Digital Curator Vocational Education Europe (DigCurV): curriculum framework

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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission'

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

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Some basic facts

- Network funded under the EC Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning programme
- Aims: support and extend vocational training for digital curators in libraries, archives and museums
- 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2013 (30 months)

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Founding partners

Initial European partners

- Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale (FRD)
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Öffentlichen Recht, Goettingen State and University Library (UGOE)
- Humanities Advanced Technology Institute (HATII) at University of Glasgow
- MDR Partners (Consulting) Ltd (MDR)
- Trinity College Dublin (TFTCD)
- Vilniaus Universiteto Biblioteka (VUL)

Associates and partners from other countries

- Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- nestor
- Digital Preservation Coalition
- Institute of Museum and Library Services

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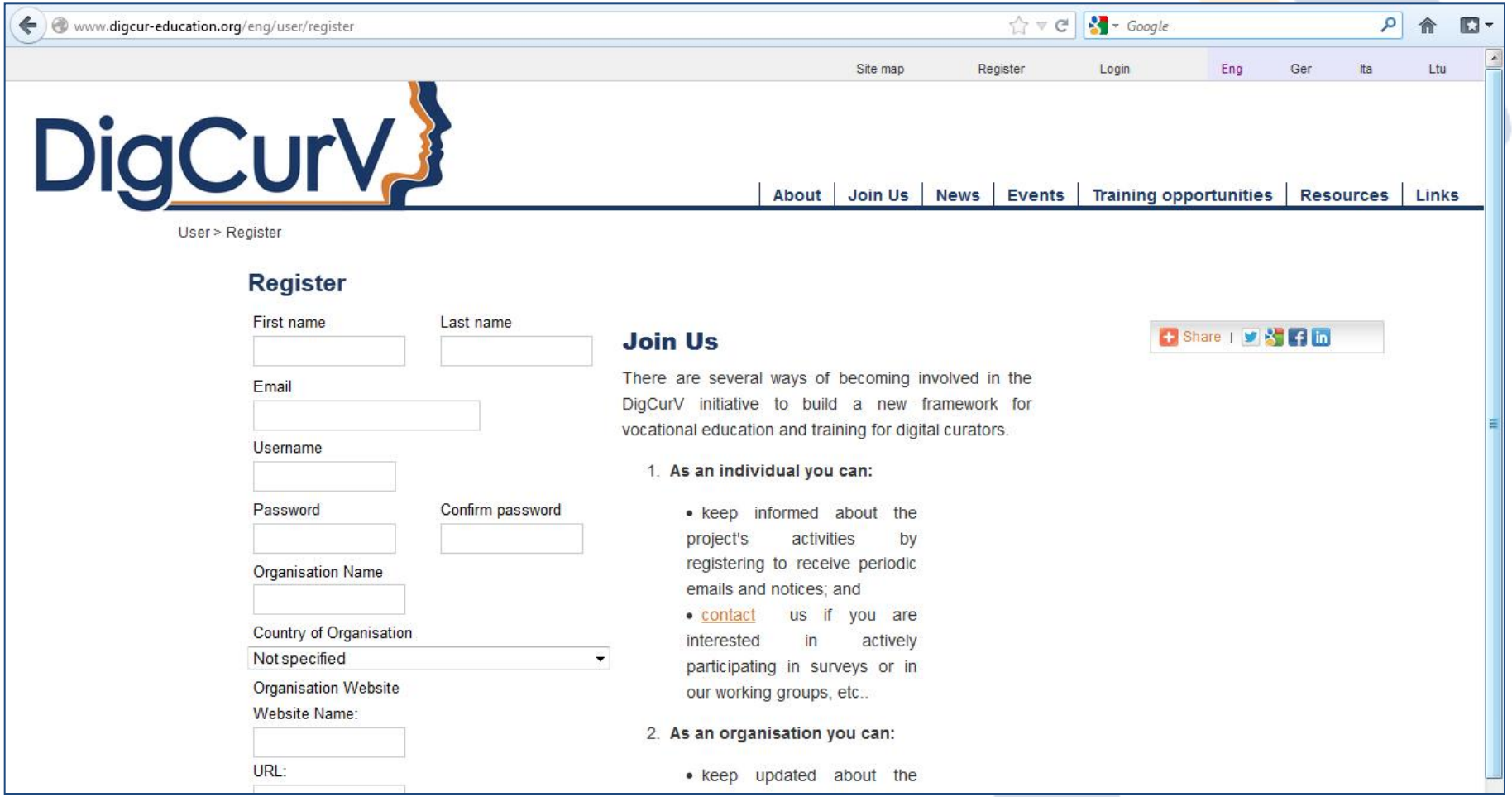
Wider network

