

Paraprofessional Library Education in Canada: An Environmental Scan

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Outcomes

Describe how paraprofessional library education has developed and evolved in Canada.

Consider the similarities and differences between the current 14 English-speaking, paraprofessional library education programs in Canada.

Examine evidence of a shift in curriculum of these traditionally skills-based programs.

Research Parameters

Limitations:

- Only scanned English speaking programs
- ALISE Classification Scheme change to ALISE Research Taxonomy post data collection
- Course descriptions lack depth and breadth
- Lack of longitudinal coverage held back analysis of patterns/trends

Future Research:

- Scan using new ALISE Research Taxonomy
- Consult course syllabi and outlines
- Cover French speaking programs
- Replicate for longitudinal results
- Incorporate qualitative methodologies

Definitions

Library Clerk

Library

Assistant

Library Technician

Library Technical Assistant

Paraprofessional

Librarian

Other Cool Job Titles

- Learning Commons Facilitator
- Bibliographic Services Technician
- Campus Library Supervisor
- Information Assistant
- Reference Services Assistant
- Student Engagement and User Experience Technician

What year do you think the first library technician program started in Canada?

History

1887

Dewey's School of Library Economy
(Librarians, US)

1904

McGill summer course
(Librarians, Canada)

1962

Manitoba Institute of Technology
(LibTechs, Canada)

1940s/50s

Technical Programs
(LibTechs, US)

1967

CLA publishes Guidelines for Education of Library Technicians
(LibTechs, Canada)

1974

CLA updates Guidelines
(LibTechs, Canada)

2011

CLA updates Guidelines
(LibTechs, Canada)

1982

CLA updates Guidelines
(LibTechs, Canada)

2016

14 (English) programs
(LibTechs, Canada)

1991

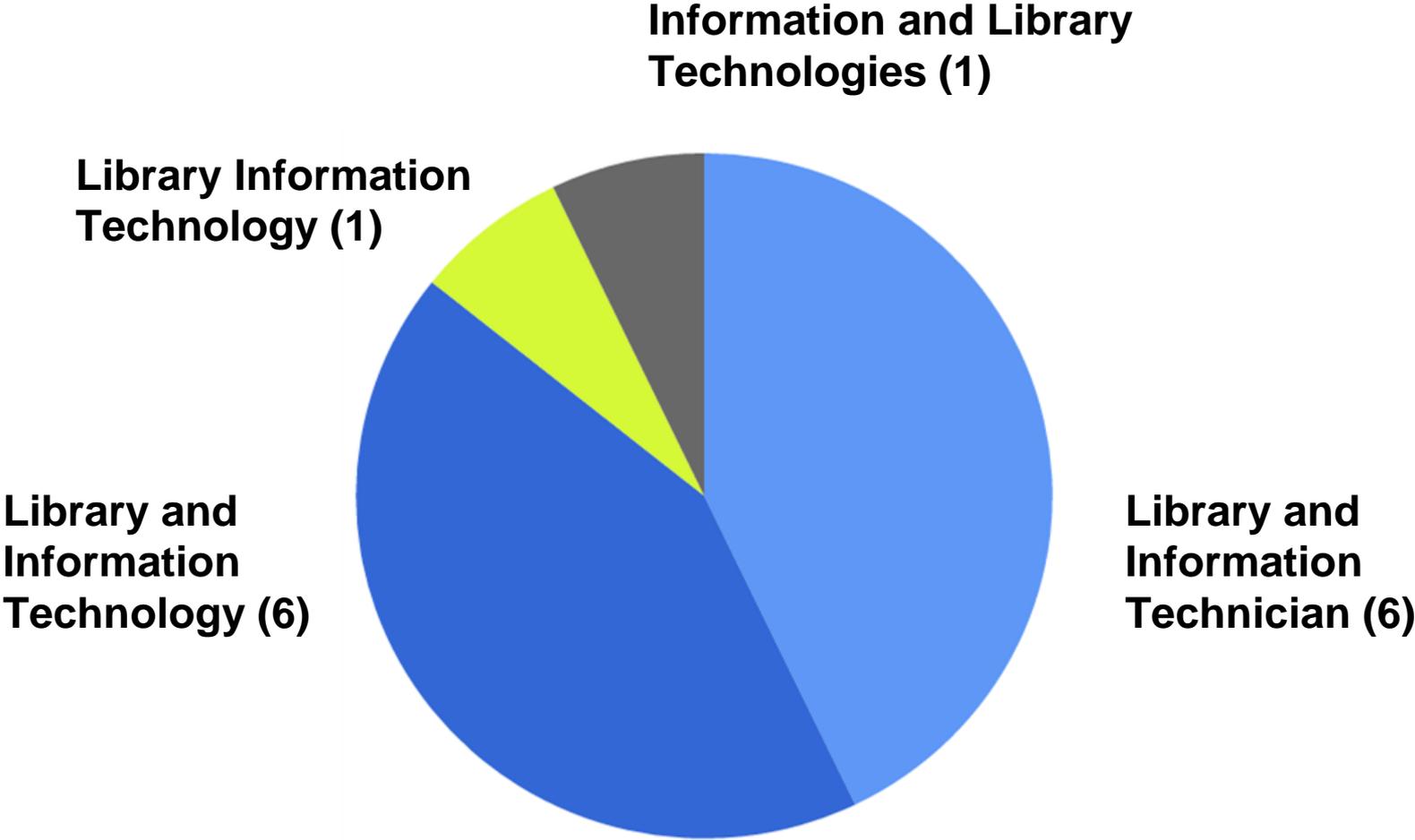
CLA updates Guidelines
(LibTechs, Canada)

