The State of Education for Data Curation and Librarianship

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Background

- Former librarian, now – Assistant professor (LIS)
- Workforce Issues in Library & Information Science projects (WILIS 1, 2, and 3)
- 2011 IASSIST experience – so many cool librarians who are passionate about data!
- Late to the (data) party... but that is OK!
- Stepping in to the conversation
- My role at USC-SLIS
I pondered...

- Pathways to LIS and data-intensive positions
- Preparing future professionals
- Dialogue between those in the field and LIS educators
Research Questions

- How are North American LIS programs preparing students for data-intensive professional positions?

- What skills/knowledge do programs emphasize for future data professionals?
And...

- Are we focusing on the *right* competencies?
- Are we using *appropriate* methods?
Methods

- Exploratory (2011-12 academic year)
- Content analysis of LIS program websites
  - 58 programs
    - 18 ALA-accredited & iSchool caucus members
    - 40 ALA-accredited
- Assumption
  - Varying levels of coverage within specialized reference, digital curation, and research methods courses
- Examination of
  - Course descriptions
    - Syllabi
  - Tracks/Certifications
  - Centers/institutes
  - Grant-funded initiatives
Results

- Few courses devoted entirely to data services, data management, or data curation
  - 8 programs had 1 dedicated course
  - 3 programs had 2-4 dedicated courses
- Special topics courses
Competencies

- Examination of syllabi or course description for skills, knowledge, competencies

- In syllabi, learning objectives/outcomes rarely explicit
  - Mostly descriptive of course content
Topics Covered
Tracks/Certifications

- UNT – post-master’s Graduate Academic Certificate in Digital Curation and Data Management

- Syracuse – CAS in Data Science

- Illinois – Specialization in Data Curation (Data Curation Education Program – CIRSS)
Centers, Institutes, and Grant-funded Initiatives

Data Curation Education in Research Centers
UTK & UIUC

GSLIS Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship, UIUC

Data Curation Post-Doctoral Fellowships (UM, IU, UCLA)

School of Information Studies, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Tapped in to the collective unconscious...


Round Table Summary

O Who is responsible for education, professional development, and training?

O Many existing formal and informal resources

O IASSIST as source of and guide to resources for international data education
  O Data services
  O Data resources
  O Data tools
  O Connection to other professionals
Round Table Summary

O IASSIST as logical international home for data services professionals, subject specialists who deal with data
  O Size, scope, and international focus
  O Conference (data services track)
  O Free and fee-based webinars
  O Basic, intermediate, and advanced levels
  O Outreach to grow membership, participation, and leadership
Next Steps

- Formal mixed-methods inquiry
  - Knowledge and skillset requirements
  - Job description and position analysis
  - Teaching strategies

- Workforce and training issues dialogue
  - Data professionals
  - LIS educators
  - Interest group and/or other ways to connect
  - Data services track at conference
  - Competencies document
  - Bank of syllabi, assignments, training documents
Conclusion

- Results of this and future research can inform
  - Identification of competencies
  - Development of curricula
  - Design of professional development

- LIS educators need your expertise!
Questions?

- Thank you!

- Contact me at srathbun@mailbox.sc.edu