Wider network



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Main activities

- Identify and analyse existing training opportunities and methodologies
  - Training registry
- Survey training needs
- Identify key skills and competences
  - Focus groups, job adverts analysis
- **Create a curriculum framework**
- Test with communities
- Promote the results for use within and across countries

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Curriculum framework

http://www.digcurv.gla.ac.uk

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A Curriculum Framework for Digital Curation

Digital curation has an increasingly important role to play in a range of market sectors, not least of which is the *Cultural Heritage* sector. Supporting the professional development of digital curators across these sectors is a priority in maintaining the quality of service delivered by organisations that rely on digital curation in its many forms.

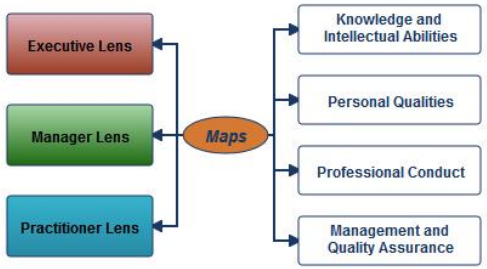
The *DigCurV Curriculum Framework* offers a means to identify, evaluate, and plan training to meet the skill requirements of staff engaged in digital curation, both now and in the future.

Significantly, our framework is rooted in the actual working experience of digital curators 'in the field'. In particular, the DigCurV team has undertaken multi-national research to understand both the skills currently used by those working in digital curation in the Cultural Heritage sector, and the skills sought by employers in this sector.

- Introducing the Framework
- Using the Framework
- Skill Definitions
- Executive Lens
- Manager Lens
- Practitioner Lens
- Comparing Lenses

Focusing on Specific Audiences

The framework defines separate *skills lenses* to match the specific needs of distinct audiences within digital curation in the shape of *Executives*, *Managers*, and *Practitioners*.



http://www.digcur-education.org/

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Curriculum framework

http://www.digcurv.gla.ac.uk

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DPOE: Three audiences for training

From: 'Training Needs Assessment Survey' (2010). Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE). Washington DC, US Library of Congress. dpoe@loc.gov

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Curriculum framework

- Portfolio of three ‘lenses’ to reflect career progression: ‘Practitioner’, ‘Manager’ and ‘Executive’
- Indicate digital curation skills and competences, and pathways of skills progression
- Framework: i.e. does NOT specify a particular training curriculum

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Curriculum framework

Framework: i.e. does NOT specify a particular training curriculum.

Simon Grant, CETIS:

"… a place to visit should not be confused with an itinerary for that place. Any real place has an unlimited number of possible itineraries for it. An itinerary for a city may include a museum; an itinerary for a museum may include a painting; there may sometimes even be guides to a painting that direct the viewer to particular features of that painting. The guide to the painting is not the painting; the guide to the museum is not the museum; the guide to the city is not the city."

