

Teaching the Masses about Research Data Management

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Abstract: This poster will discuss the Research Data Management MOOC (Massively Open Online Course), a product of the CRADLE project-- (cradle.web.unc.edu) – and the University of Edinburgh’s MANTRA (Research Data Management Training; datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra) program. CRADLE is an IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)-funded project undertaken by the School of Information and Library Science and the Odum Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. CRADLE is partnering with MANTRA to produce a MOOC that is relevant to librarians, archivists, and other information professionals tasked with research data management as well as to researchers themselves. This is the first international MOOC on data management and curation.

In 2005, the National Science Board in the US observed that “...data scientists [including] librarians [and] archivists... have the responsibility to design and implement education and outreach programs that make the benefits of data collections and digital information science available to the broadest possible range of researchers, educators, students, and the general public.” Since then, Researcher funders world-wide have asked grant applicants to provide data management plans (DMP) with their proposals and scholarly journals are now asking authors to deposit their data when they submit articles for publication. Many researchers have found these requirements difficult to meet as they have not been trained in research data management (RDM) and have turned to librarians and data archivists for assistance. The need for research data management plans and archiving of data has been a wake-up call for researchers and librarians alike.

Libraries and archives have begun to position themselves as solution centres for university-wide RDM awareness raising, training, and service provision. This is opening up an opportunity to engage with researchers ‘upstream’ in the research process (during pre-publication activity), but to be successful, library staff must be knowledgeable about RDM.

MANTRA has been providing RDM training materials to both librarians and researchers for a number of years, by optimising the MANTRA materials for researchers themselves, and creating study materials in the form of the DIY RDM Training Kit for Librarians. In June, 2015, MANTRA joined forces with the CRADLE team to develop curriculum for an international audience on data management and deliver it in the form of a Coursera MOOC offered through both institutions’ shopfronts. The first iteration of the MOOC started on March 1, 2016, and will remain persistently available on Coursera. The MOOC, “Research Data Management and Sharing” (www.coursera.org/learn/research-data-management-and-sharing), consists of five weeks’ worth of lessons, delivered mainly by video lecture: Understanding Research Data, Data

Management Planning, Working with Data, Sharing Data, and Archiving Data. While the course is free, a certificate of completion can be earned for a small fee.

By the time of the SAA 2016 conference we will be able to report on our experience delivering this MOOC several times to an international audience that includes both information professionals and researchers. We will have five months of data to analyze regarding demographic characteristics of the participants, use of the five modules, forum participation, and queries from the participants. We also hope to be able to discuss supplementary data sets and exercises.

About the Author:

Dr. Helen R. 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), and teaches in the areas of archives and records management, digital preservation and access, appraisal, trustworthy repositories, and data curation. She developed the Archives and Records Management (ARM) Program at SILS and teaches in the SILS Post Master's Certificate in Data Curation. She is also the Director of a soon-to-be-offered Master's in Professional Science in Digital Curation degree program. She is also a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and was SAA President 2010-2011.

From 2006-2009, Dr. Tibbo was the Principal Investigator (PI) for the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services)-funded DigCCurr I project that developed an International Digital Curation Curriculum for master's level students (www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr). She was also the PI for DigCCurr II (2008-2013) that extended the Digital Curation Curriculum to the doctoral level. In 2009, IMLS awarded Prof. Tibbo two additional projects, Educating Stewards of Public Information in the 21st Century (ESOPI-21) and Closing the Digital Curation Gap (CDCG). ESOPI-21 (2009-2012) was a partnership with UNC's School of Government to provide students with a Master's of Science in Library/Information Science and a Master's of Public Administration so that they can work in the public policy arena concerning digital preservation and curation issues and laws. CDCG (2009-2013) was a collaboration with IMLS and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Digital Curation Center (DCC), both of the United Kingdom, to explore educational and guidance needs of cultural heritage information professionals in the digital curation domain in the US and the UK. In 2011, IMLS awarded Dr. Tibbo funding for the Educating Stewards of the Public Information Infrastructure (ESOPI2) project that is continuing the work of ESOPI-21 through 2015. In April 2013, Dr. Tibbo received an IMLS award for the "Curating Research Assets and Data using Lifecycle Education: Data Management Education Tools for Librarians, Archivists, & Content Creators or CRADLE project that will extend through 2016 and funded the creation of the data management MOOC.

Dr. Tibbo is the head of the Standards and Policies Community of Practice for the DataNet Federation Consortium and was also a co-PI with collaborators from the University of Michigan and the University of Toronto on a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)-funded project to develop standardized metrics for assessing use and user services for primary sources in government settings. This project extended work that explored user-based evaluation in academic archival settings funded by the Mellon Foundation. Dr. Tibbo was part of the original Library of Congress Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Train-the-Trainer instructional team in September 2011. She also conducted test ISO 16363 audits of repositories in Europe and the US during the summer of 2011 and is a founding member of the Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Audit and Certification Board (PTAB). She was also a member of the DigCurV project team funded by the European Commission's Leonardo DaVinci Program.