Data Curation Education in Research Centers Poster

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Abstract
The volume of scientific data is growing exponentially across all scientific disciplines. Competent information professionals are needed to sort, catalog, store, and retrieve this data for future research and education requirements. In response to this need, the goal of the Data Curation Education in Research Centers (DCERC) project is to develop curriculum to educate information science students in the critical field of scientific data curation. Three masters degree students at University of Tennessee (UT) and three doctoral students at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign are completing year one of the program.

What is Data Curation?
The active and on-going management of research data through its life cycle of interest and usefulness to scholarship, science, and education.¹

Coursework
Foundations of Data Curation lays the foundation for the concepts and terminology of the data curation field. Topics include:
- the data life cycle
- data sharing
- institutional repositories
- digital humanities
- data appraisal and selection
- data curation policies
- data management plans
- cyberinfrastructure.

Environmental Informatics includes case studies, class projects, and guest lectures and allows the students to experience the challenges facing researchers, land managers, decision makers, information professionals, and policy makers in the area of biological data acquisition, management, and delivery. The emphases of the class are:
- information life cycle
- metadata management
- data and information standards
- geospatial technologies
- web technologies
- project management.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Medical Communication & Information explores the role of communication and information in each of the STEM domains for facilitating discovery of ideas, collaborating between STEM researchers, and disseminating findings to those within the fields as well as the public.

References:

DCERC Scholars
Christopher Eaker has an engineering background, in which he dealt with data on a daily basis. Engineering is a highly applied science, so his skills in putting data to work and making decisions on the fly will be a strong asset to the field of data curation.

Erica Johns has a horticulture background and has worked with scientific data from the ground up. She has proposed hypotheses that require experimentation and data accumulation. She has collected data, analyzed data, and input data into a system that categorized the information for users and researchers to derive conclusions and support further scientific trials.

Kayla Siddell has a background in Psychology. She has various research experience including the development and implementation of research design and protocol, literature search and review, and data collection and analysis. She hopes to help to lobby for the field and bridge gaps between scientists and information professionals.

Coursework

Environmental Informatics

Science, Technology, Engineering and Medical Communication & Information

CurateGear workshop focused on digital curation and digital preservation. The speakers discussed and demonstrated digital curation and preservation. The attendees discussed issues related to the digital curation environment. They asked for leadership in decision making, a one-stop destination that discusses all of the preservation tools, discussed the importance of being able to evaluate data, and how one must proceed accordingly to preserve appropriately.

Repositories in Science & Technology
showcased successful data repositories around the world. The workshop opened with a history of repositories, their purpose, and some thoughts on their future. Then presenters talked about how individual repositories work and the types of data they accept. Finally, the discussion centered around how to develop consistent standards among repositories.

Introduction to TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) was a two-day hands-on workshop which taught participants how to work with TEI to develop digital representations of humanities texts for research and preservation.

Field Experience

The DCERC Scholars will travel to Boulder, CO, during the summers of 2012 and 2013 for onsite field experiences at the National Center for Atmospheric Research where they will work alongside scientists and researchers to experience the demands of data curation at the source of data creation.

Project Partners

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