

Curating Software: Practice and Promise

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Abstract:

This poster aims to prompt discussion around the collection and curation of software as an institutional asset. What is the unique value that software provides? How can we cultivate and build capacity for collaborative efforts to collect, care for, and preserve software? What specific challenges and obstacles might archivists face in appraisal and acquisition tasks? We consider software as both a historical document of cultural heritage and an invaluable tool for knowledge production. Our ultimate goal is to foster a community of practice interested in developing curation practices for software informed by archival principles, and to suggest ways for integrating these practices into digital scholarship endeavors.

About the Author:

Alexandra Chassanoff is currently a CLIR/DLF postdoctoral fellow in Software Curation at the MIT Libraries. She received her PhD in Information Science from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in December 2016. Previously, she was the Project Manager for the BitCurator and BitCurator Access projects.