ABSTRACT

As librarians and information professionals are increasingly tasked with curating and making accessible digital materials, new information professionals must enter the workforce armed with the appropriate skills. New professionals must know both the theoretical underpinnings of digital curation and how to put those theories into practice in real life applications. This proposed session would provide undergraduates, master’s students, and early professionals with the opportunity to engage with the theories and applications of digital curation, and to present on meaningful projects and experiences they have had, whether as a student or a practitioner. Participation would include posters and lightning talks to highlight the unique and valuable research and experiences this community has had engaging with digital curation theories and practice.

Keywords

Students, master’s students, undergraduate students, student research.

INTRODUCTION

For the last two years, the SIG Digital Libraries has hosted an interactive session featuring the work of undergraduate and masters students and early professionals on curating the information life cycle. We propose a similar session this year that focuses on innovative projects regarding digital curation theory and practice, i.e., use, reuse, reproducibility, and accessibility of digital resources.

As the emerging vanguard of future information professionals, participants provided insight and revelations into the state of digital initiative opportunities and how they affect newcomers to the field. One observation from the event was that the presenters often had direct access to practical experience that is not immediately available to all students. By sharing their discoveries with each other, students were able to engage in an end-of-session discussion that resulted in a commentary on the state of LIS education and required skill sets. As a result, the panel not only served as a valuable presentation venue but also became a networking symposium environment.

TOPIC

The potential topics listed below align well within the following tracks from the Call for Participation: Track 2: Information Organization and Representation, Track 4: Information Preservation and Access, and Track 5: Information Environments and Socio-Cultural Aspects.

Potential topics could include:

- Archiving and preservation of web resources for access and use
- Cloud storage solutions for digital preservation
- Preservation of workflows, code, and data to facilitate research reproducibility
- How data curation and management supports digital preservation
- Bilingual searching, information access, and metadata
- Policies and intellectual property issues in digital preservation
- Digital initiatives outside of academic and research environments
- International collaborations in digital preservation
- Theory and practice in digital library education and training

AUDIENCE AND OUTCOMES

The panel is targeted toward undergraduate, master’s, and early professionals in recognition that they have current or recent experience in an LIS program, and is aimed at those likely to enter positions of practice rather than teaching. While it is understandable that developed research is traditionally the domain of PhD candidates, faculty, and professionals, it is important to remember that library and information school programs are still largely for master’s degrees. The session is also relevant to teaching faculty in the LIS programs who are interested in becoming familiar with the range of practical projects that students and early professionals have engaged with.
professionals engage in the area of digital curation. The session contributes to the promotion of experiential learning in digital library education. Undergraduate students are also a valuable audience due to the recent trend to recruit candidates earlier for master’s programs and increase in bachelors programs in information science. Additionally, the increasing gap between when a student graduates and is employed affects the opportunities an individual has to stay current on trends in information. As with the two preceding years, participants will again be able to present in absentia. Travel support will be given for the best paper and best poster presented.

Specific goals that the SIG Digital Libraries hopes to achieve are:

- Provide an opportunity for students at the undergraduate, master’s degree and early professional level to present at a national conference as well as have their work published in informal proceedings to be hosted online by SIG Digital Libraries.
- Provide presenters with the opportunity to interact with peers and veteran ASIS&T members.
- Increase the participation and recruitment of individual student members and student chapters within the annual meeting.

**MODERATOR AND PRESENTERS**
The moderator will be Ms. Tina Jayroe, a member of the SIG DL Executive committee and Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, School of Information Studies. Dr. Carolyn Hank, Assistant Professor at the School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will provide the keynote remarks. Dr. Elaine Ménard, Assistant Professor at the School of Information Studies, McGill University, will provide the plenary remarks. The presenters will be selected through an open call for proposals starting in June and continue until September 15 to accommodate the start of the academic year.

**STRUCTURE AND FORMAT**
For this event, students would be asked to submit poster and lightning talk proposals that address the changing landscape of the digital environment. Proposals can include, but are not limited to, past research, case studies, internship/work experiences, and current projects on relevant topics.

Up to 10 poster submissions and 5 lightning talk submissions will be selected to present during the session. Submissions may be solo or group proposals. Both posters and lightning talk proposals would be selected based on the following criteria: relevance of topics to the SIG DL mission and panel theme, feasibility of presentation within a compressed format, and originality of research. All research would be expected to be purely the student(s)’ work and could include school work, internship reflections, work related experience, and independent interests. Student chapters from all professional organizations are also encouraged to submit joint proposals. All abstracts, posters, and PowerPoint presentations will be compiled into proceedings in PDF format to be posted on the SIG DL website.

The panel would take place as a single session during the main conference. At the start of the panel, poster presenters will have an opportunity to interact with attendees and receive feedback on their work. Posters would be displayed around the room for the entire session, including during the lightning talks. Students who cannot attend the session would be allowed to send in their poster ahead of time and have a member of the organizing committee set it up for them.

Lightning talks would consist of 5-minute presentations with no more than 10 presentation slides (optional). Presenters could alternatively present a video if they prefer. Students who wish to present in absentia would be encouraged to submit in video format.

**PROPOSED TIMELINE**
The session would run according to the following timetable:

Pre-panel: 15 minute Poster setup
During panel:
- 25 minutes Poster browsing
- 10 minutes Opening remarks/keynote
- 30 minutes Lightning talks and videos
  (includes time for set-up and transitions)
- 10 minutes Plenary remarks
- 15 minutes Interactive discussion
Post panel: 15 minute Poster take down

Maximum time proposed: 90 minutes (if more time is possible, we would like to extend the poster browsing and discussion sessions).

**RECRUITMENT**
This panel will be promoted through a variety of channels, both for seeking submissions and presenters as well as promoting the panel to conference attendees. This will be done through social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter, and direct communications with institutions and individuals. Specifically, the coordinators will send messages via listservs at LIS programs, as allowed, and personal emails to educators who provide instruction in the areas of digital libraries, digital curation, preservation, stewardship, archiving, and data curation.

**POTENTIALLY INTERESTED SIGS**
This event would be of immediate relevance to SIG Digital Libraries, SIG Knowledge Management, and SIG Education for Information Science. Students, professionals, and educators may also be interested in the opportunity to learn about the work being undertaken at peer institutions and contribute to the discussion.