Location

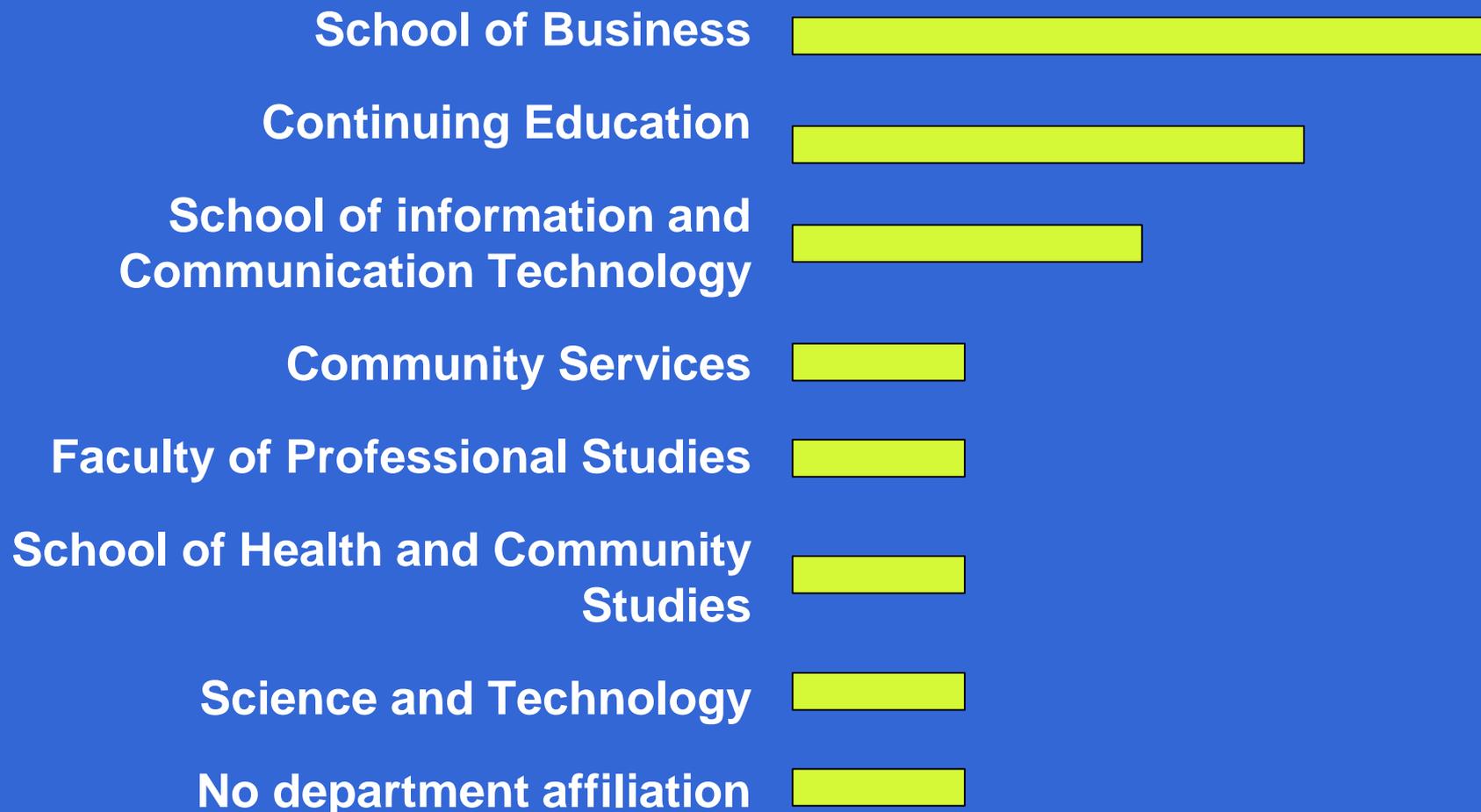


Province	City	Institution
British Columbia	Vancouver	Langara College
British Columbia	Abbotsford	University of Fraser Valley
Alberta	Edmonton	MacEwan University
Alberta	Calgary	Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
Saskatchewan	Saskatoon	Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Manitoba	Red River College	Winnipeg
Ontario	Thunder Bay	Confederation College
Ontario	Kitchener	Conestoga College
Ontario	Hamilton	Mohawk College
Ontario	Toronto	Seneca College
Ontario	Oshawa	Durham College
Ontario	Ottawa	Algonquin College
Quebec	Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue	John Abbott College
Nova Scotia	Dartmouth	Nova Scotia Community College

