Is There a Curator in the Library?

Re-thinking Stewardship for the 21st Century and Beyond

Patricia Hswe, Digital Collections Curator
Penn State University Libraries
1 July 2010
An outline of the talk, Or how I will answer the "So what?" question

- What is digital curation?
- Why should curation be something done by academic libraries?
- What does a digital collections curator do? That is, what do I do?
- How are we doing digital curation at Penn State?
First, some context . . .
Challenges of the past
Challenges of the present
Challenges of the future
All the while . . .
So, what is digital curation?
Think "lifecycle management"

From http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/curation-lifecycle-model
- Digital Curation Centre, Edinburgh.
So what?
This is what . . .

27 February 2010 issue
Meaning, all the while, that . . .
Why should curation be something done by *academic libraries*?
Think "this is what libraries do"

Assessing the Future Landscape of Scholarly Communications

An Exploration of Faculty Values and Needs in Seven Scholarly Disciplines

http://escholarship.org/uc/cshe_fsc

January 2010
Some key findings relevant to libraries (these are areas where libraries can help)

• Data sharing (for scientists and scholars who want to share)
• Need for digitally available material to be "better, not faster"
• Preservation and storage
• Preservation of "personal data" (personal digital information management)
• Technical support and training
• The library as "locus of support"
What does a digital collections curator do? That is, what do I do?
Think "Patricia tries her best to put this into practice"

Three key parts to my job (so far . . .)

• Assessment
  o Use, usability, users

• Data/content management
  o Development of best practices, standards, policies
  o Project management

• Planning for repository-based services
  o Research data deposit
Digital curation is a team effort

- Digital Library Architect - Mike Giarlo - is a chief collaborator

- Units in the library responsible for creation and management of data and content
  - Digitization and Preservation
  - Technical Services
  - Scholarly Communications (outreach)
  - I-Tech
  - DLT

- Public services librarians with subject expertise
  - Connected to teaching faculty
Else . . .

(another way of expressing "So what?")
Anyone remember "The Trouble with Tribbles" from Star Trek?

- From the "e-Discovery Team" blog, http://bit.ly/9ogz1Z
How are we doing digital curation at Penn State?
**Digital curation at Penn State means . . .**

- Development of a programmatic approach
  - e-Content Stewardship Council, DOT

- Revamping presentation and usability of digital collections
  - Google Analytics

- Creating use cases for understanding of data management issues
  - Data curation profiles
Else . . .
We invite all sorts of "tribble-ations"
- like data corruption and loss, to name one
So: Yes! There is a curator in the library - with an array of collaborators . . .
Together, we'll manage this . . .