



DIGITAL LIBRARIES Curriculum Development

I-Schools as a Natural Home for Digital Libraries Education

Barbara M. Wildemuth¹, Jeffery Pomerantz¹, Sanghee Oh¹,
Seungwon Yang², & Edward A. Fox².

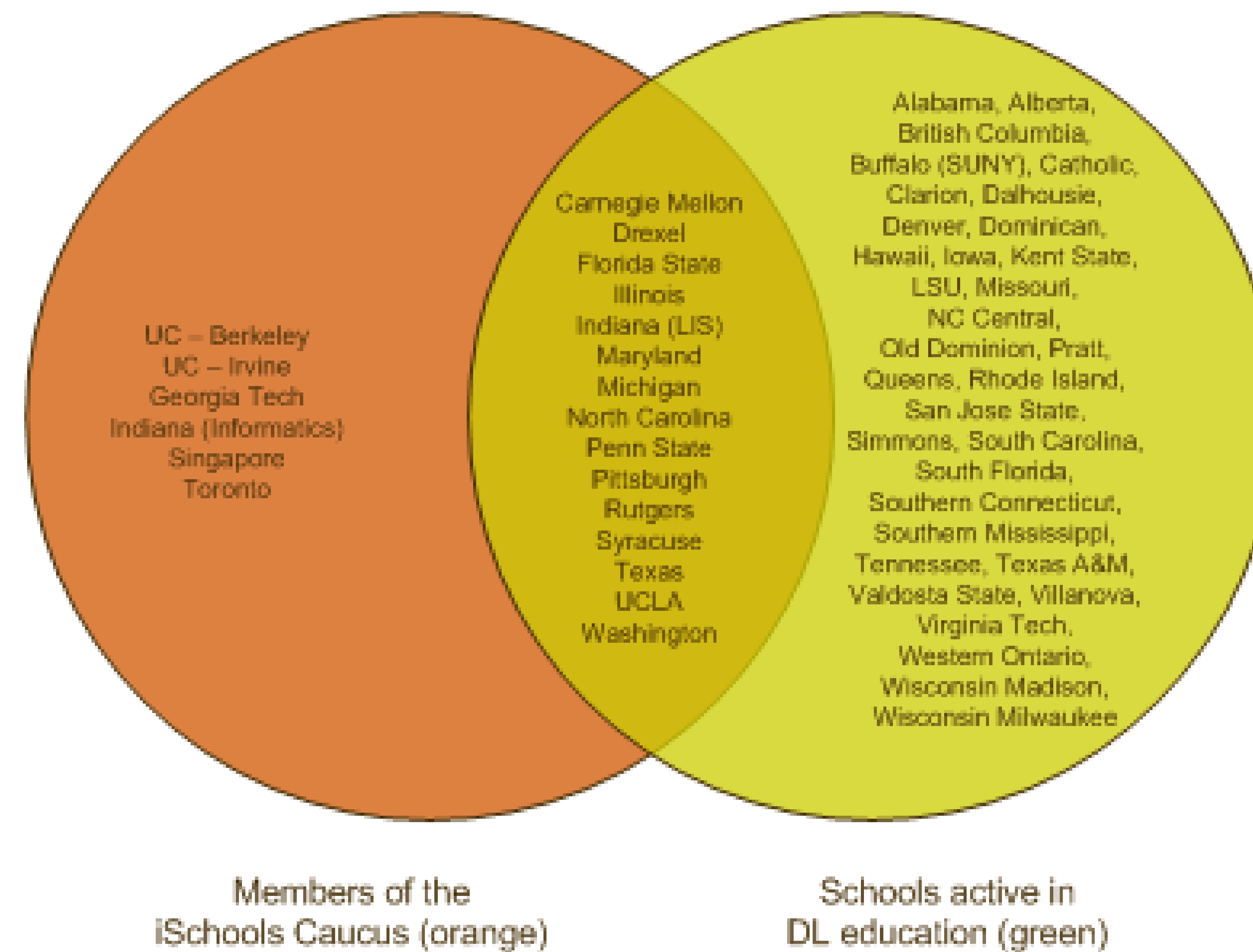
¹ School of Information & Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

² Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech

Overview

Given that digital libraries (DLs) bring together technology, information, and the people using the information, it can easily be argued that i-schools should play a central role in educating DL professionals. This study examines the existing roles that i-schools play in DL education from two different vantage points: their offering of DL courses and their participation in a DL curriculum development project. In addition, we explore the potential to expand the iSchools Caucus by recruiting those schools that are active in DL education efforts (i.e., those that offer courses or participate in curriculum development) but are not yet members of the Caucus.

DL courses in the i-schools were further analyzed, in terms of the topics covered, the textbooks used, and the types of assignments used. This analysis was based on the seven course syllabi available on the open Web.



Topics covered:

- No topics were covered by *all* courses
- The most frequently-covered topics were:
 - Introduction to DLs
 - DL history
 - Metadata
 - DL architecture
 - Interaction design and usability
 - Preservation
 - Intellectual property
 - Economics of DLs
 - The future of DLs

Textbooks used in 3+ courses:

- Witten, Ian H., & Bainbridge, David. (2003). How to build a digital library. Amsterdam: Morgan Kaufmann.
- Arms, William Y. (2000). Digital libraries. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Borgman, Christine L. (2000). From Gutenberg to the global information infrastructure: Access to information in the networked world. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Lesk, Michael. (2005). Understanding Digital Libraries. (2nd Edition) San Francisco, CA: Morgan Kaufmann.

Assignments used in 5+ courses:

- Review/evaluation of a DL
- Development of a DL

This project builds upon a collaboration between Virginia Tech and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, funded by the National Science Foundation through grants NSF IIS-0535057 (to VA Tech) and IIS-0535060 (to UNC-CH).