

## ABSTRACT

### **The National Digital Stewardship Residency Program: Educating Digital Stewards in New York Libraries, Archives, and Museums**

**Abstract:** The Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), in partnership with Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS), requests \$498,135 for a 3-year project to support continuing education in the field of digital stewardship by implementing the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR) program in collaboration with institutions within the New York City library, archives, and museum community. The National Digital Stewardship Residency program is currently being developed by the Library of Congress in conjunction with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr/>). The first implementation of the NDSR is underway in Washington, D.C. with residents entering the program in June 2013. The National Digital Stewardship Residency in New York (NDSR-NY) project proposes to expand the NDSR model in the library, archives, and museum community of New York City with a project starting June 1, 2013 and running through May 31, 2016, with resident classes starting in June 2014 and June 2015. Through a combination of immersive curriculum and nine-month embedded residencies performing digital stewardship in local institutions, the NDSR-NY project will foster the development of a select group of 10 recent MLS and related master degree recipients by providing advanced training and hands-on experience in the unique knowledge and skills required for the selection, management, and ongoing accessibility of digital assets. The three primary goals of the NDSR-NY project:

- Addressing the need for well-trained staff working to preserve digital materials within cultural heritage by training a new generation of digital stewards in the technical, conceptual, and practical competencies of digital stewardship.
- Increasing institutional capacity for digital stewardship by meeting the need within the library, archives, museum community for new professionals with a mix of conceptual knowledge, hands-on, practical skills, and workplace experience. Involving host institutions in a network of knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and professional development built around digital stewardship will also create new opportunities for collective engagement and action on preserving digital collections.
- Developing a sustainable, extensible model for postgraduate residencies combining advanced training and experiential learning by working closely with current NDSR program management and a potential concurrent NDSR implementation in the Boston area to refine and enhance the NDSR model, to ensure it is replicable and scalable for potential use nationwide.

NDSR-NY activities will include a preliminary immersion course, ongoing seminar-based training, site visits and social events, and experiential learning through full-time, on-site residencies for selected residents. This will result in a cohort of highly trained new professionals prepared to address the need within libraries, archives, and museums for experienced new hires to manage digital stewardship. Residents will document and promote their work, leaving with a portfolio attesting to their knowledge in on-site digital stewardship work and preparing them for permanent employment as digital stewards. Through frequent meetings of host institution staff and project officers, the NDSR-NY project will also engender greater collaboration on digital stewardship needs and practices. Lastly, NDSR-NY will test and improve a model for the nationwide implementation of a postgraduate residency program in digital stewardship. By meeting these goals and objectives, the NDSR-NY project will create a generation of digital stewards, hone and refine the NDSR model for nationwide implementation, and improve the ability of libraries, archives, and museums to preserve our nation's memory and heritage in digital form.