The iCAMP project, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is a three-year (2011-2014) effort focused on curriculum development and instructional design to address the goal of building capacity in UNT's Library and Information Sciences (LIS) curriculum to increase the number of appropriately trained information professionals and disciplinary researchers and scholars for digital curation and data management responsibilities. To prepare information professionals with the competencies needed for digital curation and data management practice, the project will develop four online courses using a competency-based curriculum approach that focuses on student outcomes. In addition, the project will design instruction that incorporates a variety of learning strategies and integrates appropriate technology. As such, the project seeks to answer the basic question: In the context of distributed learning and web-based courses, how can LIS education be changed and enhanced to incorporate extensive training and practical experience to result in well-prepared information professionals, scientists, and scholars to take on the challenges and problems of digital curation, data management, and digital preservation?

The technology infrastructure we will be using consists of a learning management system (Blackboard Learn) where students are provided clear expectations and interactive online activities, a Virtual Lab built on an open source platform of Drupal, Fedora Commons, and Islandora where students can engage in extensive hands-on experiences and real-world problem-solving, and a Digital Curation and Data Management Sandbox that contains typical tools for use in digital curation as well as computational resources and storage. Students will have a chance to interact with digital content using real-world applications and systems. UNT Libraries will support this sandbox, employing locally hosted servers, tools, applications, data, etc.

The project team has formulated an initial range of competencies that reflect an integrated set of knowledge, skills, and abilities to enable students to effectively perform the activities or functions of digital curation and data management. This preliminary list of competencies has been organized into 7 Competency Groups.

As part of the process of identifying competencies, three tasks were carried out. The first was to survey the digital curation curricula from other LIS schools. The survey involved in-depth analysis of program goals and courses other LIS schools offer. The second was to analyze job postings for digital/data curation and closely related positions. The skills and qualifications required by employers in the field were coded and analyzed. The third was to review current literature and existing competency statements discussing the skills required for digital curators and data managers.

The iCAMP project seeks to 1) identify the competencies required for professional level engagement with digital curation and data management; 2) develop a curriculum informed by select learning theories to support the development of these competencies; and 3) develop a learning environment to support instructors and students as they engage with the curriculum.

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