

FAQ'S

What is the Digital Scholarship Training Programme?

A two-year programme of 15 one-day courses for curators across Scholarship & Collections to have the opportunity and space to delve into the key concepts, methods and tools that define today's digital scholarship practice. Based on consultation with internal stakeholders as well as those in the HE, Cultural Heritage and IT sectors, the Digital Curator Team have designed this unique programme to address the training needs of staff at the British Library. A team of first-class instructors from notable institutions such as King's College, Oxford University, Open University, UCL Centre for Digital Humanities, and the British Library has been assembled to deliver this learning programme over the next two years. If you'd like to learn more about the development of the programme please visit our wiki page: <https://intranet.bl.uk:8443/confluence/display/DCT/DCT33+Digital+Scholarship+Training+Programme>

Wait, what if I've never used the BL Wiki?

For more information on logging into the BL Wiki the first time please visit: <http://intranet.bl.uk/community/sharinginfo/blwiki/index.html> or contact Richard Power, S&C Web and Intranet Coordinator for help.

Where can I find more details about the courses and instructors?

The course dates and short course descriptions will always be announced via internal communications channels ahead of each semester. Full course descriptions including syllabi, instructor bio and course materials will be made available on the wiki.

I am a curator and see a course that looks exciting, how do I register for it?

Send an email to digitalresearch@bl.uk and your request will be handled in order of receipt. We will maintain a waiting list in case of cancellations. Note that S&C curatorial staff have first priority but seats will be offered to non-curatorial staff in S&C if 1) they are not filled within a reasonable time and 2) there is no curatorial waiting list. The only exception is with P01 Social Media: Introduction to Yammer, Twitter, and Blogging which will be open to all colleagues in the Library as agreed with SM&C who are kindly funding it.

I am in S&C but not a curator, can I still get on a course?

Please send an email to digitalresearch@bl.uk to register your interest and have your name put on the waiting list. While curatorial staff in S&C have first priority for seats, we are very keen to make sure that colleagues across S&C have the opportunity to engage with the programme wherever possible. To this end we will maintain a waiting list of non-curatorial S&C staff and as stated above, if the course is not filled by curators within a reasonable amount of time we will offer them to those on this waiting list in order of receipt. Registering your interest will help us to monitor which courses are popular so please do not hesitate to get in touch as we may find capacity to add additional sessions. Again, the only exception to this is with P01 Social Media: Introduction to Yammer, Twitter, and Blogging which will be open to all colleagues in the Library as agreed with SM&C who are kindly funding it.

I'm interested in attending one of your courses but I'm not in S&C. What can I do?

We recommend you register your interest with us anyway and if the waiting lists for curatorial and non-curatorial staff are exhausted and seats remain open we will offer them up to other directorates. If it is a course where an external instructor has been secured we will require reimbursement from your training budget based on the actual seat cost per session. This is typically in the range of £50 for the whole day.

I didn't get on the course I'd hope to, will it be run again?

Each of the 15 courses will be run four times over the next two years at a minimum. If your name is still on the waiting list after a course is closed you will be given, again in order of priority, the opportunity to confirm your place on the following semester's date before it is advertised more widely. The Digital Curator Team will monitor interest, take-up and feedback throughout and adjust courses as necessary and feasible, adding additional dates if the budget allows.

Who are the courses aimed for?

We like to use the term 'Intelligent Novices', that is, curators in S&C who have heard about the concepts but haven't had the time, space or opportunity to really explore them in any depth. It is very important to us that they be inclusive and accessible, challenging but not terrifying. If you have concerns, contact the digital curator team at digitalresearch@bl.uk who can provide personal advice or visit the course wiki and review the syllabi to get a sense of what the course will cover.

Do I need to take all of the pre-requisites before signing up to a core course?

No. The pre-requisites were identified by colleagues as areas which are of foundational importance to all aspects of curatorial work, not simply specific to digital scholarship practice or the core courses. That said, we may recommend a particular pre-requisite in a core course description if we feel it will help ensure you get the most out of it, but it is never mandatory.

What will my day look like?

Most courses unless otherwise stated are designed to be a full-day experience and are comprised of both a lecture covering more theoretical elements and a practical hands-on experience in order to provide staff with the best opportunity to fully engage with the topic. Colleagues will be provided with two short tea breaks and an hour break for lunch. Unfortunately catering cannot be provided.

Will there be tests?

No! But we do want to ensure that you get the most out of the day so there will typically be hands-on group activities that will give you the opportunity to apply your new knowledge. We will also ask for you to complete an anonymous self-assessment feedback form which will let us know how much you feel your knowledge of the topic has progressed from beginning to end of the course. It will also help us to identify any skills gaps which might need filling in the next semester's offering.