

**From librarian to information worker:  
Educational directions for a changing profession**

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Schools of library science are changing their names to library and information science or simply information science. If this name change is to be more than cosmetic, fundamental curriculum changes must also be made, so that graduates are prepared for professional occupations in a variety of information industry environments.

In order to determine the extent to which graduates are moving from traditional library positions into information industry positions, the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario undertook a career path survey of its approximately 2,000 graduates. Respondents were asked not only about the settings in which they had worked but also about the activities they performed.

This paper will present an analysis of the results of this survey as they relate to information work settings and activities. In particular, the following questions and hypotheses are considered:

1. Graduates are moving from traditional library settings to a variety of nontraditional settings in both the public and private sector.
2. Increasing numbers of graduates are involved in activities which are not institution specific, for example, database management system design, online searching, online database development, information system management, information policy development, marketing of information systems and products, information brokerage.
3. Salaries are higher in the information industry than in traditional library settings.
4. Graduates with a science or technical background are more likely to work in information industry settings.
5. What specific tests and activities tend to cluster together in the same position.

The implication of these results for admission policies, curriculum, specialization, and program length will be examined.