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In Brief

Digital Libraries Curriculum Development

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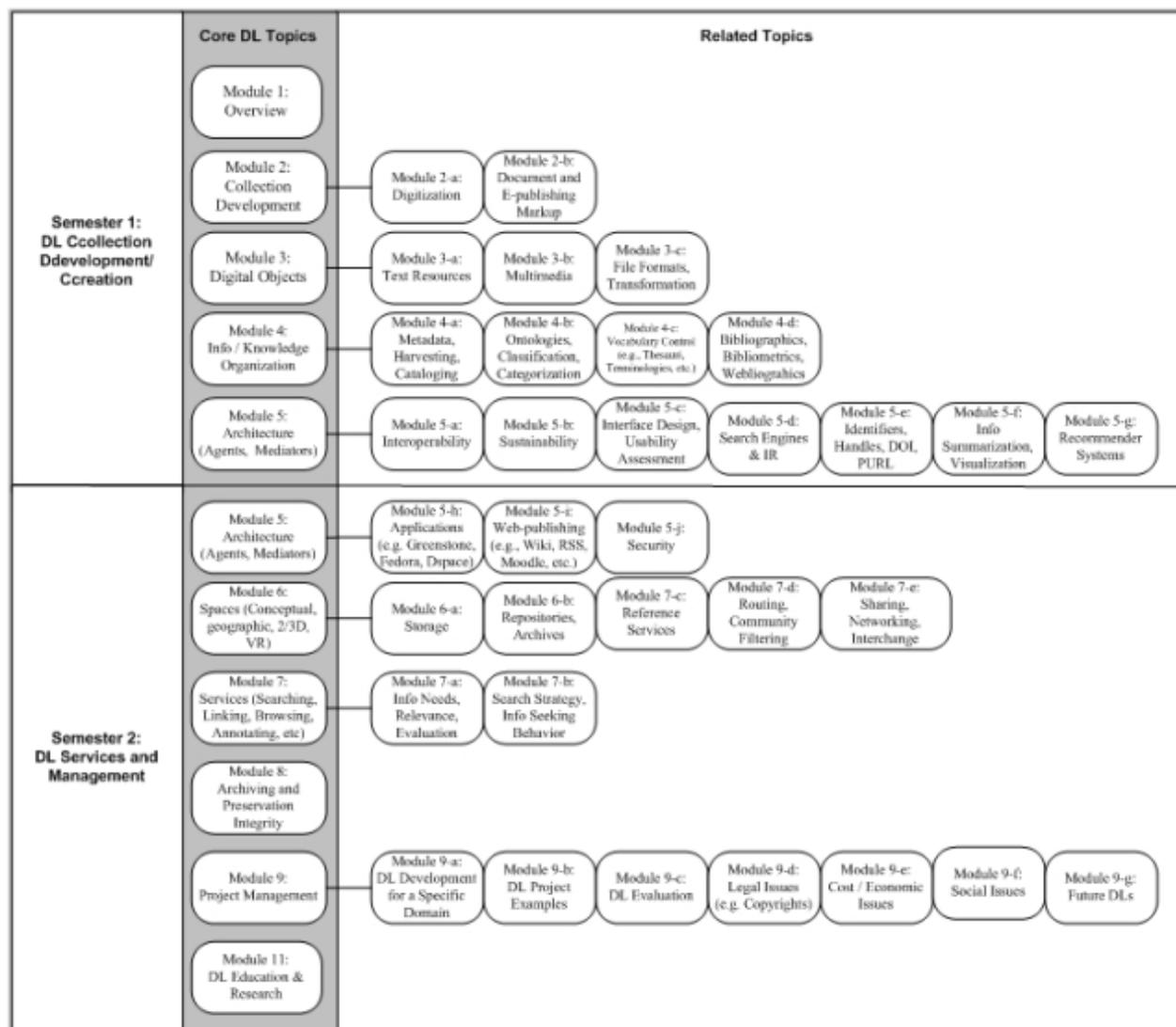
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Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in digital library (DL) research. Much of this research has investigated how DLs can aid education, but there has been no parallel investment in supporting teaching and learning about DL development and management. The Digital Libraries Curriculum Development project (<http://curric.dlib.vt.edu/wiki/>) is an effort to overcome this shortcoming in DL education.

The School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC SILS) and the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech (VT CS) have taken the first steps toward developing an interdisciplinary curriculum and collection of educational materials for DL education. Through a three-year NSF grant (IIS-0535060 to UNC-CH and IIS-0535057 to VT), the project will develop educational modules in accordance with the Computing Curricula 2001 (CC2001) guidelines

(http://www.computer.org/portal/cms_docs_ieeecs/ieeecs/education/cc2001/cc2001.pdf) and best practices from existing internships and programs on digital librarianship. These materials are intended for use in both computer science and library and information science programs, so input is being gathered from colleagues in both disciplines.

A curriculum for DL education will be developed according to the framework illustrated below. For programs emphasizing digital libraries, a 2-semester sequence might be appropriate. For more general programs, a 1-semester course may be more appropriate. Alternatively, individual modules may be implemented within courses on DL-related topics. The mission of a particular school will affect the emphasis placed on DLs within its curriculum.



For a slightly larger version of this figure, [click](#) here.

Educational materials will be developed at three levels of granularity: 1) specific lessons that can be implemented within the context of a DL course or a related course; 2) modules covering an individual topic; and 3) course outlines appropriate for one or two semester-long courses.

At present, the investigators are undertaking an analysis of the published literature on DLs, and existing courses on DLs in Library and Information Science and Computer Science programs. This analysis will identify the "state of the art" in DL research and development and education, and will serve as a basis for the development of the planned modules.

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