Introduction

The DCI promotes innovative multi-faceted research projects that involve collaboration among faculty, students, practitioners, and researchers both national, and internationality. It encourages research that utilize multi-methods approaches from the fields of critical information studies; library and information science; archives and record management; information systems, media, and design; cultural heritage; museum studies, knowledge management and information management.

The report provides a short overview of activities in fall and winter 2013/2014 and a brief outlook of planned activities for 2014.
DCI lecture series 2014
The DCI is hosting a lecture series in winter 2014 with invited speakers in January, February and March giving a lecture and holding a workshop or graduate/faculty seminar. The first lecture in January was very well visited with a full lecture room and an overbooked workshop in the Inforum e-classroom. The second lecture is scheduled for February 7, the final one for March 24. The speakers are:

January: Prof. Christopher (Cal) Lee – “Curation Forensicated: Caring for Born-Digital Materials at Multiple Levels of Representation”

Abstract: Materials with cultural, administrative, scholarly and personal value are increasingly “born digital.” Collecting institutions —libraries, archives and museums (LAMs)—have unprecedented opportunities to acquire and preserve traces of human and associated machine activity through access to both consciously created electronic records (e.g. word processing files, databases, spreadsheets, email, multimedia productions, social media) and various other inscriptions that are the result of interactions with a computer (e.g. system logs, configuration files, filesystem metadata). Likewise, researchers have unprecedented opportunities to discover and learn from those traces. In order to fully realize these opportunities, LAMs must be able to extract digital materials from their storage or transfer media in ways that reflect the metadata and ensure the integrity of the materials. They must also support and mediate appropriate access: allowing users to make sense of materials and understand their context, while also preventing inadvertent disclosure of sensitive data.

Digital materials can be considered and encountered at multiple levels of representation, ranging from aggregations of records down to bits as physically inscribed on a storage medium; each level of representation can provide distinct contributions to the informational and evidential value of the materials.

There is a substantial body of information within the underlying data structures of computer systems that can often be discovered or recovered, revealing new types of records or essential metadata associated with existing record types. Many digital forensics applications and strategies can aid LAMs in their work, particularly by advancing three fundamental archival principles: provenance, original order and chain of custody.

Biography: Christopher (Cal) Lee is Associate Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches courses on archival administration; records management; digital curation; understanding information technology for managing digital collections; and acquiring information from digital storage media. He is a lead organizer and instructor for the DigCCurr Professional Institute, and he teaches professional workshops on the application of digital forensics methods and principles to digital acquisitions.

His primary area of research is the curation of digital collections. He is particularly interested in the professionalization of this work and the diffusion of existing tools and methods into professional practice. Cal developed “A Framework for Contextual Information in Digital Collections,” and edited and provided several chapters to I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era published by the Society of American Archivists.
Cal is Principal Investigator of BitCurator, which is developing and disseminating open-source digital forensics tools for use by archivists and librarians. He was also Principal Investigator of the Digital Acquisition Learning Laboratory (DALL) project, which incorporated digital forensics tools and methods into digital curation education. Cal has served as Co-PI on several projects focused on preparing professionals for digital curation: Preserving Access to Our Digital Future: Building an International Digital Curation Curriculum (DigCCurr), DigCCurr II: Extending an International Digital Curation Curriculum to Doctoral Students and Practitioners; Educating Stewards of Public Information for the 21st Century (ESOPI-21), Educating Stewards of the Public Information Infrastructure (ESOPI2), and Closing the Digital Curation Gap (CDCG).

In addition to the workshop, Cal Lee held a day-long workshop on the BitCurator toolset which was fully booked over a week before the event.

Abstract: Born-digital records bring unprecedented opportunities for description, interpretation and use. Digital information exists at many levels of representation at the same time. There is a substantial body of information within the underlying data structures of computer systems that can often be discovered or recovered (or lost if not handled properly). To ensure integrity and future use, information professionals must make decisions regarding treatment of materials at multiple levels of representation. This workshop will illustrate tools, principles and methods to care for digital information at multiple levels of representation. This will include an introduction to the BitCurator environment, which bundles a variety of open-source forensics tools for use in collecting institutions.

