Digital Curation Training – the nestor Activities

39th IASSIST conference
Data Innovation: Increasing Accessibility, Visibility and Sustainability
Cologne, May 28-31, 2013

Stefan Strathmann
Outline

• The nestor network
• The nestor qualification consortium
  – Aims
  – Activities
  – Open Issues
• **Network of Expertise in long-term STOrage of digital Resources in Germany**
• A cooperative initiative of libraries, archives, museums and other interested parties
• 2003 – 2009: Funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
• 2009 => sustainable organization, funded by the partners (13 partner institutions at the moment)
nestor working groups

• Currently about 60 institutions in several working groups:
  – WG Media
  – WG Cooperative long-term preservation
  – WG Standardization
  – WG Policy
  – WG Costs
  – WG Qualification
  – …
WG Qualification

• Acting since 2005
• Organized around a MoU (2007/2009)
• 12 partner institutions from the educational sector and 1 coordinating nestor partner
• Involved in libraries, archives, museums & IT education
• Germany, Austria, Switzerland (the German speaking countries)
New member

- GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences / www.gesis.org
  – Archive and Data Management Training Center
WG Qualification - Aims

• Stimulate the DP qualification
• Cooperative development of course-material
• Mutually acceptance of credit points
• Establishing a cooperative and distributed master degree program in digital curation (long-term objective)
University based courses

• None institution was able to cover the topic completely or to focus on current developments.

• Subject-related needs (e.g. museum) results in a focus on special topics of digital curation.

• Good starting point for cooperation and collaboration among different universities.
Qualification needs

There is a lack of practical and conceptual knowledge about the topic in different target groups:

- the management of institutions to which curation is or will be a relevant topic by spreading awareness of the challenge to be faced
- middle-management in cultural heritage institutions by providing them state-of-the-art information on concepts and methods of digital curation
- staff members of cultural heritage institutions who are involved in or who are organizing curation activities on an operational level
- MA-students in programs qualifying for projects and management jobs in cultural heritage institutions
- BA-students in programs qualifying for jobs in cultural heritage institutions
Project based activities

The nestor WG Qualification offers at least five lines of activities in digital curation-related qualification to meet the needs:

- nestor seminars
- nestor schools
- nestor handbook(s)
- development of e-learning tutorials
- development of a cooperative curriculum
nestor seminars

- To multiply knowledge two introductory seminars were recorded on video and are distributed on DVD.
- Other nestor seminars on special topics and/or audiences are taking place occasionally.
- This kind of distribution of knowledge is strongly limited (time of lecturers).
nestor schools

• By now seven courses at remote locations => intense exchange between attendees and well known lecturers.
• Duration: 3-6 Days
• Combination of lectures and practical exercises.
nestor schools

- Certificate mentioning the ECTS credits
- Heterogeneous audience from libraries, archives, museums, students and practitioners …
- Very high evaluation marks
- Supported by DELOS, DPE, DigCurV, PDF/A Competence Center, EMC …
nestor Handbook

- The nestor handbook bundles the recent state of knowledge on digital long-term preservation and its various components
- Collects contributions from more than 50 authors on more than 500 pages
- Revised regularly (recent online version 2.3)
- Available in print (version 2.0)
- Under a Creative Commons License
Research Data Survey

- Structured survey regarding the curation of research data in Germany
- Reports from 11 academic disciplines (medicine, astronomy, humanities, social sciences etc.)
- Comprehensive study is published in 2012 (online & print; German language)
- A condensed version in English is under preparation
Since 2007 e-learning modules - based on the e-learning platform Moodle - are developed within student-based projects.

- Introduction to DP
- The OAIS model
- Formats
- Digital Preservation of GIS-data
- …
A cooperative curriculum

- None of the partner’s active in the nestor working group is able to set up a preservation-related curriculum by its own.
- But they do this on a cooperative basis.
- This plan received support by experts and the administration of several universities in the German speaking countries.
- A “Memorandum of understanding” has been signed by thirteen partner institutions to cooperate in developing building blocks for a digital preservation curriculum and adjusting modules focusing on selected topics.
- Courses of other involved universities are accepted in the local curricula.
Synergies in qualification

- The nestor WG Qualification has stimulated reflections and awareness of digital curation even in those universities where the topic has been part of courses or programs since years.
- The results of the nestor network have influenced the content of lessons and courses provided.
- The WG has initiated intra- and cross-sectoral cooperation where competition seemed to dominate.
- nestor receives insights and links to universities and qualification bodies.
Open issues

- The concept “developing e-learning tutorials by students for students” means that only in combination with university lessons, modules can be developed.
  - The development of e-learning tutorials is very slowly
  - They must be integrated in the regular curriculum
  - The initial input given by the teachers is high
  - The acceptance of using these tutorials is high

- How to ensure the quality of all these tutorials, on the content-related side as well as on the didactical side?

- It is not only a big challenge but also a big chance to work together!
Thank you very much for your attention!

Stefan Strathmann
Göttingen State- and University Library
strathmann@sub.uni-goettingen.de