

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN EDUCATING EFFECTIVE DATA CURATORS AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

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Background

As the volume of data being created today continues to grow in the field of e-science and interdisciplinary fields of research, there is also a growing need for experienced individuals to curate and maintain this data and a shortage of professional to fill these positions. In order to better prepare information scientists in the field of data curation, there is a growing need for comprehensive programs to educate future data curators with hands-on experience as well as a theoretical foundation.

Question: How can Information Science programs better prepare students to become highly-qualified as Data Curators?

Summary and Objectives

This poster proposes the creation of a comprehensive program which includes; internships, theoretical and application classes, reflective learning such as e-portfolio, and research opportunities.

Although traditionally, many programs used a professional model focused on academic libraries with few opportunities for internships and a weak philosophical and theoretical foundation great strides have been made in educating students in the field of information science.

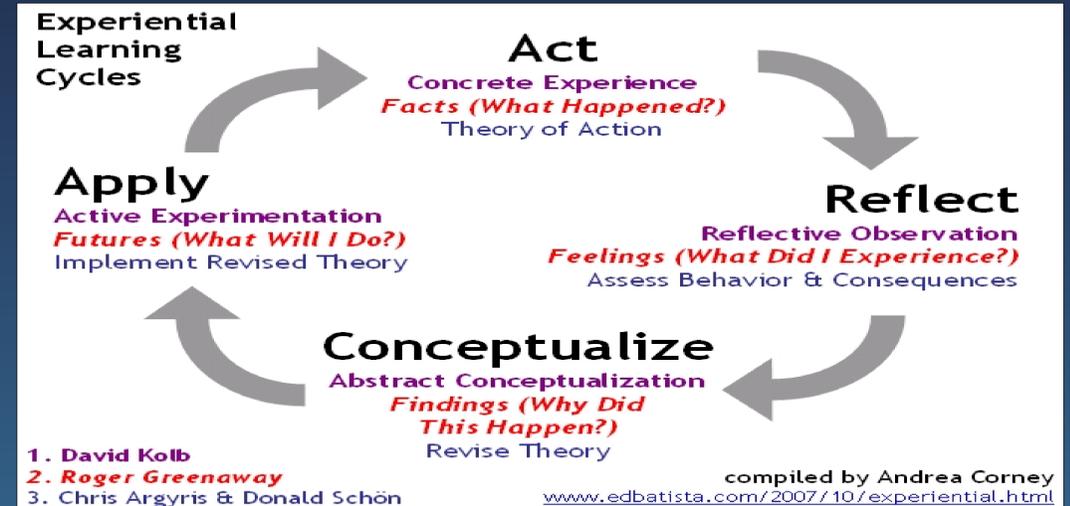
It is important that students receive:	Example
Theoretical foundation and application classes	Information Retrieval and Organization, Database Management, Data Mining, Analytics, and Modeling
Hands-on learning experiences such as	Internships and Practicum
Reflective learning exercises such as	e-Portfolio
Research experiences	Posters, Papers, and oral Presentations

Conclusion

As a DCERC student, I and my colleagues have the unique experience of receiving strong foundational course work, guidance from highly qualified mentors and ongoing research projects. Each student engages in internships and practicums from well-known and developed data centers as well as academic libraries to receive real life practical experience working in their field. As a capstone, each DCERC student in the University of Tennessee master program engages in reflective learning techniques by way of e-portfolios. The combination of these experiences helps to develop highly qualified Information Professionals and effective data curators. This system can be used and implemented more widely and will strengthen the profession and provide the field with more qualified individuals to fill the data curator positions.



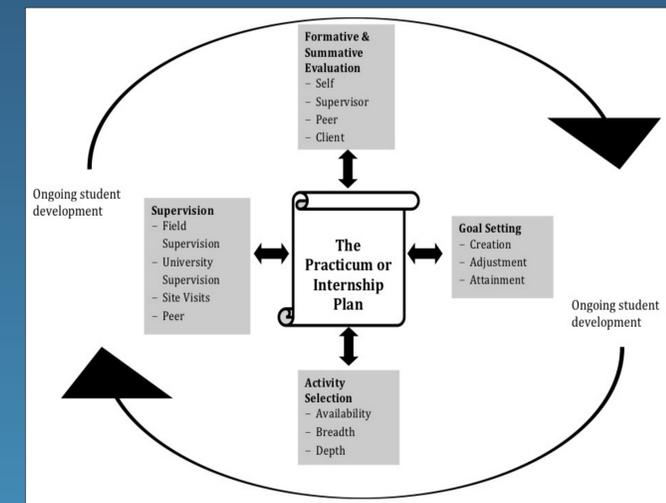
<http://www.dataarchive.ac.uk/newsevents/news.aspx?id=2960>



Hands-on Learning

- Internships and practicums give student the opportunity to get in the field experiences and
- Enact the skills learned in their course work.
- This is also important because many classes teach best practices and theory.
- In field experiences provide a realistic view of the field.

(Sternberg & Zhang, 2000).



<http://time2track.com/fieldwork-plan>



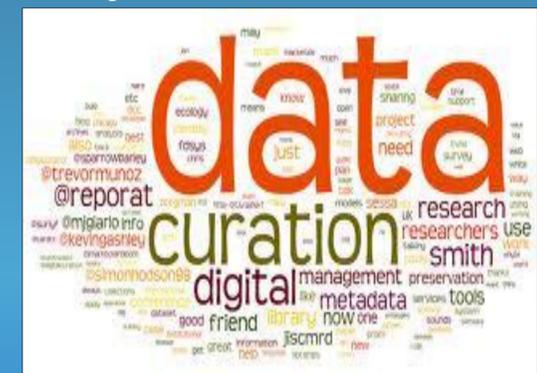
<http://educ6040fall10.wikispaces.com/ePortfolio>

Reflective Learning

With the use of e-Portfolio one can:

- Showcase their academic achievements
- Collect and reflect on their work
- Share their educational and work experience
- Create dynamic resumes
- Create a plan of study and work online with an Advisor

(<http://www.eportfolio.org/index.cfm>)



<http://blogs.nd.edu/emorgan/2010/12/6th-international-data-curation-conference/>

Project Partners



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School of Information Sciences



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