

# **INST 643: Curation in Cultural Institutions**

## **Fall Semester 2017**

Instructor: Adam Kriesberg

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Office: Hornbake South, Room 0216C

Meeting Time and Place: Wednesdays 2:00pm - 4:45pm, Hornbake 0103

Office Hours: Before and after class, and by appointment

Credits: 3

Pre-requisites: INST604 or instructor permission

**Catalog Description:** An overview of the principles, practices, and current debates in the management, care and representation of digital artifacts in libraries, archives, and museums.

**Course Description:** In this course, students will explore digital curation issues learn about the fundamental technologies underlying many digital archives, libraries and museums. There is a strong emphasis on metadata and standards which enable users to discover cultural materials online. Over the course of the term, students will read a mix of foundational and contemporary literature and complete assignments using relevant software in use across the country and around the world. This course provides students with a solid foundation in digital curation across the cultural heritage landscape and gives them the opportunity to gain confidence with software in use in professional settings.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Develop a broad appreciation of digital curation and how different cultural institutions implement its principles in varying ways.
- Become familiar with the metadata standards and technologies that provide the foundation for digital curation systems.
- Acquire experience using software used in libraries, archives, and museums for digital curation activities.
- Improve communication skills through writing and presentation of course projects.

## Requirements:

- Attendance in all course sessions is expected. If you have a conflict that will result in missing more than one class, please notify me and consider a plan to complete the work for class meetings you will miss.
- Complete required readings at the level of thorough preparation to discuss and critique readings for each week.
- Complete all assignments on time.

## Classroom Etiquette:

While students are encouraged to bring notebook computers to class and to use them actively as learning tools, engagement with course discussions and activities is expected during class sessions. Students should: □

- Use laptops for taking notes, conducting research required for activities, and other specific classroom tasks as assigned by the instructor. During class, students should not check e-mail, chat, IM, play games, or perform other off-task activities. □
- Engage in-class activity as actively as they would in any other class. The computer should not become a barrier to one-on-one interaction, but instead should help facilitate the exchange of ideas and engagement in classroom contact. □
- Demonstrate sensitivity to fellow students and the instructor. Students should not display screen images, including wallpapers and screen savers, which might be distracting or offensive to other members of the class.

## Disability Assistance:

From the University's Disability and Accessibility Policy (<http://ter.ps/c1o>)

*The University of Maryland is committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and inclusive educational, working, and living environment for people of all abilities. The University of Maryland is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the University, or be subjected to discrimination. The University of Maryland provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals. Reasonable accommodations shall be made in a timely manner and on an individualized and flexible basis.*

If you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way we teach may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the university's Disability Support Service to help us determine appropriate accommodations. I will treat all information you provide me as confidential.

## Academic Integrity:

Unless otherwise specified in an assignment, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. Any violation of the university's policy on Academic Integrity (<http://ter.ps/c1p>) will result in penalties, which might range from failing an assignment, to failing a course, to being expelled from the program, at the discretion of the instructor and the iSchool administration.

## Assignments:

This course has four main assignments. I believe that writing is an extremely important skill to develop in graduate school, so each of the assignments contains some writing element. Whether to write a report proposing a project at your place of work, apply for a grant, report on research results, or explain your work to your supervisor, gaining skill and confidence in writing can benefit everyone.

1. Assignment #1: APIs and the Digital Public Library of America
  - **Due September 27, 2017**
2. Assignment #2: ArchivesSpace and Metadata Standards
  - **Due October 25, 2017**
3. Assignment #3: Omeka and Online Exhibits
  - **Prospectus/Abstract due November 1, 2017**
  - **Final Assignment Due November 15, 2017**
4. Final Assignment: Digital Curation Tool Evaluation
  - **Due December 6, 2017**

## Grading and Evaluation:

- Assignment #1: DPLA.....15%
- Assignment #2: ArchivesSpace.....20%
- Assignment #3: Omeka.....20%
- Final Assignment: Tool Evaluation.....25%
- Attendance and participation.....20%

## **Course Schedule: Topics and Readings**

### Week 1 (August 30, 2017): Introductions

For review if you haven't already read it:

- Yakel, E. (2007). Digital curation. *OCLC Systems & Services: International Digital Library Perspectives*, 23(4), 335–340. <http://doi.org/10.1108/10650750710831466>

