closes by encouraging people to send their feedback on the framework and the CURATE game. She says that DigCurV has been an amazing project and hopes it will be sustainable. Such a vibrant community, we need to make sure that the excellent tools the project developed are sustained.

The impression is that we are on the right track.

⁶ http://www.educopia.org/events/ANADPII

⁷ http://conference.ifla.org/ifla80/