Data Curation Education in Research Centers Poster

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Data Curation Education in Research Centers (DCERC)
Christopher Eaker, Erica Johns, & Kayla Siddell (University of Tennessee)

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

Data Life Cycle²

Educational Workshops
CurateGear workshop focused on digital curation and digital preservation. The speakers displayed and discussed their strategies and exhibited 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.

References:

Objective
This grant addresses the scale and complexity of data essential for contemporary scientific investigation which is growing exponentially across all scientific disciplines. The "data deluge" is now a fundamental characteristic of e-science and "big science," especially in such disciplines such as particle physics, astronomy, and atmospheric science. Moreover, scientists, their employers, and their funders recognize the value in sharing data assets and in curation of data for re-use over the long term.³

There is a need for information professionals who can help scientists manage the challenges of data driven science. This program educates the information professional who can meet these challenges.³

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
• institutional repositories
• data management plans
• digital humanities
• cyberinfrastructure.