



Future Career Opportunities and Educational Requirements for Digital Curation

**An update on the National Academy of
Sciences, Board on Research Data and
Information, Study Committee**

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Charge to the Committee

1. Identify the various practices and spectrum of skill sets that comprise digital curation.
2. Examine the possible career path demands and options for professionals working in digital curation activities, and their economic and social importance for the nation over time.
3. Identify and assess the existing and future models for education and training in digital curation skill sets and career paths in various domains.
4. Produce a consensus report.

Digital Curation is defined, for the purposes of this study, as

“the active management and enhancement of digital information for current and future use.”

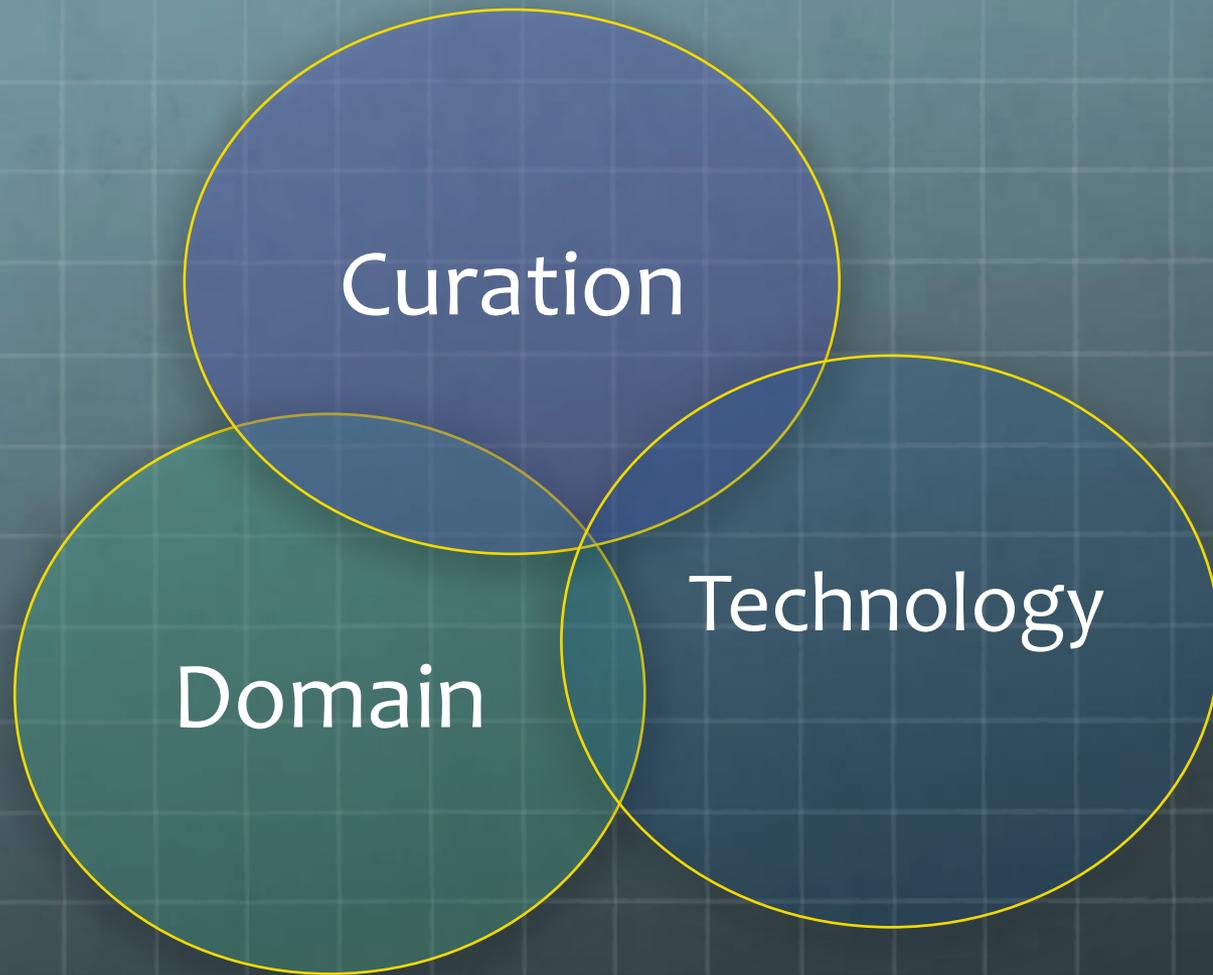
Active management implies that curation requires planning and action.

Enhancement implies that curation adds value to digital information.