The website of the event can be found at http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/content/curation-forensicated-caring-born-digital-materials-multiple-levels-representation

February: Prof Liz Lyon – “Data by Design: Reviewing Curation Progress, Challenges and Opportunities”

Abstract: It is now ten years since the seminal Data Deluge paper which described the UK eScience Programme and highlighted the need for enhanced data curation capability. In her talk, Professor Lyon will briefly review some key trends during this data timeline, and will then evaluate recent achievements, current LIS activities and future challenges. She will draw on the work of the Digital Curation Centre, UKOLN Informatics and a range of research data management (RDM) projects. Liz’s presentation will include a look at data policy, strategy and planning initiatives, with commentary on supporting RDM service development and delivery in academic libraries and information services. Finally, Liz will explore some perceived gaps, exciting new opportunities and innovative approaches to building the essential workforce capability and capacity in the community.

Biography: Dr Liz Lyon is the Director of UKOLN at the University of Bath UK, where she leads work to promote synergies between digital libraries and open science environments, and Visiting Professor at the iSchool, University of Pittsburgh. She is Associate Director of the UK Digital Curation Centre, in which UKOLN is a partner. She is also author of a number of direction-setting Reports including Open Science at Web-Scale: Optimising Participation and Predictive Potential (2009), Scaling Up (2008) and Dealing with Data (2007). Her research interests include Open science, research data management, digital
curation, informatics and libraries, data repositories and service models, scholarly communications, and citizen science.

The website of the event can be found at [http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/content/dci-lecture-series-presents-data-design-reviewing-curation-progress-challenges-and](http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/content/dci-lecture-series-presents-data-design-reviewing-curation-progress-challenges-and)

**March: Caroline Kimbell – “Commercial Licensing at the UK National Archives: protecting services in times of austerity”**

**Abstract**: (preliminary) The UK National Archives has taken a 25% cut in public funding since 2009. Although some jobs were lost and opening hours reduced from 6 to 5 days per week in 2010, the Archives has not only protected against any further cut-backs, but has grown revenue to the point where 25% of our funding is now generated commercially.

In this talk, Caroline Kimbell, Head of Licensing for the Archives, will explain how the business works, how to adapt (organisationally, culturally and financially) to working with commercial partners in a public-service setting, and the benefits of encouraging new businesses, innovation and competition around unique historic content. She will further discuss the online strategy of the National Archives, crowd-sourcing, and the balance between commercial and non-commercial licensing.

**Biography**: After degrees at London University and the Shakespeare Institute of Birmingham University, Caroline completed a year’s doctoral research in 17th century theatre history before being appointed Senior Commissioning Editor for an academic publisher producing primary source historical collections. After a spell in the record industry, Caroline became head of commissioning outside the USA for Thomson Gale. There she spearheaded the move from microfilm to digital publishing, and worked on themed collections from the Imperial War Museum, the Wiener Library and many others. She negotiated publishing contracts in 12 countries including China, Russia and South Africa, and has spoken on historical research through digital media at many international conferences.

In 2006, Caroline moved to The National Archives, becoming Head of Licensing in 2008. Here she is responsible for much of the mass digitisation, runs the Licensed Internet Associateships programme and has advised over 50 different organisations on digitisation and commercial partnerships.

**DCI at the Data Curation workshop, TPDL 2013**

Members of the DCI played a key role in organizing the workshop on *iSchools and Education in Data Curation* workshop at the Conference on Theory and Practice in Digital Libraries (TPDL) in September 2013. The main workshop objective was “to provide additional insight in the complex interplay between education, research and curation (including long term preservation) of digital data.” The workshop website can be found at [http://datacur.isti.cnr.it/](http://datacur.isti.cnr.it/)

**Other updates**

The DCI-sponsored Best Poster/Demonstration award at the 10th International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects in September 2013 was decided by audience vote and – fittingly –
awarded to the poster of Neil Grindley of the 4C project (*Collaboration to Clarify the Costs of Curation*) ([http://www.4cproject.eu/](http://www.4cproject.eu/)). The award was handed over by Christoph Becker (poster co-chair of the IPRES conference). IPRES was co-located with DC 2013, the Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Christoph Becker was appointed Associate Director of the DCI this fall (as reported informally at the last Faculty Council meeting).

We have received an official UofT logo for the DCI (as seen at the top of the report).

**Plans**

We are currently creating a roadmap for the next year. One highlight will be an extended DCI lecture series in fall and winter. We plan to continue the Best Poster/Demonstration award at IPRES 2014. We are also investigating ways of implementing the DCI Fellow program which was conceived a while ago, and establishing local and international partnerships and connections to existing initiatives and research projects.

We will also renovate and populate the website as soon as appropriate permissions have been arranged for accessing it.

*Christoph Becker, Associate Director*

*Wendy Duff, Director*