### Week 2 (September 6, 2017): Defining Curation

- Marty, P. F. (2014). Digital Convergence and the Information Profession in Cultural Heritage Organizations: Reconciling Internal and External Demands. *Library Trends*, 62(3), 613–627. <http://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2014.0007>
- Ross, S. (2012). Digital Preservation, Archival Science and Methodological Foundations for Digital Libraries. *New Review of Information Networking*, 17(1), 43–68. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13614576.2012.679446>

### Week 3 (September 13, 2017): Curation in Libraries

- York, J. (2009). This Library Never Forgets: Preservation, Cooperation, and the Making of HathiTrust Digital Library. In *Archiving 2009 Final Program and Proceedings*. Society for Imaging Science and Technology. Retrieved from <http://umd.library.ingentaconnect.com/content/ist/ac/2009/00002009/00000001/art00003>
- Gregory, Lisa, and Stephanie Williams. 2014. "On Being a Hub: Some Details behind Providing Metadata for the Digital Public Library of America." *D-Lib Magazine* 20 (7/8). doi:10.1045/july2014-gregory.
- Crawford, S. Y. (2016). Evolution of biomedical communication as reflected by the National Library of Medicine. *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*, 104(1), 67–71. <http://doi.org/10.3163/1536-5050.104.1.011>

### Week 4 (September 20, 2017): Digital Preservation in Action

- Lor, P. J., & Britz, J. (2012). An ethical perspective on political-economic issues in the long-term preservation of digital heritage. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 63(11), 2153–2164. <http://doi.org/10.1002/asi.22725>
- Mannheimer, S., Yoon, A., Greenberg, J., Feinstein, E., & Scherle, R. (2014). A balancing act: The ideal and the realistic in developing Dryad's preservation policy. *First Monday*, 19(8). Retrieved from <http://journals.uic.edu/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/5415>
- Johnston, W. (2012). Digital Preservation Initiatives in Ontario: Trusted Digital Repositories and Research Data Repositories. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 7(2). Retrieved from <http://criticalvoices.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/2014>

### Week 5 (September 27, 2017): Curation in Archives

- Ruth, Janice E. "Encoded Archival Description: A Structural Overview." *The American Archivist* 60, no. 3 (1997): 310-29. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40294440>.

- Riley, Jenn, and Kelcy Shepherd. 2009. “A Brave New World: Archivists and Shareable Descriptive Metadata.” *The American Archivist* 72 (1): 91–112. doi:10.17723/aarc.72.1.kl70j01223654874.
- Review standards online:
  - <http://www.loc.gov/ead/>
  - <http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de>

#### Week 6 (October 4, 2017): Standards, Part 1 (Preservation/Management standards i.e. PREMIS)

- Baker, T. (2000). A Grammar of Dublin Core. *D-Lib Magazine*, 6(10). <http://doi.org/10.1045/october2000-baker>
- Beisler, A., & Willis, G. (2009). Beyond Theory: Preparing Dublin Core Metadata for OAI-PMH Harvesting. *Journal of Library Metadata*, 9(1/2), 65–97. <http://doi.org/10.1080/19386380903095099>
- Donaldson, D. R., & Conway, P. (2010). Implementing PREMIS: a case study of the Florida Digital Archive. *Part of a Special Issue Technology and Digital Preservation*, 28(2), 273–289. <http://doi.org/10.1108/07378831011047677>
- Review standards online:
  - <http://dublincore.org>
  - <http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/>

#### Week 7 (October 11, 2017): Standards, Part 2 (Library and archives standards i.e. MARC, EAD)

- Harper, C. A., & Tillett, B. B. (2007). Library of Congress Controlled Vocabularies and Their Application to the Semantic Web. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 43(3-4), 47–68. [http://doi.org/10.1300/J104v43n03\\_03](http://doi.org/10.1300/J104v43n03_03)
- Yakel, E., & Kim, J. (2005). Adoption and diffusion of encoded archival description. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 56(13), 1427–1437.
- Review standards online:
  - <https://www.loc.gov/marc/>
  - <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/>

#### Week 8 (October 18, 2017): The Promise of Linked Data

- [WATCH] Berners-Lee, T. (2009, February). The next web. Presented at the TED 2009. Retrieved from [http://www.ted.com/talks/tim\\_berniers\\_lee\\_on\\_the\\_next\\_web](http://www.ted.com/talks/tim_berniers_lee_on_the_next_web)
- Brown, S., & Simpson, J. (2013). The curious identity of Michael Field and its implications for humanities research with the semantic web (pp. 77–85). Presented at the IEEE International Conference on Big Data, IEEE. <http://doi.org/10.1109/BigData.2013.6691674>
- Caracciolo, C., Stellato, A., Rajbhandari, Y. J., Morshed, A., Johannsen, G., & Keizer, J. (2012). Thesaurus maintenance, alignment and publication as linked data: the AGROVOC use case. *International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies*, 7(1), 65–75.

