Educating information management professionals – the Glasgow perspective.

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Abstract

This paper explores the approach to the education of information professionals in the digital environment that has been developed by the Information Management and Preservation (IMP) MSc programme at the University of Glasgow. Using Nancy van House and Stuart Stutton's paper of 1996 as a starting point, we agree that the balance of any programme of study should be tilted firmly towards the professional knowledge base and away from the traditional 'tools and service' model that are inextricably linked to institutions. We explore some of the intellectual issues surrounding digital content that we introduce throughout the course, for example the implications of the audit culture and accompanying management of risk that dominates on either side of the Atlantic in the both the private and public sectors and the ever-present danger of a collapse into relativism. We explain how in achieving this goal we adopt a trans-disciplinary perspective, drawing ideas and perspectives about information from across the disciplines. We argue that students are not only stimulated by such an approach, but grasp its relevance to the 'tools and service' aspects of the course. We are convinced that by giving students a strong grounding in the knowledge base, they are equipped to think strategically and gain respect of management in the work place.