

For immediate release

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Building a new framework: vocational education for digital curators

Work has begun on **Digital Curator Vocational Education Europe (DigCurV)**, a new project funded by the European Commission's [Leonardo da Vinci programme](#) to establish a framework for vocational education and training in digital curation which was launched in January.

Europe's digital sector has seen strong growth in recent years. The rapid pace of development in the information technology sector has presented both challenges and opportunities to cultural institutions responsible for managing digital collections and their long-term preservation. One of the challenges faced by institutions has been in recruiting staff with skills in the field of digital curation.

DigCurV aims to address the availability of vocational education and training needed by curators in the library, archive, museum and cultural heritage sectors to develop the new skills that are essential for the long-term management of digital collections.

This thirty-month project will identify, analyse and profile existing training opportunities, survey training needs in the sector to identify the key skills and competences required of digital curators. It will establish a curriculum framework from which training can be developed in future. The curriculum will be tested and evaluated by stakeholders during the project.

DigCurV brings together organisations from Europe, Canada and the USA with a strong track record of international work in the field of digital libraries and digital preservation. The partners include the [iSchool at the University of Toronto](#) (Canada); [Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale](#) (Italy); [Goettingen State and University Library](#) (Germany); [HATII](#) (UK); [MDR Partners](#) (UK); [Trinity College Dublin, the Long Room Hub](#) (Ireland) and [Vilnius University Library](#) (Lithuania).

The network of associated partners includes the [Digital Preservation Coalition](#) (UK), [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (USA), the [nestor qualification consortium](#) (Germany) and is open to new members.

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For more information about the project:

Visit: <http://www.digcur-education.org>
or contact us on info@digcur-education.org

Notes to Editors:

Leonardo da Vinci programme is a sub-programme of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) a flagship funding programme in the field of education and training. Leonardo da Vinci focuses on vocational education and training, and addresses both the learning and teaching needs of trainees in vocational education, teachers and trainers, institutions and educational bodies and bodies relating to lifelong learning or the labour market.



http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc82_en.htm

Founding Partners:

Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale (FRD), Digital Renaissance Foundation – New Technologies for Cultural Heritage, seeks to promote the application of Information and Communication Technologies to increase the value of cultural heritage through initiatives in research, consultancy, documentation, promotion, education and dissemination and in collaboration with other institutions. FRD's role in DigCurV includes reporting on the status of vocational training in digital curation in Italy, contributing to analysing training courses, curriculum, resources, and best practices, run focus group meetings in Italy, organising training workshops, as well as leading the final project conference and report in Florence.



<http://www.rinascimento-digitale.it/>

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts, Goettingen State and University Library (SUB) is an internationally renowned university



placing emphasis on research and research-based teaching; distinguished by the quality in its priority research areas and diversity of disciplines, especially in the humanities. SUB takes the lead on survey of sector training needs for the **DigCurV** project, bringing to bear its experience and knowledge of training and education activities of nector, training WP in DigitalPreservationEurope and experience as a partner of the PARSE Insight Project.

<http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de>

Humanities Advanced Technology Institute (HATII) at University of Glasgow is one of the world's leading centres for information studies in the digital humanities. HATII takes an interdisciplinary and international approach to its research and has particular strengths in theoretical approaches to information, management and curation of digital assets, records and information management, and cultural heritage informatics and resource discovery. HATII will report on the status of vocational training in digital curation in the UK, contribute to analysing training courses, curriculum, resources, and best practices, run focus group meetings in the UK, lead WP 4 to coordinate the design of an initial curriculum and portfolio document indentifying skills and core competences and providing curriculum framework for developing vocational training courses in digital curation, organise a national meeting for educators, stakeholders and practitioners to discuss emerging results from the project, and contribute to the final report and **DigCurV** conference.



<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/hatii/>

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is a US federal agency working at national and international levels, and with US state and local institutions, to sustain heritage, culture and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; support professional development in the library, archives and museum fields. IMLS reaches thousands of US libraries and museums each year through grant programs, publications; national and international conferences, workshops and other activities. Its 21st Century Librarian program supports education and professional development of librarians and archivists. Its grants have stimulated the development of new curricula in digital curation in graduate schools of library and information science, online certificate programs and a wide range of professional development courses for practicing librarians and archivists, enabling them to update their skills in the new environment of digital curation. Its National Leadership Grants program funds research and development projects in digital curation.



<http://www.ims.gov/>

MDR is a leading specialist partnership working together with libraries, archives, museums, information providers and other organisations in cultural heritage and education sectors. With a strong track records in the creation of new projects, establishing project partnerships and networks, as well as working with European programmes and funding bodies, MDR will coordinate and manage the project overall, lead dissemination activities, and create and maintain the project web environment during the project period.



<http://www.mdrpartners.com/>

Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto (uToronto), the iSchool is a professional and research faculty which educates leaders in information fields. The School offers programmes in Information and Museum



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FACULTY OF INFORMATION

Studies, leads innovative research projects, and hosts conferences and events. It is home to Canada's largest continuing education program in Information offering courses in such diverse subject areas as information architecture, records management, taxonomies and metadata, and management. Its Digital Curation Institute, Canada's first, will be officially launched in June 2010. The iSchool is a member of the international federation of research-led information schools, the iSchools Caucus.

<http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/>

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's oldest university, founded in 1592. The university is site of a major research library, hosting 10,000 external visitors a year with unique collections from the Book of Kells to a copyright library for the UK. **The Long Room Hub** is the arts and humanities research institute at **Trinity**



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
TRINITY Long Room HUB

College Dublin, which seeks to encourage and foster innovative interdisciplinary research across the entire spectrum of the arts and humanities at Trinity. The Long Room Hub's role in the project will be to design and conduct workshops, symposia, summer schools, and other outreach activities in the area of digital humanities and related technologies; designing surveys; conducting focus groups; as well as bringing together stakeholders and policy makers to further the goals of **DigCurV**.

<http://www.tcd.ie/longroomhub/>

Vilniaus Universiteto Biblioteka (VUL) has a community of over 26,000 readers and holdings of over 5 million items dating from the 13th century to today. Its mission is to participate in the creation of an information society, capacitate university community in using information resources to prepare highly qualified specialists; accumulate, preserve and make publicly accessible documentary heritage. VUL will perform a leading role in designing and conducting the survey to identify, document and analyse training courses, curriculum and resources available for vocational training in digital curation. VUL will report on survey findings, run focus group meetings in Lithuania, support stakeholder survey of training needs within the cultural sector, organise a training workshop and contribute to its development. VUL will organise a meeting for educators, stakeholders, and practitioners from the Baltic States to discuss emerging **DigCurV** results, as well as contribute to dissemination activities and final project conference.



VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO BIBLIOTEKA

<http://www.mb.vu.lt/>

Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) is a not-for-profit membership organisation whose primary objective is to raise awareness of the importance of the preservation of digital material. It was established in 2001 to foster joint action to address the urgent challenges of securing the preservation of digital resources in the UK and to work with others internationally to secure our global digital memory and knowledge base.



DigitalPreservationCoalition

<http://www.dpconline.org/>

The **nestor qualification consortium** is a consortium based on a Memorandum of Understanding between Higher Education and Further Education institutions in the German speaking countries



(Austria, Germany and Switzerland), which seeks to strengthen qualification in the field of digital curation. The consortium is part of **nestor** the German competence network for digital preservation. Libraries, archives, museums and leading experts work together in nestor to ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital sources. It is a cooperation association including partners from different fields, but all connected in some way with the subject of "digital preservation".

<http://nestor.sub.uni-goettingen.de/education/index.php?lang=en>