A Changing Profession
And Its Education Intro

SI 643 Week 2
Jan 15, 2009
Professional Education at End of 19th Century

• Most librarians just worked in a library—learning on the job.
• However, many librarians apprenticed at large libraries like Boston and Harvard
• Educational programs were formed by innovators
  – Melvil Dewey formed Columbia University’s Library School 1887
  – Dewey formed Albany’s LS program a year later.
  – Other early programs Pratt-1890; Drexel 1892; University of Illinois 1897
Professional Questions at End of 19th Century

• What should [public] library buildings look like? What kinds of furniture should they have?
• How should library collections be organized?
• How will people know what is in these collections?
• How will the Carnegie and other emerging libraries be funded on an ongoing basis?
• How are people going to find out about and use these new institutions?
• What kinds of services should libraries have? E.g., Do we answer questions? What kinds of questions?
• Should there be specialized services for children? For immigrants?
• What does someone need to know to be able run a library?
Findings of the Williamson Report:

• The library building program had been a smashing success
• CRISIS in training librarians for new PLs
• No consistency in training,
• No textbooks,
• Faculty largely unprepared,
• Courses far too rudimentary,
• Training inadequately funded;
• No standards to assure quality.
Williamson Report Recommendations:

- Development of formal “library school” programs
- Recruitment of more qualified students.
- Move library education into universities (a major educational shift toward the professionalization of library science education (as opposed to training).
- The creation, in addition, of some programs at the graduate level (including the first PhD program in library science—at the University of Chicago in 1928).
- Creation of a few endowments to foster library education quality improvements
Accreditation

• Williamson also recommended the creation of standards for library education. And recommended regular revision of standards. (Standards, developed in 1925, & revised in 1933, 1957, 1972, & 1992, 2008) http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/education/accreditedprograms/standards/index.cfm

• Williamson also recommended the creation of a formal accreditation process based on the standards.

• SI up for accreditation in 2010. First accredited in 1926, Re-accredited most recently in 2003. URL for last program presentation: http://www.si.umich.edu/coa/
1970s: A Challenge to Library Educators

- Up to 1970s library education had a single focus—libraries (and library services).
- Embracing Information as a broader construct that libraries starting (by some) in the early 1970s.
- Robert Taylor. Education “must move” from a “Ptolemaic information universe with the library at its center to a dynamic, Copernican universe with information at its center and with libraries playing a significant, but not necessarily central, role.” Taylor. Syracuse University. Approx. 1972.
Growth of the LIS Knowledge Base

• Gradual move away from single emphasis on libraries

• By mid 1980s research focus included:
  – library topics such as the use of library services, library history, online public access, and catalog use, but also more broadly
  – approaches to increasing access to content (knowledge and information),
  – the use of information technologies to store and retrieve information, and information behavior.
  – bibliometrics, information storage and retrieval, database development,
  – information needs & seeking & use,
  – the value of information.
KALIPER (1998-2000)

- Most Extensive Study of LIS Education Since Williamson Report
- Impetus: Kellogg multi-million $ investment in UM, 1995-99
- And to a lesser extent: Illinois, Drexel, Florida State;
- Kellogg Foundation also funded the KALIPER Project
- Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee
- 5 teams of scholars (both junior and senior)
- Broad Involvement of LIS Programs in survey and other components
- Dissemination to a broad academic and practitioner community
- [http://www.si.umich.edu/~durrance/TextDocs/KaliperFinalR.pdf](http://www.si.umich.edu/~durrance/TextDocs/KaliperFinalR.pdf)
KALIPER Trend Summary

• Focus on broad-based information environments.
• User-centered core.
• Interdisciplinary approaches
• Information technology
• Structural curricular changes
• Format changes and increased flexibility
• New degrees, especially undergraduate
Post KALPER Trends: The Advances Article

- User-centeredness continues.
- Expanded interdisciplinary research
- Grads increasingly recognized for technology skills and leadership
- Distance Ed delivery has more than tripled.
- New degrees are emerging
- Convergence of domains as seen iSchools
- Considerable increase in numbers of iSchools.
- Development of annual iSchool Conference
- Concern by some librarians that change has gone too far.
KALIPER Influences

KALIPER findings have been:
• incorporated into articles that discuss curricular change
• used in curricular revision in various schools
• discussed and debated by librarians
• used as the basis for new “KALIPER” studies in other countries
• incorporated into courses in LIS programs.

KALIPER has:
• Helped archives programs gain momentum as the result of a special KALIPER archives study.
• Documented preparation for 21st Century practice
• Influenced the ways LIS is framed around the world

A recent Google Search 1,040 for KALIPER LIS - Caliper