

Library School Curriculum Resolution, Annual Meeting 1969

SRRT Resolution forwarded to Membership Meeting

Present standards and procedures for accrediting library education programs lack relevance to today's professional needs, and have been largely ineffective in raising the standards of training for librarianship. Therefore, we urge that accreditation be relinquished by the ALA and turned over to the American Association of Library Schools [corrected to Association of American Library Schools]. This Association would in turn invite students and new professionals to take part in the writing of new standards, and participate fully in all future accreditation teams.

We further urge that the individual library schools consider the following proposals in relation to their own curricula and make the appropriate revisions:

1 - To meet the need for a wider educational experience and to meet the varied backgrounds of entering students, core curricula should first be streamlined. Opportunities to take courses in other university departments should be encouraged if not expected, and opportunities for inter-institutional exchange for courses and credit should be established.

2 - To complement the increased interdisciplinary character of the field of librarianship, library schools must offer more subject matter courses and widen the scope of existing faculties by including non-library specialists.

3 - To counter the widespread dissatisfaction of students and recent alumnae with existing library school curricula, committees to study curricula should be established in each library school, to consist of students, recent alumnae, and faculty. Course evaluations or the school curriculum as a whole should be solicited from the entire student body, faculty, and concerned alumnae. Communication with other curriculum committees of other library schools should be mandatory.

Membership Meeting Resolution as Amended

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Library School Curriculum Resolution, Midwinter 1970

Council Resolution

Because of the shortage of relevant activity and effective librarians who are willing to support the highest standards of our profession, particularly in regard to one of our major responsibilities, or response to the social problems of our times, and because an increasing number of minority group members are graduating from college, although there has been no proportional increase in their entrance into the field, ALA must ask why these and other young people do not consider librarianship a relevant profession, and ALA must honestly face the answer. Therefore, the membership Voted, that ALA reexamine and revitalize its recruitment policies for the profession, particularly in regard to minority groups and to our most promising young people. And that the Council take immediate action on this.

VOTED, That this Resolution be referred to the New Directions Committee with the support of Council.