

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA  
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE  
July 17-18, 2009

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**  
PART 1: FRIDAY, July 17, 2009

**Answer two of the following five questions.**

**In answering questions, discuss professional matters, principles and issues that would apply in a variety of settings.** You are expected to discuss one aspect of information work in depth only when questions require you to deal with a specific function or type of library/information agency.

- 1) Increasingly, libraries are establishing a presence on social networking sites like Facebook, LinkedIn or MySpace. Identify a library or information service for which it would be appropriate to have a presence on a social networking site. In your answer, explain why this information service would be on this site, how it should use the site, and what criteria it should establish for success. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 2) Information professionals responsible for information organization face many ethical challenges. Identify and explain two major ethical challenges that could arise within the context of organizing information. Describe the principles you will draw on to address these two challenges. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 3) As a library and information professional, it is likely that you will be involved in a project to acquire, implement or substantially upgrade a computer-based information system in your organization. Identify and describe an appropriate model for such a project. For each stage in this model, explain one activity that typically occurs. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 4) In order to maintain a competitive edge, the library profession needs to monitor and understand external environmental changes. For a library or information service of your choice, identify three key issues in the external environment. Explain how these issues may have an impact on strategic business decisions. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 5) Influential forces are contending in our society today around information. Some in the business community argue that information is made available more effectively through value-added processes that in turn require payment for the information. Many librarians express concern that the commercialization of information will deprive various constituencies in our society of access to information.
  - a. Select one policy issue that falls in this context of debate, such as

copyright, digital divide, filtering, intellectual freedom, privacy, rising cost of publications, licensing rather than ownership by libraries of information resources, etc. Identify and describe the common arguments that are made on both sides of your selected policy issue.

- b. Having identified both sides of the arguments, now develop and justify your professional stance on this issue. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

PART 2: SATURDAY, July 18, 2009

**Answer two of the following five questions.**

**In answering questions, discuss professional matters, principles and issues that would apply in a variety of settings.** You are expected to discuss one aspect of information work in depth only when questions require you to deal with a specific function or type of library/information agency.

- 6) Consortial collaboration presents libraries with opportunities and challenges. Discuss two opportunities presented by participating in library consortia and two challenges that consortia relationships pose to libraries. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 7) Like other disciplines, certain focal or key concepts in Library and Information Science (LIS) both frame the field and are objects of study in their own right. Choose two concepts from the list below to develop an essay in which you (a) define each concept, drawing from relevant LIS literature, and (b) discuss how the two concepts are related to one another. For example, are they complementary? Do they have a dialectic relationship? Do they oppose or compete with each other? Be sure to illustrate your answer with examples from two or more core courses.

The concepts are presented in alphabetical order and in four columns to keep the list compact:

Access	Classification	Equity	Literacy Network
Archive	Collection	Evaluation	Relevance
Authenticity	Community	Evidence	Scholarly communication
Authority	Database	Information	Search
	Description of resources	Intellectual Freedom	Strategy
	Document	Intellectual Property	System

- 8) Information professionals have made valuable digital and digitized resources available to users through digital libraries, digital archives, digital repositories, and other information centers, but these separate “silos” increase the difficulty for users to access needed information. Describe three

approaches information professionals can take to break down the silos. Discuss the pros and cons of each approach. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

- 9) A patron states that they need information on a topic that is generally considered to be controversial. In a library setting of your choice, describe how librarians should serve this patron in an age-sensitive way. Compare and contrast how age-sensitive interaction with this patron in the online environment may differ from the face-to-face environment. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
- 10) For an organization of your choosing, define the role of the strategic planning process. Identify and discuss the significant parts of the process. Describe the relationship of the strategic planning process to the success of your chosen organization. Include references to the literature as appropriate.