PRESERVATION EDUCATION:
A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND

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The Evolving Nature of the Preservation Field

• Until recently, pedagogical models and techniques for preservation education have ...
  • Focused primarily on knowledge and skills in management, care, and treatment of analog materials
  • Relied heavily on face-to-face, hands-on experiences

• Preparation for careers in digital preservation and digital curation require:
  • A stronger IT skill set
  • Integration of theory and practice from allied fields (such as archival science, information science, museum studies, knowledge management)
The Evolving Nature of the Preservation Field (2)

- New professionals must be prepared to apply knowledge in a “diversity of contexts”:
  - Not just LAMs, but also ...
  - A variety of other non-profit, corporate, and government settings

- New professionals must be boundary crossers, as well as specialists:
  - Speak the many languages of analog and digital preservation
  - The next generation of preservation professionals will be polyglots and polymaths!
Changes in the Preservation Education Landscape

• New programs launched, others inactivated
  • Further differentiation and stratification among practitioners and researchers

• Preservation programs expanding their scope

• Online education becoming more prevalent, particularly in continuing education offerings
Research Areas to Consider ...

• What are the core knowledge areas for preservation?

• What is the skillset for the next generation?

• What is the overlap between the theoretical foundations of analog preservation and digital preservation/curation?
Research Areas to Consider ...(2)

• What teaching strategies are most effective for teaching foundational knowledge and practical skills in preservation ...

• At the graduate level?

• For continuing education audiences?

• In the online environment?
Research Areas to Consider ...(3)

• How will educational programs ensure that all students and practitioners have equitable access to knowledge, skill building, and professional development opportunities?

• Unequal resources among large and small organizations means have- and have-nots in digital preservation/curation and audiovisual/multimedia preservation skill acquisition.

• How will we teach critical thinking and research skills required of practitioners to understand the “diversity of contexts” in which preservation and curation engages?

• We need a holistic approach that finds and explores the commonalities and disagreements in preservation in those many contexts.
THANK YOU!