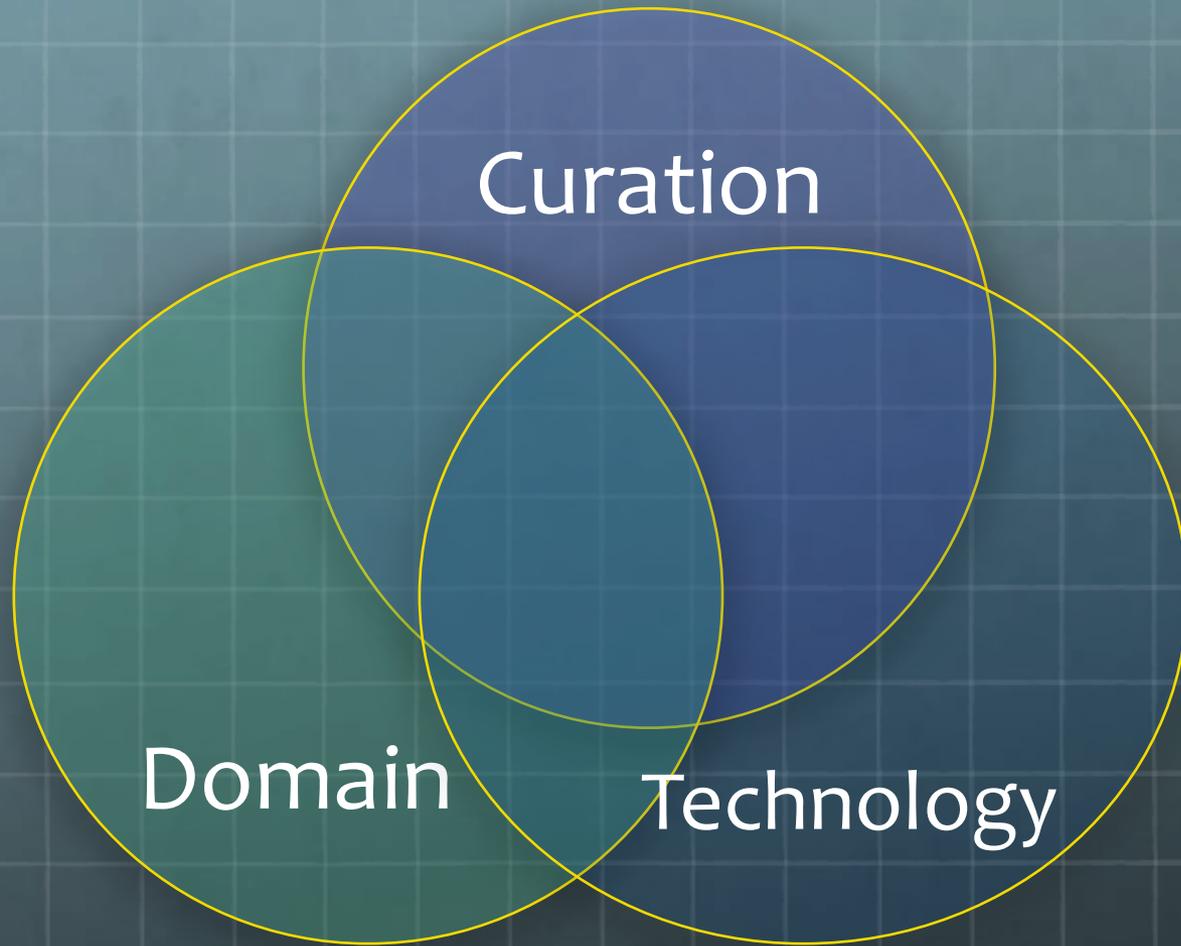
Current and future use implies that curation is not limited to immediate use or current information.

Challenges

-  What knowledge and which skills are relevant to digital curation across domains, and which are specific to domains, types of data, uses, and users?
-  Which aspects of digital curation are amenable to automation and which require human judgment and effort?
-  Is digital curation a career? – a job? – or a task for everyone engaged with digital information?



Specialized Model of Knowledge & Skills



Hybrid Model of Knowledge & Skills

Curation Knowledge & Skill Requirements Vary Across Domains

Metadata standards and practices

-  integrated into workflow $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ non-existent
-  single accepted ontology $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ multiple competing ontologies

Maturity of technology and applications

-  shared infrastructure $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ roll your own

Incentives to curate data

-  my life depends on it $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ why bother?

Digital Curation Study

- **Title: Future Career Opportunities and Educational Requirements for Digital Curation**
- **Committee Members: Margaret Hedstrom (Chair), Peter Fox, Michael Goodchild, Heather Joseph, Ron Larsen, Carole Palmer, Steve Ruggles, David Schindel and Stephen Wandner. Lee Dirks was an active and indispensable member of the committee, 2011-August 28, 2012.**
- **Study Director: Subhash Kuvelker**
- **Anticipated Release: Spring 2014**