Where We’re Going: Non-Traditional Careers for LIS Graduates

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why non-traditional?

• LIS graduations exceed librarian retirements
• library budget cuts
• replacement of librarians w/ paraprofessionals
• more library professionals w/o LIS degree
• more non-traditional roles in the library
• more career opportunities outside the library
Retirements of credentialed librarians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>decade</th>
<th>retirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1990</td>
<td>11,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-2005</td>
<td>14,800</td>
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<td>2005-2015</td>
<td>28,200</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: ALA, “Planning for 2015: The Recent History and Future Supply of Librarians”
LIS master’s degrees conferred

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics
decline in library funding

• **42%** of university libraries reported **budget cuts** in 2010
• **56.4%** of public libraries reported **flat or decreased budgets** in 2010, up from **over 40%** in 2009
• staff/salary expenditures **dropped 43.3%** in 2010 relative to the previous year and are anticipated to **fall another 5.7%** in 2011
• **24** state library agencies reported **cuts in state funding** for public libraries between 2009-2010

Source: ALA, “2011 State of America’s Libraries Report” and “Public Library Funding Landscape”
replacement of librarians w/ paraprofessionals

• “As libraries increasingly use the Internet, virtual libraries, and other electronic resources, the duties of library technicians and assistants are changing. In fact, new technologies allow some of these workers to assume responsibilities which were previously performed only by librarians.”

increasing number of library professionals without LIS degree

- number of library professionals in academic libraries **without an LIS degree** is **up 142%** since 1985 and **up 35%** for 2000-2006
- **46% of non-traditional positions** in academic libraries in 2006 were occupied by people **without LIS degrees**

Source: Stanley Wilder, “The New Library Professional”
more non-traditional roles in the library

- people in non-traditional positions accounted for 7% of academic library staff in 1985; in 2005, they accounted for 23%
- technology skills in support of “library 2.0”

Source: Stanley Wilder, “The New Library Professional”
non-traditional roles in traditional settings

- systems
- human resources
- fundraising
- publishing
- instructional technology
non-traditional careers outside of traditional settings

• “Jobs for librarians outside traditional settings will grow the fastest over the decade.”

non-traditional careers outside of traditional settings

- competitive intelligence
- database management
- digital forensics
- digital preservation
- digitization
- e-discovery
- e-government
- information architecture

- knowledge management
- management and administration
- marketing
- project management
- records management
- research
- training
- web archiving...
questions?