



Are there **any** digital curators in Czech libraries?

Mgr. Marek Melichar, PhDr. Radka Římanová, Ph.D.

Charles University

This presentation is licensed under the Creative Commons: CC -BY -SA -4.0
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>), via <http://www.nusl.cz/ntk/nusl-261190>

The beginnings

- Professional and theoretical training of digital library managers was initially lagging behind the investments into technologies
- Projects like **DigCCurr I, II** at School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, between 2006-13 formulated education profiles for digital curation curricula
 - The project page: <https://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/index.html>
- Czech situation is similar, especially in the lifelong learning (chaos)
- University curricula – nontransparent ingression of practice into teaching

Why a pilot survey?

- ▶ Digital libraries are the future of library services
- ▶ Draft of the National digital preservation strategy for libraries
- ▶ National system of occupation and qualification
- ▶ Government regulation č. 222/2010 Sb., catalogue of works in public services and government
- ▶ Interest of students, e. g.:
 - ▶ **KONEČNÝ, Michal.** Competency Model and Curriculum Design for Digital Curation Brno, 2016
 - ▶ **JILEČKOVÁ, Šárka.** Educational programs for the digital libraries sphere and digitization on information and library science schools in the USA. Prague, 2015.

Pilot survey methodology

- Seven semi structured interviews with people who manage digital libraries and collections
- Not a random sample of respondents, digital collections of local interests
- Both individual and group interviews
- Six female and nine male respondents
- The results cannot be generalized, but give us a glimpse of the practice

Management of digital data in institutions

- ▶ High in **organization structures**, often directly responsible to the director
- ▶ **Varied job content**, in larger institutions higher division of labor
 - ▶ different Institutional cultures influence the work of digital collection managers (cooperation, motivation)
- ▶ **Number of employees** working in positions related to digital data (paper wins)
- ▶ Tasks related to **digitization** (reformatting) mentioned more often than work with e-born data collections
 - ▶ All respondents have experience with digitization projects
 - ▶ The stream of digitized data is infinite, institutions must manage the backlogs
 - ▶ Digitization projects in managed processes

Work ~~load~~ tasks (Varied and unique for everyone)

- ▶ Digital library content management
 - ▶ Import, validation, checks, conversions of data
 - ▶ Metadata managements
- ▶ Work in digitization line (actual scanning, packages generation, post processing, management of other people)
- ▶ Project management, analyses and testing of SW
- ▶ Contracts with rights holders, management of republishing
- ▶ Application installations, systems administration, backups etc.
- ▶ Strategic management (managers)
- ▶ Compiling of technical documentation for public tenders
- ▶ Documentation (important in LTP) not created systematically (no time..)

Education of interviewed digital curators

- ▶ the importance of good high school informatics stressed several times
- ▶ HE Information science and librarianship 4 respondents
- ▶ HE History 2 respondents
- ▶ HE Informatics 1 respondent
- ▶ HE Archiving 1 respondent
- ▶ HE Czech language studies 1 respondent
- ▶ HE Philosophy 1 respondent
- ▶ High school information science 2 respondents (HE unfinished)
- ▶ Missing information from three respondents (group interviews risk)

Digital data managers competencies

- ▶ **Enthusiasm for work and cooperation!!!**
- ▶ **Willingness to share experience** with colleagues (educating by / your colleagues)
- ▶ High interest in **further professional education**
- ▶ Advantages:
 - ▶ Knowledge of standards
 - ▶ Basics of cataloguing
 - ▶ Ability to work with XML
- ▶ Cataloguers in the context of digital collection - still important
- ▶ **Competence conversion**
 - ▶ **Non-IT to IT guy (not the opposite way)**

Lifelong education - LINUX

- ▶ Strong support from employers, but all respondents need further education – managing data in Linux environments
 - ▶ Self education (number of resources online – EDx, Czech resources)
 - ▶ CESNET?
 - ▶ Linux for librarians
 - ▶ Specific needs – data manipulations and automation, basic scripting – not universal system administration
- ▶ Once mentioned - a Linux training organized by library for employees, others rely on self study, help of colleagues
- ▶ Learning it yourself can be more efficient then waiting for the IT to do it
- ▶ Need of solid programming competences

Interactions with users of digital collections

- **Other librarians** are also users (other digital collections managers, cataloguers etc.)
- Half of the respondents mentioned **cooperation with reference librarians**
- Direct interaction with users
 - **Low number of transparent contacts and channels**, no active marketing mentioned
 - Users like to indicate mistakes (in scans, metadata)
 - Users want to know when something will be scanned, accessible
 - Formal interest in data reuse, republishing
 - Genealogical researchers
 - Scarce interest in data reuse in data mining (linguistics, history – machine access)

Any **digital curators** in Czech libraries?

- A Term with unsettled meaning
- LTP tasks mentioned only rarely, focus on current issues
- Czech digital collections exist thanks to the enthusiasm of those who are managing it
- Burn out risk
- Where to direct support?
 - Competence frameworks in formal education and life long education
 - Increase the number of positions related to digital collections (pay for good documentation, education and LTP)
 - Secure stable development in this field, financial and organizational
 - Use pioneers' experience

Thank you for your attention

Mgr. Marek Melichar
Computer Services Center
Library information systems dept.
Charles university

marek.melichar@ruk.cuni.cz

PhDr. Radka Římanová, Ph.D.
Department of Information Studies
and Librarianship
Faculty of Arts, Charles university

radka.rimanova@ff.cuni.cz