Educating Information Professionals for 2050

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Abstract

Students who graduate from I-Schools in 2013 will very likely be working in 2050. We cannot predict what the world will be like in 2050 but we should imagine what kind of world we would like to see in 2050. To this end, in June 2012 we held a 2-day symposium and conference in Chapel Hill called Information Professionals 2050 that brought together 16 thought leaders to discuss what kind of information future we would like to see and consider how we best prepare information students today for careers that will still be active at mid-21st century. The proceedings from the symposium and conference are available at http://sils.unc.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Information-Professionals-2050.pdf. This panel brings together three of those thought leaders and the organizer of the meetings. Mike Eisenberg will discuss education trends such as demassification and the evolution of personal education records and how technologies are bringing fundamental changes in how, when, and where learning takes place. Liz Liddy will discuss how entrepreneurship is permeating I-Schools and adding rich experiences to learning, agile approaches to instruction, and new partnerships with industry. Cathy Marshall will discuss the potentials and perils of big data based on ethnographic investigations of how personal and corporate data are collected and used. Gary Marchionini will discuss the core values that information professionals share and how these values drive I-School approaches to socio-technical challenges and education.

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