Simon Grant, 'The logic of tourism as an analogy for competence'. Published online 1 May, 2012 at http://blogs.cetis.ac.uk/asimong/2012/05/01/tourism-analogy/

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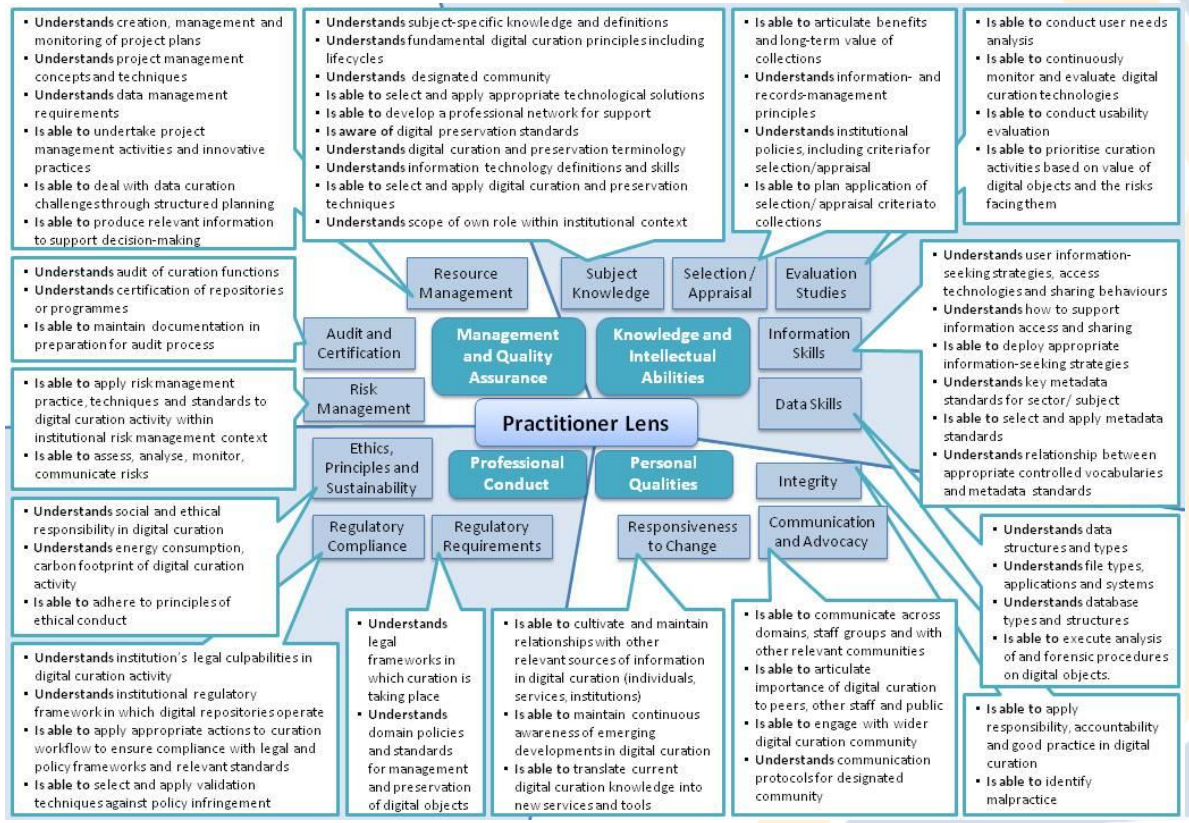
‘Practitioner’ lens



