

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications:-*

*M.A. M.Sc.*

### **SLAIS P29: Principles of Computing and Information Technology B2**

COURSE CODE : **INSTP029**

DATE : **24-May-05**

TIME : **10:00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours 0 minutes**

## **INSTP029: Principles of Computing and Information Technology B2**

Answer any **THREE** questions.

1. “The trouble with Google is that it works too well”. Does it? Discuss, with reference both to how Google works and its strengths and weaknesses vis a vis other search engines, and to the implications this might have for information retrieval in general.
2. EITHER:
  - A) What factors should an institution such as a library or archive take into account if they wish to implement an XML based system to store their data?
  - OR
  - B) Explain the relationship between HTML, XHTML and XML. Under what sort of circumstances would it be most appropriate to use each of these different kinds of markup? When might it be inappropriate to use each of them?
3. “In terms of interfaces, one size most certainly does not fit all”. Discuss, briefly, the kinds of factors which might affect the design of an effective interface to a system. Why do you think this statement was made? Do you agree with it? What circumstances might make it more or less likely to be true?
4. Does the development of information technology act as a force for or against freedom of information in the world today? Discuss.
5. How should a modern-day information manager prepare their organisation to deal with the impact of a major disaster? What kinds of consideration should be made, and how much effort should be invested, in preparing for “disasters” of all kinds and levels?
6. EITHER:
  - A) “A modern librarian is exactly the same as one of 100 years ago – it’s just that their resources aren’t quite the same!” Do you agree? Consider the arguments which might be put both for and against such a statement, and justify your own point of view on it.
  - OR
  - B) Twenty-five years ago, Dr Dennis Lewis predicted that by now, the profession of “librarian” would be extinct, having been replaced by computer specialists and technology. Why do you think he might have felt this at the time, and why has it has not happened? Is there a danger that it might still happen in the future?
7. Many libraries are looking towards an increasing degree of self-service in their operations. Consider the factors involved in making such a strategic decision for an information service. In your view, is a budget best spent on equipment and delivery technologies, resources (whether physical and electronic), or staff, and why?
8. Will spam be the death of email? Discuss, with particular reference to the possible technical, legal and social mechanisms by which the problems might be used to try to alleviate the problems.

9. Does the "wiki" model of publishing challenge traditional methods of sharing and publishing knowledge? Support your answer with specific examples.
10. Will ejournals, or open access repositories replace paper publication? Look at this from a user and industry perspective.
11. EITHER:
  - A) Do online communities have a real sense of community? Give some examples of online communities, and demonstrate how users feel part of a community through online interaction.OR
  - B) Is blogging just a new method of vanity publishing, or an important contribution to journalism and online publishing?

**END OF PAPER**