The Fellowship in Digital Curation is a unique opportunity available to students who specialize in Archives and Digital Curation at the UMD iSchool. In partnership with the National Agricultural Library (NAL), a select group of graduate student Fellows will engage in both research and practice towards developing and implementing policies, strategies, and work plans to solve real-world digital curation challenges. This Fellowship utilizes the extensive infrastructure, staff expertise, collections, and programs of NAL, which is in close proximity to the UMD campus. Fellows will closely interact and coordinate with a team of information professionals and iSchool faculty in designing and implementing digital curation projects at NAL. The Fellowship is a prime example of collaborative partnership between a repository with extensive digital collections and an academic program with a focus in digital curation.

We plan to accept 2 to 3 Digital Curation Fellows for 2015. We seek to recruit applicants with interest in the following priority areas:

1. **Version and archiving policy and implementation decisions** – NAL has several data projects in a range of the areas such as environmental, sustainability, and genomic data. Some of these are active datasets which will require policies and decisions for best practices in archiving and versioning the data and its associated metadata. Included in this are considerations related to DOI’s assigned to datasets.

2. **Support for scientific metadata review and application to the description of datasets** – A number of scientific metadata standards exist. The Fellow will be looking and comparing these standards against the variety of agricultural research data hosted by NAL. Practical hands-on experience with the implementation of various standards will be a part of the Fellow’s experience.

3. **Metadata description of a variety of datasets with attention to user interface and search function** – The Agricultural Data Commons is a registry and repository for scientific data related to agriculture. NAL is expecting to receive a wide range of data types, formats, and content from many disciplines. Identifying the proper standards to apply – and then applying the standards will be a part of the Fellow’s experience. Further the Fellow will work with UI engineers to better optimize search and discovery using metadata.

4. **Scientific data collection policy** – A collection development policy related to scientific data is needed as part of establishing the Agricultural Data Commons at NAL. The Fellow will help craft the necessary set of policies and guidelines.

5. **Users and uses of agricultural information** – NAL is gathering robust information on the impact of agricultural information that are made available in its website. The Fellow will have the opportunity to help design and conduct user studies and evaluate the value of NAL’s online resources for various user communities.

This is a competitive application. A panel composed of NAL staff and iSchool faculty will review all applications. Interested students must be able to demonstrate both outstanding academic achievements and a commitment to digital curation as a career trajectory. Application deadline
is May 8, 2015. Selected Fellows will be announced by the end of May. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

• Provide a statement of interest (800-1,000 words) that identifies the specific priority area (one of the five enumerated above) the candidate is applying for, explains one’s suitability for the position and describes how the Fellowship figures into present and future career plans in digital curation;
• Furnish a copy of updated transcripts (official or unofficial) and CV that includes contact information for at least two professional or academic references;
• Submit all materials via email to punzalan@umd.edu by the stated deadline.

Fellowships will start in the Fall semester and will continue in Spring and Summer 2016 (September 2015 to August 2016). Fellows are expected to engage in the program 20 hours a week. A stipend calculated at $20/hour will be provided throughout the duration of the Fellowship.