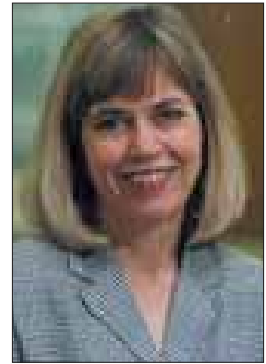


Joanne Gard Marshall on library and information science education



From January 1999 to July 2004, Joanne Gard Marshall served as Dean and Professor of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, currently the number one ranked library school in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Q What distinguishes library science from information science?

A I don't really separate the two. I think the boundaries are very fuzzy and that serves us well. Both are needed to design and constantly improve libraries and information services of all types. I think of library science as specializing in library and information services and information science as focusing somewhat more on technology, but the students have a lot of choice in the way they structure their program of study.

The unique core of library science:
Be user-centered
and connect people
to information the
best possible way.

Q How have curricula adapted to the changes in the information landscape?

A It is a constant battle to keep up with change, but each year we offer a variety of electives and selected topics and courses that focus on new trends. I think having a strong set of core courses based on the principal functions of library and information service is essential. This combined with a flexible approach to creating electives and selected course topics works the best.

Q What would your priorities be for library science research?

A I think the unique user-centered core of library and information science that was identified in the

ALISE KALIPER study will continue to guide research. Everything we study has to do with connecting people with information in the best possible way. The variations on that theme are endless.

Q What value do you think librarians offer in the digital age?

A Library and information professionals are still the only ones in our society who are fully engaged in the provision of information services to organizations, communities and to society at large. Many other knowledge workers deal with information in one way or another, but this is different from information professionals who see this as their primary activity. In the digital age, the creation of quality-filtered collections of information is more important than ever and librarians have a key role to play.

Q What kind of future do you see for librarianship?

A To thrive in the future, we need to build the numbers both in our profession and our schools. We need to be expansive as we think of the range of information-related careers that are available to graduates and recruit and retain the best practitioners and students. Partnerships of all kinds will be essential, as will continuing to build our knowledge base. We have a great opportunity to move ahead as we have never done before.

For more of this interview with Joanne Gard Marshall, visit: www.oclc.org/news/publications/newsletters/oclc/2004/264/interview.html