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:


Week 2 (September 6, 2017): Defining Curation


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


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


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


• Review standards online:
  o http://www.loc.gov/ead/
  o http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de

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


• Review standards online:
  o http://dublincore.org
  o http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/

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


• Review standards online:
  o https://www.loc.gov/marc/
  o http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/

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


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


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


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


• 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**


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


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


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

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