

Library Education Forum

Our table took on the task of defining what a core curriculum should be. After discussion, we narrowed the curriculum down to five topics. These are:

1. Selection. This includes collection development, evaluation of resources, and preservation.
2. Organization. This includes cataloguing, web design, and database design.
3. Service. This includes reference, instruction, reader's advisory, and marketing.
4. Values and Ethics. This is the foundation on which all other areas rest, including intellectual freedom, democracy, and legal issues.
5. Management. Every librarian becomes a manager at some level and these skills are needed in any library.

Within those five core areas, we felt that the curriculum should provide:

1. Historical Perspective. Why is this important and how has it developed?
2. Principles. What are the underlying concepts that remain constant?
3. Assessment. How do we evaluate this area?
4. Current trends. What are the current theories?

We also discussed distance education in some detail. The points that were made about distance education are:

1. Young people are often more comfortable with online learning.
2. Teachers often have not learned how to teach in this environment.
3. The nature of assignments needs to include application, not just theory.
4. Instruction should focus on student outcomes.