

Roundtable discussion at Forum on Education for Librarianship
ALA, January 20, 2006.

Notes to augment Lorelle Swader's.

1 HS librarian
4 LIS faculty
1 PhD candidate
2 practitioners
1 ALA staff member

(Note that the faculty and student had done various librarian jobs prior to becoming professors.)

- Recruitment—candidates haven't taken core classes and are not prepared for the jobs they get
- What *do* students come to the table with?
- They're lacking in basic skills—like using APA and other style guides. Is that the kind of thing that should be taught, and for graduate credit?
- What is the caliber of the students?
- There is a lack of counseling from LIS academic advisors. (With the pressure to publish, and with there being little recognition of or credit for advising work, this could be a tough one to resolve.)
- Generally, LIS GRE scores are higher than the campus average.
- What about the idea of specialization (like in law or medicine) that would include required "rotations" in various library departments?
- Or maybe modular post-grad specializations?
- Rutgers has no required classes, UNC has 6 (technical services, intro, reference, management, research methods, and information technologies).
- Sometimes the course a student needs isn't offered while she's in school.
- Can we also focus on what's working in LIS education?
- The discussion shouldn't be contentious.
- Teaching passion is impossible if it's not native, but one thing to try is making room for reflection.
- Theory-practice divide—need both, address it in the classroom.
- Why are we doing things? Require a good answer to that question—not "because we can" or "because others are doing it."
- A practitioner noted that she looks upon UNC graduates favorably because she knows that the rigorous program produces quality librarians.
- The idea of the "teaching library" like a "teaching hospital." What would it look like? As with the hospital model, would there be a set-up with residents teaching interns?
- Weight of service learning and "lab schools"
- Could we have a professional wiki for sharing resources and curricula?