

Reflections on the International Workshop: Digital Library Education

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The objectives of the workshop were to :~

- realise international co-operation with all stakeholders on curricula design
- start a co-operative program of quality assurance

A framework for reflection would seem to be to start with the se questions

- Digital librarians, who are they?
- What skills do they need?
- How can they be educated?

Digital Librarians~ who are they?

They are digital doctors, digital citizens. They must be willing to learn, willing to meet the needs of users who have high expectations and used to high quality, to offer commercial services. They are people with high levels of skills and specialisms; who are entrepreneurial; outgoing; willing to take risks; who can manage projects; work quickly and approximately and live in the messy world of the digital, where structural processes and procedures are often irrelevant.

Digital Librarians~ what skills do they need?

They need core skills/traditional skills, and now particularly skills of effective communication in all media. They are not yet prepared as they lack advanced media literacy and they will need the skills of life long learning

Digital Librarians~ how can they be educated?

- At all levels and all modes
- In which discipline?
- Mars/Venus
- Additional or integrated into traditional
- coaching
- real life scenarios
- multi lingual, cross cultural learning
- International

However, we are not recruiting, so we must ask ourselves, is the education we offer adequate? LIS has been not been a leader, but a follower in digital libraries. Educators have a responsibility to motivate students who invest time and energy in learning. We must also engage stakeholders with an investment in what will be learned and what will be done with that knowledge.

In terms of quality assurance transparency is imperative. A lack of common quality assurance is a real barrier to mobility and international co-operation.

And finally we must establish a thematic network.