

# Developing the professionals of the future

## Views from experts in 'library schools'

information roles, including publishing, web content management, research and consultancy.

Further information on City courses can be found at:

<http://www.city.ac.uk/department-library-information-science#unit=library-school>

### Dublin Business School



Marie O'Neil

Head of Library Services  
Dublin Business School

[Marie.oneill@dbi.ie](mailto:Marie.oneill@dbi.ie)

*How does your library school engage with the active profession?*

Academic staff on the MSc in Information and Library Management at Dublin Business School (DBS) are active practitioners as well as experienced lecturers. Programme faculty members include well-known industry experts such as Dr Christoph Schmidt-Supprian, Dr Clare Thornley, Dr Marta Bustilo, Mark Farrell and Caitriona Sharkey. This infuses the teaching and learning experience on the programme with real world industry insights and knowledge. Guest speakers from the library and information sector are also an integral element of the programme. The incorporation of a three-week work placement further strengthens ties with personnel working in the sector. Placements have been secured in the libraries of Dublin City University, Maynooth University, Dublin Institute of Technology and many others. Students are also taken on site visits. In the academic year 2015–16, students visited the National Archive, the National Library of Ireland and the Digital Resources and Imaging Services Department of the Library of Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

DBS Library runs an annual library seminar, which is described in more detail in the article by Marie O'Neill in this [issue](#). The MSc in Information and Library Management is accredited by the Library Association of Ireland (LAI). Library Association of Ireland personnel come in to talk to students from the outset of the programme about the benefits of membership.

*What challenges have you seen in the past ten years and how have you met them? What future changes do you predict will be needed?*

The IT environment in which librarians operate has become increasingly complex. To prepare graduates for this, Dublin Business School chose to offer an MSc qualification with a strong IT focus. A unique feature of the programme is the module Network Resource Management, which also incorporates cloud computing. Libraries are increasingly hosting software on the cloud, which involves a myriad technical, financial and legal considerations. In accordance with the pedagogical ethos of an MSc, DBS students also carry out applied and technical projects such as deploying and configuring Koha, an open source library management system in a laboratory setting.

Other challenges that have emerged during this period include the rise of Google searching, decreasing library budgets, the public sector recruitment embargo and library closures. Modules such as the Teaching Librarian and Management for Information and Library Professionals equip students with the

The copyright in items published in *SCONUL Focus* remains the property of the author(s) or their employers as the case may be.



# Developing the professionals of the future

## Views from experts in 'library schools'

management and advocacy skills to meet these challenges. The incorporation of an employability module into the programme called the Personal and Professional Development module was designed to enhance graduates' recruitment prospects.

Income-generating activities (software design, hosting, support, consultancy, events and library businesses) will become a more significant part of library operations in the future. Modules on innovation, entrepreneurialism, digital marketing and project management offered alongside more traditional library modules would prepare graduates for this. Future articulations of library programmes will incorporate modules such as the Research Librarian and the Librarian as Publisher to reflect new roles and activities in the sector.

*What skills are necessary for being a successful librarian and Information professional?*

A passion for the acquisition and sharing of knowledge is essential. All modules on the MSc in Information and Library Management at DBS have been mapped to the UK's CILIP PKSB, which outlines the skill set favoured by employers in the sector (see Fig. 1). The recent Future Libraries Symposium event at TCD Library showcased a number of library directors and leaders such as Roly Keating, Executive Director of the British Library; Mike Keller, the University Librarian of Stanford University; and Richard Ovenden, Librarian, Bodleian Libraries, who in addition to having a passion and love for scholarship are also impressive innovators, project managers, fundraisers, marketers and speakers.



Fig 1. CILIP's Professional Knowledge and Skills Base

The copyright in items published in *SCONUL Focus* remains the property of the author(s) or their employers as the case may be.



# Developing the professionals of the future

## Views from experts in 'library schools'

*What programmes do you offer and what jobs do your graduates go to?*

DBS offers the MSc in Information and Library Management on a full-time day, and part-time evening basis. Modules can also be completed on an individual basis by qualified librarians for CPD purposes. The full list of modules is available at <http://www.dbs.ie/course/postgraduate/msc-information-library-management>. Graduates of the programmes have gone on to library posts in Trinity College Dublin, the Department of Agriculture, Arthur Cox Legal Firm, University College Dublin, the National Gallery of Ireland, Fingal County Council, the Bar Council of Ireland, the JCSP School Libraries Scheme and many others. The programme is an MSc in Information and Library Management. Consequently graduates are also taking up posts in the broader information management sector. One graduate secured a post with Amazon as a taxonomist. Digital Asset Management is also a growing area of employment for graduates of the programme interested in careers in the broader information management sector.

### Bibliography

---

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, UK. [n.d.]. Your Professional Knowledge and Skills Base. Available at: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Your%20PKSB%20WEB.pdf> [accessed 3 August 2016]

Hickey, B. (2014). The opportunities and threats of hosting on the cloud, presented at DBS Library's Annual Seminar 2014. Available at: <http://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/1765> [accessed 3 August 2016]

Fanslow, D. (2014). Who needs a DAM librarian? DAM news, December 2014. Available at: [http://digitalassetmanagementnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014\\_DAM-News\\_part1.pdf](http://digitalassetmanagementnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014_DAM-News_part1.pdf) [accessed 3 August 2016]

O' Neill, M. (2015). The MSc in Information and Library Management at Dublin Business School, An leabharlann, 24 (1) 17–19. Available at: [http://esource.dbs.ie/bitstream/handle/10788/2355/oneill\\_m\\_2015.pdf?sequence=1](http://esource.dbs.ie/bitstream/handle/10788/2355/oneill_m_2015.pdf?sequence=1) [accessed 3 August 2016]

O' Neill, M. (31 May 2016). The library of the future, the future of the library. [Web blog post]. Available at: <http://www.libfocus.com/2016/05/the-library-of-future-future-of-library.html> [accessed 3 August 2016]

## Aberystwyth University



Anoush Simon

Lecturer

Department of Information Studies

Aberystwyth University

[ads@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ads@aber.ac.uk)

*How does your library school engage with the active profession?*

There are many ways in which we keep in touch with the professions that our courses focus on – in our case this is library and information services, and archives and records management. In Wales we have good links with MALD, the Museums, Archives and Libraries Division of the Welsh Government, which is based in Aberystwyth, a stone's throw from the university. We have been fortunate in receiving support from MALD via a Workforce Development Grant, which allows sponsorship for a limited number of students living or working in Wales. We are lucky to have a global body of alumni who keep in touch with us, and we make use of a range of guest speakers and external lecturers to

The copyright in items published in *SCONUL Focus* remains the property of the author(s) or their employers as the case may be.

