

EDITORIAL

Increasing evidence is being collected to confirm that the employment market in the traditional library and information field is stagnant whilst new opportunities are arising in the “emerging market” for people with information skills. Unfortunately for the library schools, however, such opportunities are not just available to library and information science graduates – they must be won against competition from other graduates, and especially those from a computer science or business studies background.

This has several implications. Firstly, the library schools must examine their courses to ensure that students are being equipped with the requisite skills and competencies to secure non-library posts. Curricula cannot be allowed to stagnate nor to remain entrenched in the single institutional library channel. Secondly, departments of library and information science, departments of computer science, and departments of business studies must be prepared to learn from each other. The growing convergence of their curricula suggests that cross-fertilisation could be mutually beneficial. Thirdly, library schools may have to be more selective in their curricula objectives. Greater speculation may be an inevitable consequence of a widening market. The alternative, a thin coat of generalisation, is not a recipe for a successful advance into the new challenges of the 1990s.

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