

Why Libraries, Why Librarians?

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WHY LIBRARIES? THE ALA CORE VALUES

- Access - Confidentiality/Privacy
- Democracy - Diversity
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom - Preservation
- The Public Good - Professionalism –
- Service - Social Responsibility

WHY LIBRARIANS?

ALA & THE COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION

- **Statement of Purpose of ALA Accreditation** from the MOU between ALA and the Committee on Accreditation
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- “... to acknowledge the central role of the COA accreditation process to the recognition of librarianship as a distinct and autonomous profession...”

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/accreditation/Memo%20of%20Understandin.pdf>

WHAT MAKES A LIBRARY?

- A **library** is a curated collection of sources of information and similar resources, selected by experts and made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical location or a virtual space, or both.

Accessed 11-15-19 at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



WHAT MAKES A LIBRARY?

- "A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole." (p.1) *The Librarian's Book of Lists* (Chicago:ALA, 2010)

WHAT MAKES A LIBRARIAN?

“Librarians typically need a master’s degree in library science. Some positions have additional requirements, such as a teaching certificate or a degree in another field.”

Retrieved from *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 11-15-2019 from:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/Education-Training-and-Library/Librarians.htm>

THE “IS” IN “LIS”

The ALA Committee on Accreditation accredits programs of study in Library and Information Studies.

“These Standards are limited in their application to the assessment of graduate programs of library and information studies that lead to a master's degree.” p. 2, Retrieved on 11/15/2019 from

http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/standards/Standards_2019_ALA_Council-adopted_01-28-2019.pdf

THE “I-S” IN “LIS”

The ALA Committee on Accreditation does not accredit degrees, only programs of study in Library and Information Studies.

[Note: nowhere in ALA-COA documentation is there a reference to “Information Science.” although there are some programs that award a degree in Information Science from the program established to provide education for librarianship – there are no accredited professional programs in I.S.]

<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accreditedprograms/standards/glossary>

WHAT DOES THE ABSENCE OF AN ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN INFORMATION SCIENCE MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANSHIP?

Is there a need for a I.S. accredited program?

Is there an indication that LS or LIS (lib & Info Studies) accredited programs are in trouble?

What role do the iSchools play in this discussion?

What is the relevance of non-ALA accredited programs being established in some iSchools IM, KM, and Information Science to the discussion?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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