

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

M.A.

SLAIS P30: Professional Awareness

COURSE CODE : INSTP030

DATE : 03-JUN-03

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

INSTP030: Professional awareness

Answer **THREE** questions.

1. Why is 'social inclusion' an important concept for all library and information service providers? Discuss how a library and information service setting of your choice might achieve socially inclusive service provision.
2. What factors would you consider in deciding whether to join a cataloguing cooperative?
3. What is the value to library and information services of adopting a learning organization approach? Explore a range of ways in which managers may enable their library and information units to become learning organizations.
4. 'What is the point in having search engines which produce thousands of hits for a simple search, most of which contain only rubbish?' Discuss the problems of effective information retrieval from the Internet from the perspectives of both quality of search tools and quality of content. What causes these problems? Are there any possible solutions? How viable and realistic are they?
5. 'Reference collections are an expensive luxury.' Discuss.
6. What makes a good website? Discuss both the factors which you believe substantially contribute to the success of a website, and ones which you think others might suggest as being important, but you believe to be less so. Be sure to explain and justify your point of view.
7. In a secondhand bookshop I buy an ex-public library copy of an expensive reference book, with none of its library ownership marks cancelled. I am assured by the bookseller that it has genuinely been withdrawn from the library. I telephone the branch in question; they check the barcode number and find that this copy is still shown in their catalogue. Eventually I speak to the branch manager, who assures me that it really has been withdrawn, but that it is too time-consuming either to stamp the books or to amend the catalogue, which is in any case very inaccurate, and that in a public library nowadays most books have a shelf-life of no more than ten years. Discuss the various issues raised by this (true) story.
8. In what circumstances might you decide to create your own classification scheme rather than using one of the established ones?
9. Does membership of a professional body or association make one a better practitioner? Discuss with reference to the library and information profession.

END OF PAPER