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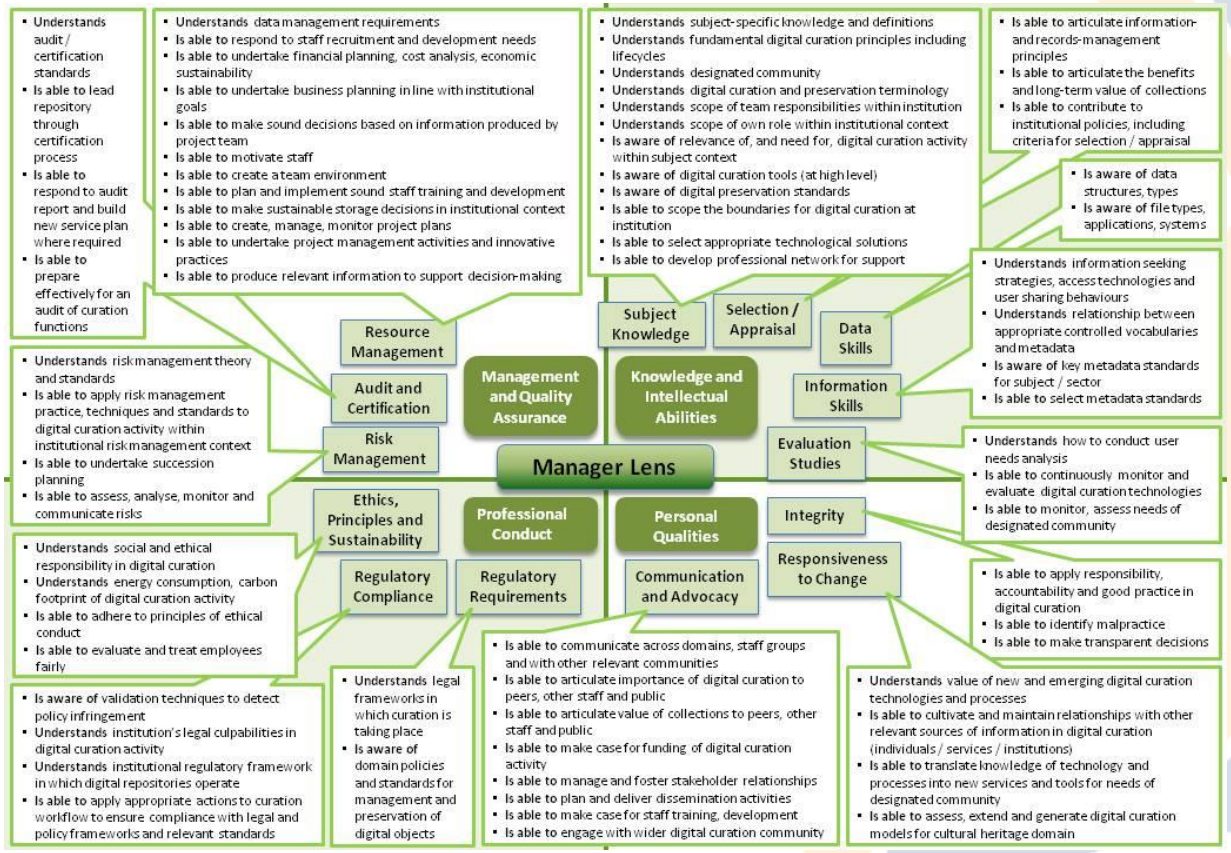
‘Manager’ lens



