INFS 111
INFORMATION IN SOCIETY

Session 6 – INFORMATION CREATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT

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Session Overview

This session will discuss the information cycle and who are involved in the cycle.
At the end of the session, you should be able to:

– identify institutions that process and provide information services

– learn about information professionals and their training

– know about the different levels of associations that exist within the library and information science profession.
Session Outline

The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

• Topic One: Information infrastructure institutions

• Topic Two: Information professionals

• Topic Three: Professional Associations
Reading List


Topic One:

INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTIONS
Institutions that Handle Information

• Libraries and Information Centres
• Archives and records Management Centres
• Publishing and book trade
• Information systems
• Communication and media museums
• Educational and training institutions
• Museums
Topic Two: Information Professionals
Who is an Information Professional?

Who is an Information Professional?

• Any person who is first and foremost concerned with the user of information and secondly with the handling of information (Debons et al, 1981).

• Those persons who are essentially, intermediaries between information sources, information systems and information users (Feather, 1998).

Categories of Information Professionals

• The Librarian
• The Archivist
• The Records Manager
• The Information Scientist
• The Information Systems Analysts and Designer
• The Information Manager
• The Information Broker
• The Information Consultant
• The Database Manager
• The Journalist
• The Editor
• The Curator
• The Educator
Topic Three: Professional Associations
What is a Profession?

- Descriptive of a profession
  - A body of theoretical and specialized knowledge
  - A set of applied techniques for practice
  - The establishment of formal educational programmes
  - Development of a code of ethics
  - A representative organization which monitors general standards of activity
  - A service orientation to clients,
  - Recognition from a significant number of non-practitioners of the specific profession.
Professional Associations

• A non-profit organization that seeks to promote a particular profession, the interests of individuals engaged in that profession, and the interest of the general public. E.g.

  – Ghana Bar Association, for lawyers;
  – Ghana Medical and Dental Council for doctors;
  – Ghana Registered Nurses Association for nurses
  – Ghana Institute of Engineers for the engineering profession
  – Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) for teachers
  – National Association of Graduate Teachers (NAGRAT) for graduate teachers
  – Ghana Library Association for library and information personnel
  – Ghana Journalists Association for journalists.
Professional Associations

National Associations
- American Library Association
- Library Association.
- Ghana Library Association (GLA)

Regional Associations
- West Africa Library Association
- Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA)

International Associations
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
References

• Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (2003) AISI: An Action Framework to build Africa’s Information and