Digital Curation 101

About this course

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Why this tutorial was developed

The DC 101 has been developed because the DCC, in its role as a source of expert advice and guidance to the community, identified a need for a contextual, theoretical introduction to the basics of digital curation with practical examples and exercises. The target audience is new grant holders with Research Council curation mandates to fulfil. The course indicates what should be considered in planning and implementing projects.

The Digital Curation Centre

The DCC is the principal organisation responsible for developing and promoting digital curation concepts and practices. It is a consortium of four major partners: the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, UKOLN (based at the University of Bath) and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC). Its aim is to support and promote continuing improvement in the quality of data curation and digital preservation, particularly for the management of all research outputs in digital format. Its vision is to be the:

- Centre of excellence in digital curation and preservation in the UK
- Authoritative source of advocacy and expert advice and guidance to the community
- Key facilitator of an informed research community with established collaborative networks of digital curators
- Service provider of a wide range of resources, software, tools and support services.
Services and resources provided by the DCC
A range of services and resources of use to digital creators and digital curators are publicly available through the DCC’s web site. These include:

- A Help Desk and Advisory Service
- Briefing papers, case studies and many other publications available through the DCC Resource Centre
- The Digital Curation Manual, whose chapters cover issues relating to digital curation
- A Tools and Standards repository
- The International Journal of Digital Curation.

The DCC Curation Lifecycle Model

This course is structured around the DCC Curation Lifecycle Model\(^1\). The DCC Curation Lifecycle Model provides a graphical, high level overview of the stages required for successful curation and preservation of data from initial conceptualisation through the iterative curation cycle. The model can be used to plan activities within a specific research project, organisation, or consortium to ensure all necessary stages are undertaken, each in the correct sequence. It is important to note that the description, preservation planning, community watch, and curate and preserve elements of the model should be considered at all stages of activity.

\(^1\) http://www.dcc.ac.uk/docs/publications/DCCLifecycle.pdf