#### Week 9 (October 25, 2017): Project Management and Curation Projects

- James, C., & Punzalan, R. L. (2014). Legacy Matters: Describing Subject-Based Digital Historical Collections. *Journal of Archival Organization*, 12(3-4), 198–215. <http://doi.org/10.1080/15332748.2015.1150104>
- Sands, A. E., Borgman, C. L., Traweek, S., & Wynholds, L. A. (2014). We're Working On It: Transferring the Sloan Digital Sky Survey from Laboratory to Library. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, 9(2). <http://doi.org/10.2218/ijdc.v9i2.336>

#### Week 10 (November 1, 2017): Curation in Museums

- Kalfatovic, M., Kapsalis, E., Spiess, K., Van Camp, A., & Edson, M. (2008). Smithsonian Team Flickr: a library, archives, and museums collaboration in web 2.0 space. *Archival Science*, 8(4), 267–277. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-009-9089-y>
- Kunda, S., & Anderson-Wilk, M. (2011). Community Stories and Institutional Stewardship: Digital Curation's Dual Roles of Story Creation and Resource Preservation. *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 11(4), 895–914. <http://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2011.0047>
- Wilson, R. J. (2011). Behind the scenes of the museum website. *Museum Management and Curatorship*, 26(4), 373–389. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09647775.2011.603934>

#### Week 11 (November 8, 2017): Digital Curation Issues in the News

- Green, A. (2014, August 22). Sharing the knowledge: taking notes on open data from records managers and archivists. Retrieved from <http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2014/08/22/sharing-the-knowledge-taking-notes-on-open-data-from-records-managers-and-archivists/>
- Email the instructor (or message via ELMS) with readings from the news that highlight issues from class. Readings to be announced on 11/1/2017

#### Week 12 (November 15, 2017): International Perspectives

- Duff, W. M., Carter, J., Cherry, J. M., MacNeil, H., & Howarth, L. C. (2013). From Coexistence to Convergence: Studying Partnerships and Collaboration among Libraries, Archives and Museums. *Information Research: An International Electronic Journal*, 18(3). Retrieved from <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1044683>
- Fresa, A., Justrell, B., & Prandoni, C. (2015). Digital curation and quality standards for memory institutions: PREFORMA research project. *Archival Science*, 15(2), 191–216. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-015-9242-8>
- Pickover, M. (2008). The DISA Project. Packaging South African heritage as a continuing resource: content, access, ownership and ideology. *IFLA Journal*, 34(2), 192–197. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0340035208092177>

#### Week 13 (November 22, 2017): Research Data Curation

- Vardigan, M., & Whiteman, C. (2007). ICPSR meets OAIS: applying the OAIS reference model to the social science archive context. *Archival Science*, 7(1), 73–87. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-006-9037-z>

- Akmon, D., Zimmerman, A., Daniels, M., & Hedstrom, M. (2011). The application of archival concepts to a data-intensive environment: working with scientists to understand data management and preservation needs. *Archival Science*, 11(3-4), 329-348.
- Hou, C.-Y., Thompson, C. A., & Palmer, C. L. (2014). Profiling open digital repositories in the atmospheric and climate sciences: An initial survey. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 51(1), 1–4.  
<http://doi.org/10.1002/meet.2014.14505101121>

#### Week 14 (November 29, 2017): Community Curation

- Krause, Magia, and Elizabeth Yakel. "Interaction in virtual archives: the polar bear expedition digital collections next generation finding aid." *The American Archivist* 70.2 (2007): 282-314.
- Seidman, M. J., Flanagan, D. M., Rose-S, T., ler, & Lichtenberg, M. (2016). Are games a viable solution to crowdsourcing improvements to faulty OCR? – The Purposeful Gaming and BHL experience. *The Code4Lib Journal*, (33). Retrieved from <http://journal.code4lib.org/articles/11781>
- Thorpe, K., & Galassi, M. (2014). Rediscovering Indigenous Languages: The Role and Impact of Libraries and Archives in Cultural Revitalisation. *Australian Academic & Research Libraries*, 45(2), 81–100. <http://doi.org/10.1080/00048623.2014.910858>

#### Week 15 (December 6, 2017): Project/Paper Presentations

- Final assignment: Digital Curation Tool Evaluation
  - Paper due before class! Turn in on ELMS