Program Name



Department Affiliation



Transferability



- Bachelor of Arts/Professional Arts (7)
- Bachelor of Applied Management (3)

Bachelor of (1):

- Business Administration
- Applied Science
- Technology
- General Studies
- Education

Course Comparison

Most Mentioned:

- **Database and Retrieval Systems**
- **Information Retrieval Theory and Practice**
- **Classification and Subject Analysis**
- **Descriptive Cataloguing/AACR**
- **Electronic Reference Services**

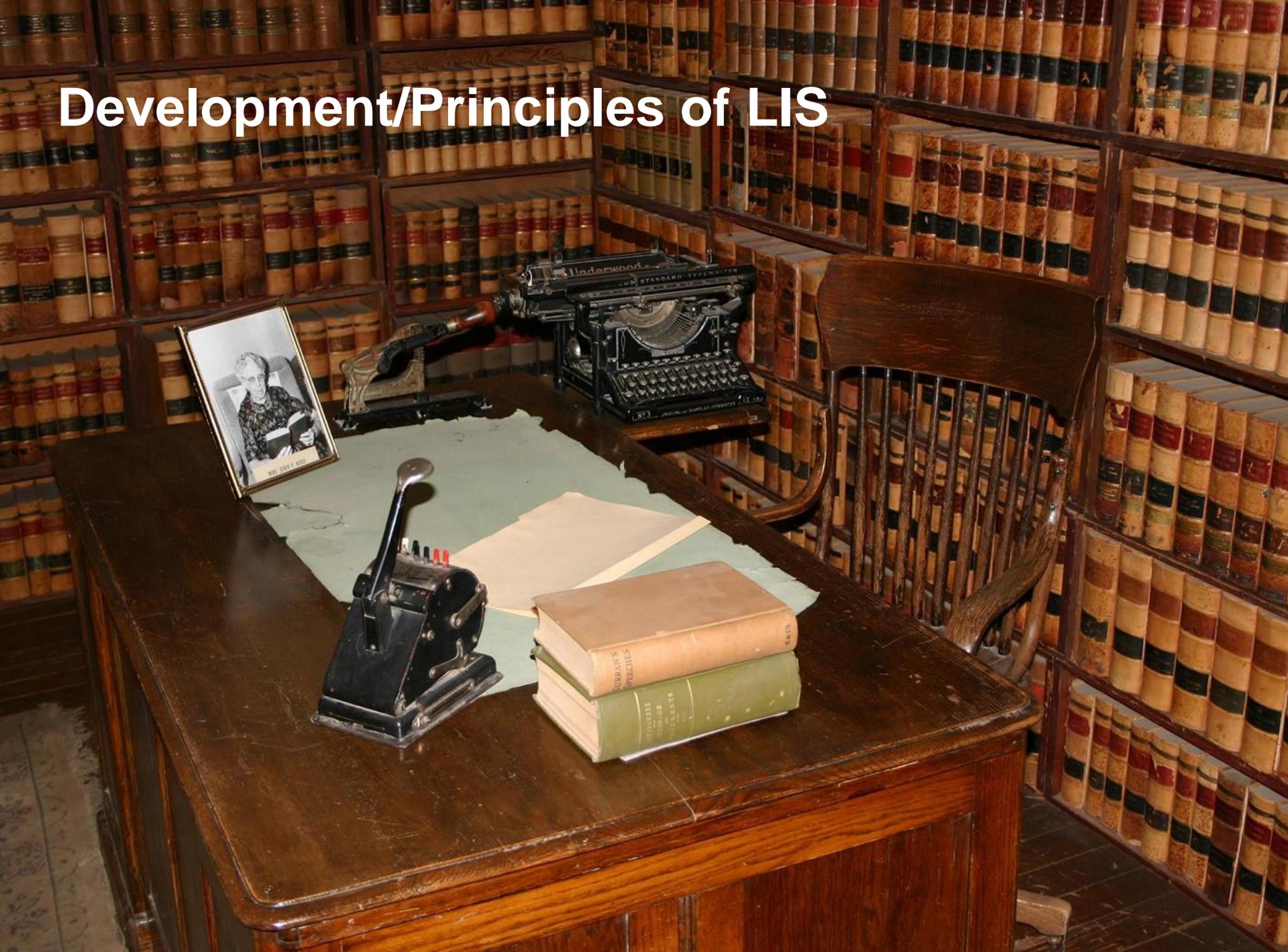
Least Mentioned:

