Librarian as Professional and Intellectual

COBISS 2011
Maribor

Primož Južnič

Oddelek za bibliotekarstvo, informacijsko znanost in knjigarstvo
Filozofska fakulteta
Regional Master of Library and Information Science (LIS) Programme

Cooperation between three institutions, two educational, one practitioner:

1. The Department of Librarianship at the University of Zadar
2. The Department of Library and Information Science and Book studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana,
3. The Institute of Information science, Maribor (IZUM)
The librarian, from occupation to profession

1. The professional is supposed to know better what is good for a client, than a client himself.

2. The professional demands intellectual autonomy of judgement for his own judgement.
The profession in librarianship

Education and training in librarianship.

1. Education is the goal of the university institution and their programmes,
2. Training is the duty of the employing institution.
Core values

There are different views on core values and required competencies of librarianship.

One possible starting point - values:

- *Service and users*,
- *Intellectual freedom*,
- *Literacy and learning*,
- *Preservation of the human record and heritage*. 
Future of librarianship

With the increasing digitization of information, combined with the economic crises, libraries find themselves at the crux of some important changes.

- New technologies make libraries better, not obsolete.
- Libraries become important as the place, which is free and challenging.
Paradox

Paradoxically to the promises of the digital library, one of the central issues in the representation of modernization are the physical buildings.
Users and stakeholders

To keep users and other stakeholders informed about what libraries do, and have been doing as vital institutions and services we need new approaches.

Marketing and advocacy, connections and partnerships, and by word of mouth and conversations.
Understand your stakeholders

- Analysis of library stakeholders,
  - The information from the library to different stakeholders,
  - The evaluation of library services,
  - The library position in institution/community.

Stakeholders are more than simply users.
What the holder of a master’s degree knows or has learned?

Library and information science and librarianship as a service:

- Need and require permanent learning and training.
- Changes are fast and also very profound.
- Research is a part of a profession.
- Budget cuts are a steady and continuing reality and should be seen as a challenge.
Goals of the **Regional Master of Library and Information Science (LIS) Programme**

It was incumbent to ensure that the education we are providing is internationally relevant, while taking into account the values and attitudes of our local environment.
Value of graduates

• It is not easy to describe the value of LIS graduates, their potential and their position in the library and information world.
• There is an important question of what use can they make of their degree.
• It is important that the institutional environment does not waste it.
Winds of change

• Unfortunately the library staff consists too often from elderly and/or non-qualified workers, who have spent most of their working lives at a specific library.

• As such, there seemed to be resistance and/or lack of motivation on the part of these people toward any changes.

• What comes from new graduates is their fresh view on librarianship and the LIS profession.