From ‘Library’ to ‘Information’ Science: The Challenge within Our Profession with Accreditation

Brad Eden (Valparaiso University)

This paper will focus on an imminent crisis in the library profession: a movement from within the library and information science (LIS) education community to take “library” out of the curriculum. This movement is exemplified by a recent editorial by Dr. Ed Cortez in the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science (v. 57, no. 3, July 2016) titled “Teaching for the future, not the past.” In this editorial, Dr. Cortez indicates that ALA accreditation and indeed the library profession is outdated and of little interest to LIS educators. The future, according to Dr. Cortez, has nothing to do with our profession’s core values of intellectual and academic freedom, access to information, and privacy of information, but with topics such as cybersecurity, digital humanities, bibliometrics, various types of information mining, and data science, among others. The presenter is currently serving a four-year term on the ALA Committee on Accreditation.