

November 4, 2013

Patricia Erickson
728 State St
367 Memorial Library
Madison, WI 53706-1418

Dear Ms. Erickson:

I am very pleased to apply for the position of Digital Curation Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, seen advertised October 23, 2013, on the Code4Lib listserv. I am an emerging librarian whose considerable experience with digital curation issues and research data management in academic libraries would benefit UW-Madison.

I have extensive experience dealing with the issues and technical challenges related to managing, curating, and archiving research data. As Scientific Data Curation Assistant at the Indiana University (IU) Libraries, I have liaised with faculty to manage data and publications for inclusion in IU's DSpace-powered institutional repository, IUScholarWorks, and coordinated a documentation and outreach project oriented toward encouraging campus researchers to self-submit to our IR. Through this work I have been exposed to funding agency requirements for data management and access; I now have working knowledge of the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and National Endowment for the Humanities requirements. I have demonstrated my ability to come up with creative, proactive services by proposing the idea for a joint data management and visualization workshop which was held in October 2013. I was responsible for leading a section of the workshop that focused on humanities data management and visualization.

Digital curation is an area that combines the need for a strong public service orientation and technical skills. I enjoy the variety of tasks related to digital curation, from teaching, one-on-one consultations, and long- and short-term project planning; however, the most exciting part is being able to see the elation of a researcher who has learned how to manage his or her data more effectively. While I have not yet provided user application support in the area of digital curation, this would be a natural next step from my past experiences working closely with stakeholders and related technologies, such as institutional and domain repositories and tools like the Data Curation Profiles Toolkit and the DMPTool. I would be eager to work with users to ensure that they understand the systems and services in place for managing their research data.

My diverse library technology experiences have contributed to my preparedness for the role of Digital Curation Coordinator. I have worked with digital collections, metadata, digital humanities, geospatial mapping, open source software development, and streaming media services across my various jobs; these experiences are explained in detail on my resume. I have firsthand experience working with the metadata standards MODS, Dublin Core, and EAD, in addition to exposure to METS and PREMIS. I have an intermediate understanding of XSLT and Ruby, either of which I could use to facilitate document transformations, and am comfortable learning new programming languages as needed for projects. I have demonstrated experience promoting library services through a variety of channels: I regularly promote the Avalon Media System through social media (Facebook, Twitter, blog) as well as library newsletters and relevant websites. I have a strong understanding of copyright; in my role at CNS, I was responsible for managing copyright permissions for hundreds of images that will appear in the upcoming second edition of the book *Atlas of Science*, published by MIT Press. Additionally, I have been hired by an emeriti faculty member to manage the licensing and copyright for several decades of her publications, a task which has led

me to understand firsthand the intricacies of author rights management. I would bring knowledge of these relevant digital curation skills to my work at UW-Madison.

My day-to-day experience at the IU Libraries involves working independently to prioritize projects and ensure their successful completion. However, I am also accustomed to working collaboratively on projects, as evidenced by my experience working with the Avalon Media System, which is split between teams working jointly at Indiana University and Northwestern University, and the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center (CNS), a software development and scientific data analysis and visualization research team. I have worked closely with faculty, librarians, and technologists on these and other projects.

I also possess excellent communication skills that I have already used to contribute professionally within the field. As Managing Editor of the blog Hack Library School I oversee content from a team of 17 regular writers and guest authors. I have gained considerable experience presenting at local, national, and international conferences as a graduate student. Just this year alone, I will have given seven presentations on digital curation-related topics. As an active and engaged member of the digital curation community, I stay up-to-date on rapid changes in the landscape through volunteering, attending, and presenting at professional meetings, including ACRL and the LITA Forum; doing regular literature reviews; participating in relevant social media channels, especially Twitter; and keeping up with mailing lists published by ACRL and Code4Lib.

In closing, I am incredibly excited about the position of Digital Curation Coordinator. I feel that my breadth of experience with research data management issues makes me an ideal candidate for this position, and as a proud Wisconsinite, I would be delighted to contribute to the success of digital curation services at UW-Madison.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,
Brianna Marshall