

Forum on Librarianship 3

- What are library directors looking for in new graduates?
- What is an acceptable balance between theory and practice?
- Online vs. Traditional LIS programs: What is better?
 - Students prefer traditional education but today's lifestyles require alternate methods.
 - Some institutions (Syracuse) are making an effort to offer faculty outreach to online students.
 - UNT – “Blended” program – both face-to-face several times a semester to supplement online – very successful – especially with willing faculty, offering feedback.
 - Some online environments offer more opportunities for feedback/communication among students and faculty.
 - “Boot camp” to supplement learning on campus, meet on campus, meet fellow students and build cohort model.
 - Flexibility – Some institutions have Friday only classes.
 - Distance learning in the “old days” – faculty would drive to other city.
 - Online is the reality – students need to realize that the personal contact and combination of online & face-to-face is paramount. Access the strengths of both types of education!!

- Evolving towards a balance of theory and practice.
 - MLS is a terminal professional degree
 - Subject competency is important
 - Interaction w/ teaching faculty & doing own research requires additional education.
 - Real-life practice sometimes is more relevant in daily life than theory. The theory has to be understood and interpreted and translated into daily life - real language. (practice)
 - Just the degree does not mean students can do everything. They need some on the job discovery. Responsibility on part of employer to mentor, training, and guidance.
 - Stop thinking of LIS as final degree. Continue Learning!!
 - Instructor positions that don't require instructional experience.
 - We support a practicum, internship, 2 year association position – something like that
 - Issue of practicums: work best in urban areas, in towns with LIS programs. They have more opportunities.
 - Theory vs. practice. The concepts (theories) are the same – the way we teach them are different. Finger puppets, overheads, computation, online.
 - Theories – information literacy, critical thinking, framing questions – helping students connect the dots.

- What are library directors looking for? It seems unrealistic.
 - Potential
 - Bright
 - Eager to learn
 - Global Focus
 - Flexible
 - Willing to be mentored
 - NOT – Just want to do my job
 - Passionate about profession
 - Service to profession
 - Get involved in professional organizations and community
 - Where will this person be in 5 – 10 years
 - Creativity
 - Research Skills
 - Assessment Skills
 - Subject Expertise
 - Empathy
 - Compassion
 - Integrity

- School Librarians
 - Passionate about kids
 - Independent thinkers
 - Teaching skills
 - Understands education and teaching
 - Design curriculum, integrate into content areas

- Special Librarians
 - Competitive
 - Medical informatics – Language differences
 - Bio informatics
 - Specialized degrees (J.D.)

- In PhD programs
 - Students who enter without a MLS should be required to take Master's core courses in the doctorate program.
 - More joint Degrees:
 - MLS – MBA
 - MLS – JD
 - MLS - Journalism