Digital Scholarship Training Programme
Third Semester
Autumn/Winter Course Schedule
November 2013 – March 2014

The Digital Scholarship Training Programme is a two-year Digital Curator initiative to provide staff across Collections and the Library with the opportunity and space to delve into the key concepts, methods and tools that define today's digital scholarship practice.

To register for courses please send an email to digitalresearch@bl.uk and include the course number(s) in your request.

More details including syllabi, instructor bios and course materials can be found on our wiki: **https://intranet.bl.uk:8443/confluence/display/DCT/DCT33+Digital+Scholarship+Training+Programme**

November

108   Geo-referencing and Digital Mapping

Friday 8 November 2013, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Provides an introduction to geo-referencing, geo-tagging and digital mapping, exploring how they can be used to display content in innovative, scholarly, and user-friendly ways.

December

113B   Presentation skills: Half-day Introduction to Prezi

Monday 2 December 2013, Meeting Room Y, 09:30–12:00

This course provides a brief introduction to Prezi for beginners.

111A   Social Media: Introduction to Twitter

Monday 2 December 2013, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

This day covers the Library's Social Media Policy and offers a practical introduction and best practice guidance to Twitter for beginners.

111B   Social Media: Introduction to Blogging

Tuesday 3 December 2013, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

This day covers the Library's Social Media Policy and offers a practical introduction and best practice guidance to Blogging for beginners.

111C Social Media: Introduction to Blogging

Tuesday 3 December 2013, Meeting Room Y, 09:30–12:00

This is an improvers session for those already engaged in social media. It covers Twitter, blogs and social networks, but is more about using them well than how to start using them – also covers social monitoring, measuring impact, and other platforms; Pinterest, Tumblr.

January

113A Presentation skills: From Powerpoint to Prezi

Thursday 16 January 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Strong presentation skills are vital for engaging audiences, ensuring your key messages are understood and positively remembered. This course covers presentation preparation, understanding and involving audiences, and using visual aid effectively.

107 Data Visualisation for Analysis in Scholarly Research

Wednesday 22 January 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

This course provides an overview of the history of data visualisation and showcases how freely available visualisation tools can be used to help scholars understand, analyse and present large-scale datasets in the humanities, sciences…and British Library!

114A Foundations in working with Digital Objects: Images

Wednesday 29 January 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Covers basic image literacy, introducing attendees to common terminology and concepts related to working with these digital objects. Through practical exercises participants learn about their creation, processing, editing, management and use in scholarly research and archives.

105 Crowdsourcing in Libraries, Museums and Cultural Heritage Institutions

Thursday 30 January 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Provides an overview of the history and types of crowdsourcing projects in memory institutions, illustrating best practices and providing guidance in getting started in this area.

February

102 Digital Collections at British Library

Thursday 6 February 2014, Foyle Suite 10:00–16:00

An overview of the present and future landscape of our digitised offering focusing on how these digital collections are acquired, ingested, preserved, and access provided.

116   Metadata for Electronic Resources: Dublin Core, METS, MODS, XML

Tuesday 18 February 2014, Foyle Suite 10:00–16:30

This course provides a survey of current standards for describing and encoding digital artefacts in terms that aid their future discovery or preservation. The class covers digital formats for describing the contents and contexts of artefacts with an emphasis on their use in libraries, archives, and online repositories including Dublin Core and OAI as well as their expression in different mark-up languages such as HTML, XML, and RDF.

114B Foundations in working with Digital Objects: A/V

Thursday 20 February 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Covers basic A/V literacy, introducing attendees to common terminology and concepts related to working with audio and video files. Through practical exercises participants learn about their creation, processing, editing, management and use in scholarly research and archives.

March

109   Information Integration: Mash-ups, API's and The Semantic Web

Tuesday 11 March 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Introduces staff to the fundamentals of information integration and sharing from web mash-ups, API's to semantic web/linked open data technology and how these technologies are being used to communicate and connect collections online.

103   Digitisation at British Library

Thursday 13 March 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

Broadly covers lifecycle digitisation project planning and the process for embarking on digitisation at the British Library including considerations of copyright, metadata, preservation and access issues. Includes a digitisation studio tour.

110   Managing Digital Research Information

Thursday 20 March 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

This course will provide an introduction to managing digital research information. It will explain how reference management software can be used to manage individual and collaborative research.

112   Working collaboratively: Using the BL Wiki and Beyond

Thursday 27 March 2014, Foyle Suite, 10:00–16:00

This course will introduce staff to the BL Wiki and provide a foundation upon which they will be able to explore the wiki further. The second half of the day will offer a practical introduction to opportunities and potentials for collaboratively working outside the library and in the cloud using tools such as Dropbox, services developed by Google, and the latest reference management software.

FAQ'S

What is the Digital Scholarship Training Programme?
A two-year programme of one-day courses for staff across the Library 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.

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.

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, Collections Web and Intranet Coordinator for help.

I 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 by one of the Digital Curators. We will maintain a waiting list in case of cancellations. We typically advertise the courses across Collections first as funding is provided for by the Collections Division training budget however we are very keen to make sure that colleagues across the Library have the opportunity to engage with the programme wherever possible so always welcome non-Collections staff on any course. Note in the spirit of "One British Library" we do not seek reimbursement for non-Collections staff to attend courses.

I didn't get on the course I'd hope to, will it be run again?
Each of the courses will be run four times over the next two years. 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?
Courses are designed to be introductory and are aimed at 'Intelligent Novices', that is, colleagues 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.

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.

I cannot make a whole day, can't these topics be covered in half a day?
Senior Leadership Team and our advisory board concurred that a full-day commitment provides the necessary time and mental space away from business-as-usual activities while underscoring that skill building in this new area is a priority for staff. It also provides instructors and staff with the opportunity to delve into these topics to a greater and more valuable extent than a half-day would allow. Additionally, staffing levels in the Digital Curator team at this time currently cannot support a greater frequency of shorter more specialist courses.

Shouldn't a 'digital' training programme be held virtually?
As our courses are meant to be inclusive and introduce new skills to an audience with varied technical experience we felt it would be unnecessarily alienating to hold courses online. We also feel there is greater benefit in bringing together staff from disparate areas to meet each other and enable cross-disciplinary collaboration and communication. We do post all materials and exercises on the wiki after each course for those who would like to follow along.

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.

Still have questions?
Drop us a line at digitalresearch@bl.uk
or call Nora McGregor on ext. 7195.