

Is Library and Information Science waiting only for a Name Change?

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Abstract:

Library and information science suffers from poverty in theoretical foundations. Mere change of the name does not solve the problem. In fact, librarianship is neither worthy of this major regarding the name nor it is in concordance with its concept regarding the content. Although libraries in western world prospered again as a position for presenting scientific findings after spread of new industrial wave and increasing need of researchers to find knowledge, this attention and revivification was challenged by emergence of information technology and power of information broadcasting through utilizing novel electronic and optical tools, such that the necessity of library existence in its conventional form became in doubt. This inattention occurred despite the fact that fundamental of the new technology was as well based upon classification. The author in the present paper surveys the domain of library and information science from six issues and makes suggestions about them. These six issues are as follows: first, origin of the concept of library and information science; second, its position in knowledge tree; third, a comprehensive and simultaneously preventive definition of this major; fourth, scope of existence and influence of the major; fifth, suggesting a name for it; and finally sixth, proposing names for jobs which this domain is supposed to train individuals for. The research methodology in this study is induction, comparative study, and to some extent content analysis.

Keywords:

Library and information science; Knowledge science; Classification; Philosophy; Philosophy of science; Ambiguity in definition; Information and knowledge retrieval; Meta-science.

