

## **WHITHER THE NEXT GENERATION: ARE SCITECH LIBRARIANS/INFORMATION SPECIALISTS ENDANGERED?**

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**ABSTRACT:** In North America (and perhaps internationally), there is concern whether there will be enough information specialists/librarians as the current aging population retires. (American Library Association statistics state that 25 percent of librarians will be turning 65 by 2009; with 58 percent turning 65 by 2019). There is much fanfare about the situation being worse in academic libraries but I propose that there is a larger, hidden crisis in the recruitment of scitech librarian/information specialist positions.

I will use Web survey tools (such as SurveyMonkey or Websurveyor) to survey several scitech information specialist/librarian e-mail lists (from IAMSLIC & its regional groups, SLA's respective divisions, ALA's respective sections, IFLA's science & technology libraries section plus NEXTGENLIB) to ascertain patterns in filling/not filling of scitech librarian/information specialist positions as well as characteristics of newly hired scitech librarians/information specialists.

I will also review the literature and will investigate potential solutions such as: 1) recruitment into information/library science profession through exposure of younger students to scitech librarianship; 2) encouragement when in information/librarian science graduate programs to explore scitech librarianship through mentorship, specialized coursework or "concentrations", and internships; and 3) encouragement after attainment of degree to explore scitech librarianship through residencies or other postgraduate programs.

