

# The New Age of Librarianship? Different Roads That Lead to 'Librarianship'

By Rex Turgano.

Earlier this year, two of my work colleagues and I at the University of British Columbia conducted an informal survey about alternative MLIS career paths in preparation for our panel session at the BCLA conference in Victoria. Entitled The New Age of Librarianship? The Different Roads That Lead to 'Librarianship', our presentation highlighted conversations from our own fellow alumni and social networks as well as an overview of the latest literature on this topic.

## Trends, themes, and challenges

Topics and abridged versions of our findings came from over 20 survey respondents and industry reports that discussed various information management career options, which MLIS courses and learned concepts were transferable in the work environment, types of post-MLIS professional development trends, common themes and challenges such as overcoming "stereotypes" and the "applicability" of an MLIS degree in other non-library related jobs, and light-hearted reflections on the character traits of an "emerging" librarian.

The session room was packed with over 60 conference delegates and many more were standing in the hallway listening in. Perhaps it was a measure of our success that our presentation was

very much audience-driven, led with lively discussions about the prevalent trends and issues revolving around the library profession and MLIS institutions.

For all of us involved, it was an enlightening, soul-searching experience. As self-proclaimed "non-traditional librarians" living in an increasingly "non-traditional library world", we can say with confidence that "we are definitely not alone". Yet in the end, we all share a common set of core values – focused on information, technology, and people – that make us all "librarians at heart".

## Conversation continues

Note: even though our panel session has ended, the conversation continues. We encourage everyone to participate in the ongoing discussion at the Library DevCamp Facebook group:

[www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_241201567783&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_241201567783&ap=1)

A copy of our slide presentation is available here:

[www.slideshare.net/thegreenpages/bcla-presentation](http://www.slideshare.net/thegreenpages/bcla-presentation)

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