Digital Curation Training – the nestor Activities

Cultural Heritage Online - Trusted Digital Repositories and Trusted Professionals

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Outline

• The nestor network
• The nestor qualification consortium
  – Aims
  – Activities
  – Open Issues
nestor project

- **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 (12 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)
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)
Survey (2006) of BA and MA programs by LIS departments:

- Various digital curation related courses
- Mostly basic introductions
- From 2 to 10 class sessions (each 90 minutes) or a whole course (for the whole study)
- Often in connection with information management, records management, digital/electronic publishing etc.
- Course material: IMARK (Unesco), tutorial on Digital Preservation Management of Cornell University
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
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 …
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
E-learning tutorials

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.
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!

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