

Museum Studies and LIS Education: Where do we go from here?

1. Improve the overall understanding of the roles and responsibilities of information professionals in museums, and the needs they meet in the nation's museums.
 - a. Conduct a national survey of information professionals working in U.S. museums, detailing their roles and responsibilities, their skills and areas of expertise, their educational backgrounds and prior work experiences, the challenges they face, and the strategies they employ in meeting those challenges.
 - b. Develop a list of core competencies for museum information professionals, detailing the skills and expertise that enable them to do their jobs, and the techniques they employ to meet information needs in museums.
 - c. Document the specific benefits information professionals bring to museums, as well as the difficulties they face as they try to achieve these benefits.
2. Increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of students pursuing careers as 21st century museum information professionals.
 - a. Conduct a national survey of LIS and museum studies educational programs to identify areas of overlap related to museum informatics and the education and training of museum information professionals, and to provide guidance for students in museum studies and LIS programs pursuing museum careers.
 - b. Design a common curriculum for LIS and museum studies education where courses, materials, and topics of study can be shared among faculty and students attempting to shape the next generation of museum information professionals.
 - c. Develop, implement, and evaluate new programs in LIS and museum studies programs based on this common curriculum to encourage students to pursue careers as museum information professionals, and to prepare the educators who will educate the next generation of museum leaders.
3. Encourage the growth of the information profession in museums by supporting continuing professional development for museum information professionals.
 - a. Develop a guide to best practice for current and future museum information professionals that will help them better understand their roles and responsibilities, and the core competencies they need to succeed on the job.
 - b. Develop an online resource center to help museum information professionals share projects and experiences with professionals in other museums, and explain why the services they provide are so critical for 21st century museums.
 - c. Evaluate the need/potential for a certification process (across programs at multiple levels) specifically designed to help museum administrators know they are getting people who can meet their information needs when hiring information professionals (the Museum Computer Network may be able to play a role here).