

Developing a curriculum in digital librarianship to build a collaborative model for teaching and practice

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The purpose of the proposal is to develop a curriculum in digital librarianship that is specifically responsive to the needs of the faculty and students of the School of Library and Information Sciences. Although there have been growing needs on curriculum development efforts in digital librarianship in many library schools in the States, not many of them seem to be able to achieve an integrated and balanced understanding of the complex issues and problems of digital librarianship, which include concepts, content, organization, technology, access, and context. In order to overcome these problems, this proposal will focus on three phases of curriculum development in digital librarianship:

1. To build a collaborative initiative between teaching and practice. I will identify a full-time librarian at NCCU who will work for the university and community digitization process with SLIS. The selected librarian will participate in all planned workshops, trainings and research to learn technological aspects of building a digital library. She or he also will supervisor students who will take the course in the future as a practicum instructor.
2. To examine a full range of digitization needs of the NCCU library collections as a leading HBCU library and to identify a digitization initiative. As mentioned above, by establishing a connection between education and practice, students at SLIS will have a chance to participate in this important process.
3. To build a usability lab for training, testing, and experimenting with the digitization process. Digital imaging, preservation, and management require many

different types of equipment including computers, scanners, software programs (Adobe Professional, Photoshop), and CONTENTdm, a software for managing and delivering digital collections to the Web. The usability lab will function as a training and research site for faculty, librarians, and students.

In summary, a curriculum will be developed through the above three phases of collaborative efforts between teaching and practice, and the course will also implemented to achieve a comprehensive and an integrated understanding of “digital librarianship.”

Several partners will be involved in this project. They include the Cornell University Library, a leading teaching library for digital preservation and management; OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), a worldwide library cooperative in Dublin, OH; and SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network), a regional service provider of OCLC.

The outcomes of the project will be 1) a new course on “digital librarianship” in SLIS catalog (for Summer School); 2) a trained librarian in digital librarianship; 3) exploration of new job market for SLIS graduates; and 4) proper digital preservation and management of NCCU’s unique library and cultural materials.