

Educating archivists and information curators: continuity and transition

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to show the progress and adaptation of records and archives management curriculum in the world of technological disruption through the development of the Master of Arts in Data and Information Curation, a postgraduate program at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. From traditional records and archives materials—such as manuscripts, paper records, and audiovisual materials—demands of preserving and managing our documentary heritage are turning to more diverse materials and abundant data in digital formats, such as electronic records, websites, and social media. This calls for archivists and digital curators who have expertise in both old and new media. Accordingly, knowledge and skills in archiving and digital curation have become in-demand in a wide range of information institutions, not only in archival institutions.

The development of the curriculum derives from studying market trends and curricula in other countries and interviewing key stakeholders such as potential employers, current records and archives managers, and digital curators in Thailand. The curriculum's objective is to equip information professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge for managing, preserving, and reusing both analog and digital data and information to ensure accessibility and longevity in the digital era.

The weekend program has been operating for three years. This presentation will address the need for the curriculum and provide a brief overview of courses. It will also discuss challenges and the lessons learned from the delivery of the program. In addition to full-time students, we raise awareness among librarian and archivist communities by allowing practitioners to enroll as part-time students with a credit bank system, giving lectures in conferences, webinars, and workshops, and engaging in local and international collaboration. Finally, the presentation will propose recommendations for the advancement of archives and digital curation education in Thailand.