Job opportunities for librarians in 21st century

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Background

Several objective circumstances do not allow all the graduates from Schools of Librarianship and Information Science or Studies (LIS) start to work in a library or an archive. Despite this fact the **LIS graduates are prepared well enough** to find their first jobs somewhere else.

The aim of this poster is to introduce **job opportunities** suitable for the LIS graduates which are not in libraries or archives. **A traffic light analogy** is used to emphasize degree of use of knowledge and skills acquired within the LIS study in praxis. This could help the LIS graduates to **orient at the job market.**

Methods

To find out the real situation about LIS School graduates working application a **questionnaire survey** was realized. Fourteen respondents returned filled questionnaires. The answers helped us identify **four main job areas** where the graduates start their career. See figure below.

administrative jobs | consultant jobs | IT jobs | jobs in library or archives

Results

Administrative jobs

Job names: administrative worker, team assistant, office assistant, office manager, legal secretary, marketing support etc.

Job characteristics: active work with people, multitasking, low perspective of promotion etc.

You use probably **less than 10%** of knowledge gained within your study.

Who does this?

Jane (23) "My first job after the graduation was office manager in **private medical company***. I was responsible for managing the fluent course of office and colleagues' business trips, invoicing, work with documents, communication with clients, supplies and lawyers. I used the knowledge of the* **management of document files** *and practical skills of* **work in Excel and Access***."*

Consultant jobs

Job names: personal consultant or recruiter, financial consultant, project coordinator etc.

Job characteristics: works success depends on many people, active communication with people, international background, reporting, deadlines, profit orientation, very good promotion possibility etc.

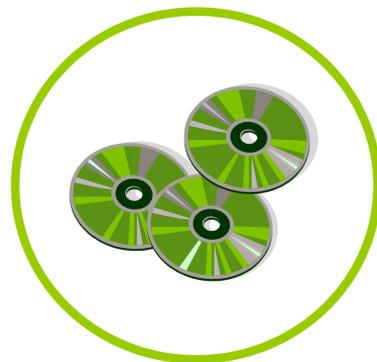You use probably **between 10 and 30 %** of knowledge gained within your study.

Who does this?

Linda (26) *"I work as recruiter in international* **personal agency** *since August 2008. I use the knowledge of the* **information system theory***, which helps me to understand the specifics of IT positions like programmer, database tester, web developer etc. I think that the skill of* **information retrieval** *enables me to search information faster and more relevant than my colleagues."*

IT jobs

Job names: data management specialist, processing agent, software sales representative, web designer, web architect etc.

Job characteristics: multicultural and multinational teams, part of puzzle, fast promotion possibility, variety of jobs from unqualified to expert, contact with the most modern technologies etc.

You use probably **between 30 and 50 %** of knowledge gained within your study.

Who does this?

Agnes (26) *"I started to work in local* **software company** *in May 2007. I work as web designer and web applications developer. I appreciate mainly the knowledge how recognize the* **information value and validity***, Internet browsing, presentation skills,* **project preparation** *and theory from courses like WWW, HTML, XML,* **Electronic Information Sources***."*

Summary

It is documented that librarianship draws people from a vast range of backgrounds (more in the article *Raised by Wolves* by James G. Neal in Library Journal 2/15/2006). Decision for a second career in a library can have more reasons. **Four of ten** respondents working out of library **are open to library job** or at least to some kind of cooperation (the result is due to our questionnaires).

Who knows? **Maybe one day our lost sheep find the way home.**

Contact information

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