

EDITORIAL

Those attending professional conferences in many fields would be surprised to discover special sessions devoted to education and training. Yet conferences within librarianship and information science often do include papers devoted to educational and training themes. A typical example is the International Online Meeting, held in London each December. This is a welcome development, recognizing as it does the important role played by education and training in our profession. An opportunity is afforded educators/trainers and practitioners alike to discuss important issues which affect the quality of new entrants into the information world. Unfortunately, the very existence of such special sessions tends to attract papers from educators rather than practitioners delivered to an audience predominantly comprising the former. An opportunity for genuine and fruitful interaction is thereby lost. The increasing speed of technological change has made the importance of such a dialogue even more imperative if the production of qualified professionals is to keep in step with the needs of employers.

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