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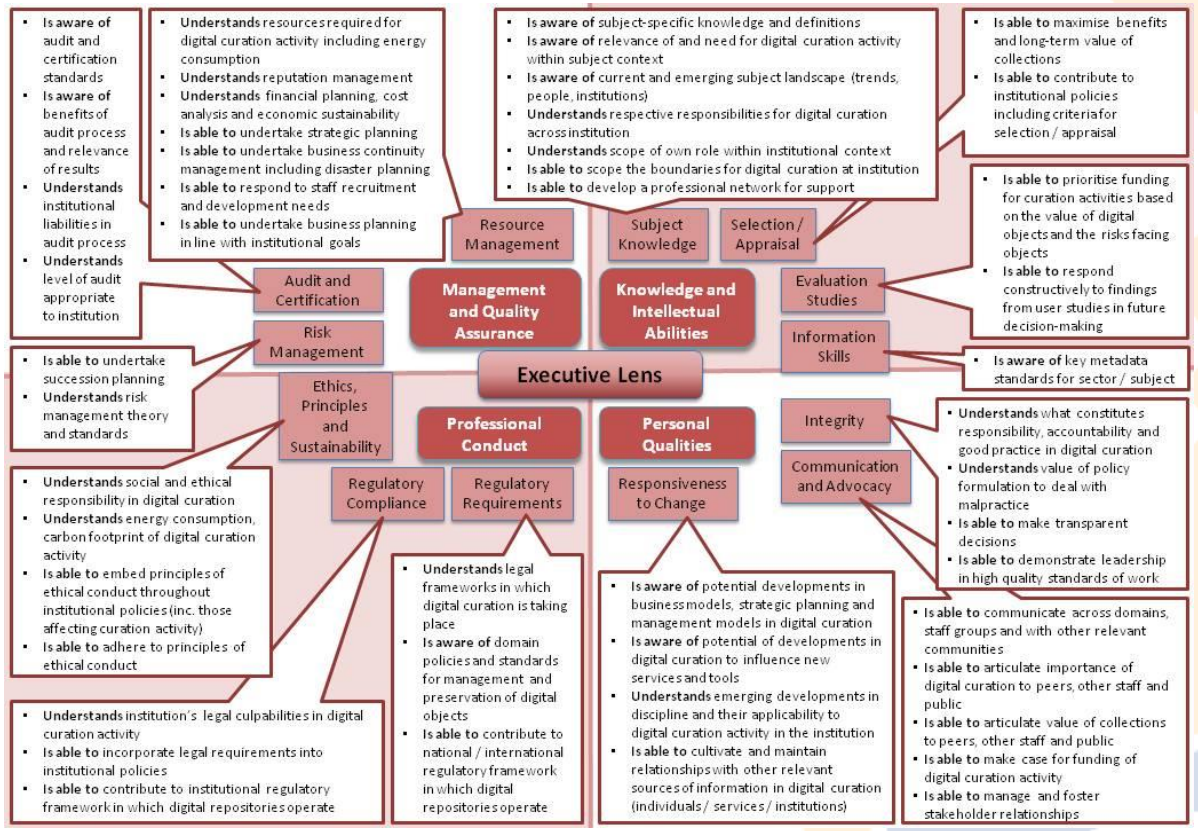
‘Executive’ lens



How to use the Curriculum Framework for Digital Curation

Background

DigCurV has undertaken multi-national research to understand the skills currently used by those working in digital curation in the cultural heritage sector, as well as the skills sought by employers in this sector.

Audiences for training

Practitioners need to be able to perform a wide variety of technical and people-oriented tasks. They must also understand many diverse issues relating to both their area of cultural heritage and to digital curation. **Managers** need understanding of these areas to successfully ensure projects are on track and to advise their teams. **Executives** need a strategic view of digital curation to understand the emerging challenges in digital curation for the cultural heritage sector, and to make appropriate funding decisions to meet these challenges.

The DigCurV curriculum framework provides a version or 'lens' for each of these three audiences.

Using the framework

The framework provides three lenses - one each for practitioners, managers and executives. Each lens can be used in the following ways:

To build or develop training

The framework aims to be useful to those building new training courses. Depending on the user's aims, the framework can assist in providing a structure for a generic training programme for the role of digital curator, or it can suggest which subjects should be covered in shorter, more specialised courses addressing one particular area of professional digital curation practice. The framework may also supply a common language to allow those building and developing training to meaningfully describe the value of their training offerings.

To compare existing courses

The framework provides a benchmark against which to compare existing training and also a way to map various training offerings against each other. The professional who is considering undertaking training may wish to compare available training programmes to help identify which is most appropriate for their needs. The framework can also be used by staff training providers to compare existing courses and assess suitability for their own institution's requirements.

To plan professional development

The framework suggests the broad range of skills and knowledge needed by professionals of various levels to successfully deliver digital curation in the cultural heritage sector. Individuals either intending to enter or already working in digital curation in the cultural heritage sector may find it useful to map their own strengths against the framework as well as use the framework to identify and describe areas in which they would find further training useful.

Further information about the DigCurV project is available at http://www.digcur-education.org/

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Usability is key

Three main intended uses of each lens:

- To build or develop training
- To compare existing courses
- To plan professional development

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- Access the curriculum framework:

www.digcur-education.org/eng/Resources

- More information and join the network at:

www.digcur-education.org

Feedback? A course to publicise? Contact:
courses@digcur-education.org

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