

Testing the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR) Model in Boston, MA

Harvard Libraries, in partnership with MIT Libraries, and with help from WGBH, DuraSpace, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Harvard University Archives and Simmons College, will test a potential solution to the shortage of individuals adequately trained to fill our organizations' digital stewardship positions. This potential solution, a post-graduate residency that combines immersive training in digital stewardship with hands-on experience working in professional organizations in a cohort and mentoring environment, is currently being piloted by the Library of Congress in Washington DC. This project will test how well the model works in a different geographic area - Boston, Massachusetts, and under the leadership of an academic institution - Harvard Library. Testing that the model can be replicated is a crucial first step to rolling it out as a nationwide program.

This 3-year project will begin with a planning year, followed by two rounds of 9 month residencies. Building on the successes of past residency programs, this program will use a cohort model, in which 5 residents go through the program at the same time, providing a peer support and learning network. The residents will start together in an immersive workshop to learn about digital stewardship concepts, practices and tools. They will then be placed in diverse Boston area institutions that have long-term responsibility for digital content. The residents will work on real problems within the institutions and publish their work to publicly-accessible online electronic portfolios. They will end their residencies with a capstone week to present their work to the community, and to learn practical next steps to starting digital stewardship careers.

This project will leverage local expertise, technology and previous initiatives to implement the model in an economical way. The trainers for the immersion and capstone workshops will be taught by project staff through a Train-the-Trainer workshop that will be held in the first year of the project. The curriculum that will be used in the immersion workshop will be based on the curriculum developed for the Library of Congress' Digital Preservation Outreach & Education (DPOE) Program, but expanded to go beyond digital preservation to the broader scope of digital stewardship. Boston area digital preservation and curation practitioners and educators will speak at immersion workshops and at special presentations throughout the residencies. The measurable outcomes of the project are:

- 10 graduates of the program will have gained the knowledge, hands-on experience and professional network needed to enter successful digital stewardship careers
- 8 trainers will have gained knowledge, confidence and experience teaching digital stewardship curricula
- 5-10 Boston area institutions will have gained experience hosting and mentoring residents, exposure to the digital stewardship curricula, an infusion of new staff to complete projects within their institutions, and new working relationships with the other host institutions

This project will produce documents and curricula that can be used to replicate the residency model and that could be used for workforce development programs to retrain existing staff.