

Summer 2011 Comprehensive Exam Questions

1. In designing Internet directories or subject gateways (e.g., Bulletin Board for Libraries (BUBL), Internet Public Library (IPL), or Intute) to organize webpages or web documents, we can use traditional classification systems (e.g., LCC or DDC), or non-traditional approaches (e.g., customized subject headings like Yahoo or Google Directory). Choose one traditional or non-traditional approach to organize web resources for directories or subject gateways. Justify your choice. Identify classification challenges posed by Web resources, and discuss how well each type of classification tool addresses the challenges you have identified. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
2. Contemporary security, safety, and disaster challenges in the external environment (ranging from hurricanes to pandemics to terrorism) have the potential to dramatically impact libraries and information centers. In addressing these challenges, the needs of people, resources, facilities, and services must be taken into account. For a library or information setting of your choice, discuss how you would develop a policy to address these challenges. Identify the stakeholders who should be tapped to participate in the planning process in anticipation of such challenges. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
3. Developing a digital collection raises issues in the following areas: collection development, acquisition, access, organization, user services, technology, management, and preservation. For a library or information environment of your choice, select three of these areas. Discuss the nature of one critical challenge in each of the three areas, and how you would address it. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
4. Select and discuss two human information behavior models or theories, such as those developed by Wilson, Belkin, Dervin, Kuhlthau, Eisenberg, and Taylor. Explain why they are valuable. Compare and contrast them and discuss two ways each model influences professional practice in a library or information environment of your choice. Include references to the literature as appropriate.
5. Many professional associations, such as the Special Libraries Association (SLA), the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Society of American Archivists (SAA), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), or American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), have developed ethical guidelines. Describe the one ethical guideline from a non-ALA association, and compare it with one ALA's ethical guideline. What practical implications do the differences have, and what justifications might there be for these differences? Include references to the literature as appropriate.
6. Democratized or peer-produced information, as exemplified by blogs, Wikipedia and other collaboratively developed resources, is widely used. Discuss how these collaboratively developed resources have challenged the notion of authoritativeness as it relates to the library and information science profession. Describe two ways these resources have impacted library and information services in a setting of your choice. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

7. The Google Books Project has been controversial for a number of years. In March of this year, the New York federal district court rejected the settlement that Google forged with the Authors Guild. Argue the pros and cons of the decision, and discuss whether the outcome will be helpful or harmful for libraries. In addition, your answer should address what impact the Google Books Project will have on information access outside of library settings? Include references to the literature as appropriate.

8. The Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) proposed by International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) provides a conceptual framework for the nature of and uses for bibliographic records. Explain the FRBR in detail:

- What are the underlying goals?
- How does it conceptualize bibliographic data and bibliographic relations?
- What are the benefits of the FRBR approach in bibliographic principles and practice?
- How will it improve users' searching experience?

Include references to literature as appropriate.

9. Assume that a library or information center of your choice is interested in replacing print materials with non-print or electronic materials. Describe two benefits and two challenges that you can expect from this change. Discuss your strategies for accomplishing this transition. Also, discuss how you would provide your clients with high-quality media resources with limited funding. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

10. New technologies raise a number of issues, including universal & equitable access to information, privacy, and how to teach digital natives. Select a specific technology that raises one of these issues and address the following:

- How is this technology changing the way people interact with information and information systems?
- How is it changing the way people interact with each other?
- What is one important ethical issue raised by this technology, and how would you deal with this issue as an information professional?

Include references to the literature as appropriate.