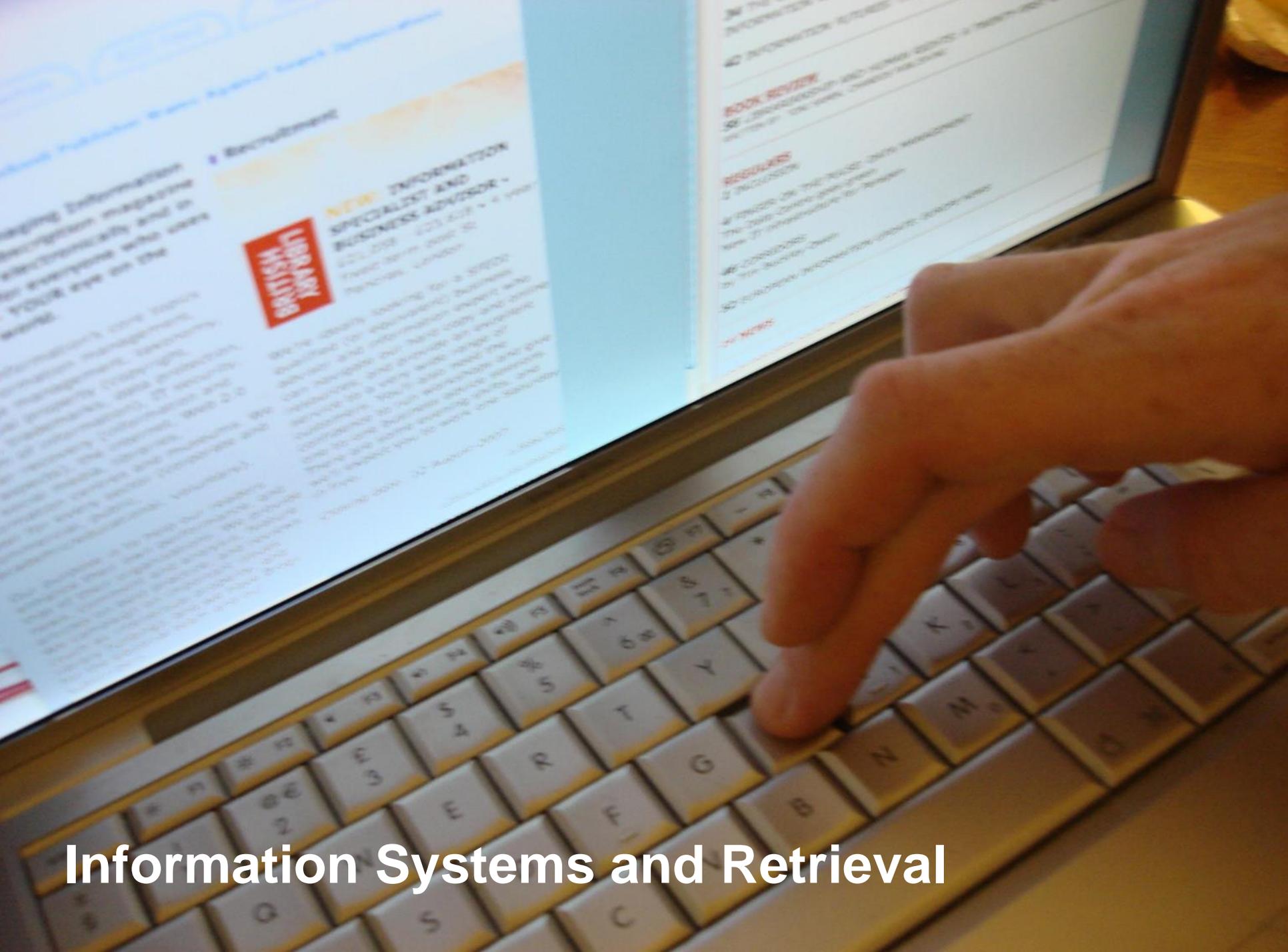
- **Scholarly and Scientific Communication**
 - **Instructional Design**
 - **Information Visualization**
 - **Information Integrity and Security**
 - **Knowledge/IR Management**
-



Collection Development

Development/Principles of LIS





Information Systems and Retrieval



Management/Administration

Organization of Information





Types of Libraries and Information Providers



Services to User Populations

Other



Non LIS Courses



Conclusions

- Skills-based focus still prevalent
- Focus on specific roles and functions
- Increase in non-LIS specific courses in the curriculum

Questions? Contact us!

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