Which Life-Cycle? Data Curation and Records Management Education

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Abstract

In this poster I will present the two life-cycle models of records management and data curation. I will use these figures to compare and contrast the two disciplines, and ultimately suggest where they might benefit from future educational collaborations.

Keywords

Records Management, Data Curation, Collaboration, Library and Information Science, Graduate Education.

Introduction

In predicting the data deluge researchers and theorists have made numerous declarations of what functions data curators can and should perform in life-cycle management. But relatively little attention has been paid to the theory and practice of electronic records management, which encompasses many of the same actions. Are data curators unnecessarily re-inventing life-cycle models or does the very scale of this data require curators to contemplate new theorizations of management services? This poster will explore the similarities of life-cycle management in data curation and records management in order to show similarities that exist within the two disciplines. Ultimately, this poster hopes to explain how the two might collaborate in future educational efforts and why this is an especially important time for harnessing these collaborations.

Body

Traditional principles of records management have focused on record authenticity, integrity, provenance and long term value. These considerations are also at the core of what data curators must consider in similar practices of appraisal and selection. The two disciplines overlap in numerous ways, but none as immediate as the graphic depiction of the “life-cycle” model that both domains widely distribute. Practitioners in both fields refer to their own particular life cycle construction in order to explain the workflow of their actions, but perhaps its time they start showing these models to one another.

Additionally, the vast increase in the amount of modern data also comes with new complications for both electronic records managers and data curators. Electronic records managers are encountering data in formats and at a scale previously unprecedented in the business environment, while data curators are quickly being saddled with legislative mandates requiring they make publicly funded data accessible to society as a whole.

Each of these issues are positive outcomes of a changing administration and a progressive climate of cross disciplinary research taking place on an international stage. For iSchools intent on educating leaders in the fields of records management, archival science and data curation it is imperative that these programs start to learn
from one another and look at themselves as being interdisciplinary rather than separate entities.

Cited Texts


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