

Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science  
Continuing Education Course  
September 18 – October 23, 2006

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Registration information at the [Simmons College Web Site](#)

### **Overview**

Today's librarians find themselves with a myriad of exceptionally exciting career choices beyond traditional library settings. The garden of options provides potentially high-paying jobs, involves a fascinating creative process, and is exciting and satisfying intellectually with never a dull moment.

Through readings and class discussion, this month-long workshop provides an opportunity to explore alternative and nontraditional careers with a focus on independent information professionals (IIPs) who conduct research or provide an array of consulting services for clients of all sizes from diverse industries and professional fields. The course touches on other areas such as competitive intelligence, knowledge management, and archives, electronic records, and digital asset management.

Participants will:

- Study careers that they can pursue with the Library and Information Science degree.
- Learn about skill sets and personal traits required for developing alternative careers
- Review Web sites that guide you in your career decisions and job search.

Discussion List:

- The Discussion List is the key teaching tool for this workshop.
- Post comments and questions to the Discussion List about any lesson or topic related to the course at any time.
- You do not need to post on topics related to the current lesson or the immediate past lesson. Unanswered questions to prior lessons are still welcome.
- Please go to the Discussion List frequently to see if other students or the instructor have posted any comments or questions.

### **Week One**

#### **An Introduction to Alternative Careers for Librarians**

We'll discuss a range of potential alternative careers.

### **Week Two**

#### **Required Education and Skills for Alternative Careers**

We'll cover educational requirements, skill sets, and personality traits required for various alternative careers.

## **Week Three**

### **Marketing Yourself or an Independent Information Business**

The focus this week is on the necessity for market planning and marketing techniques, whether you wish to enter the job market or develop an independent information business, marketing is key.

## **Week Four**

### **Sites and Sources**

During the last week, we'll talk about specialized Web sites and sources for alternative careers.

## **Books**

For those interested in an independent information business, read:

- Bates, Mary Ellen. Building and Running a Successful Research Business: A Guide for the Independent Information Professional, 2003, <http://books.infotoday.com/books/BuildingRunning.shtml>
- Sabroski, Suzanne. Super Searchers Make It On Their Own: Top Independent Information Professionals Share Their Secrets for Starting and Running a Research Business, 2003 <http://www.supersearchers.com>

For those interested in other types of careers, read selected chapters that interest you from:

- Shontz, Priscilla. The Librarian's Career Guidebook
- Kane, Laura Townsend. Straight from the Stacks

Depending on your interests, other titles from Information Today [\[http://books.infotoday.com/books\]](http://books.infotoday.com/books) are:

- The Accidental Fundraiser
- The Accidental Library Manager
- The Accidental Systems Librarian
- The Accidental Webmaster

## **Associations and Web Sites**

- AIIP (Association of Independent Information Professionals) [\[http://www.aiip.org\]](http://www.aiip.org)
- ARMA International (Association of Records Managers and Administrators) [\[http://www.arma.org/about/overview/index.cfm\]](http://www.arma.org/about/overview/index.cfm)
- SAA (Society of American Archivists) [\[http://www.archivists.org\]](http://www.archivists.org)
- AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists) [\[http://www.amianet.org\]](http://www.amianet.org)
- AIIM (Association of Information and Image Management) [\[http://www.aiim.org\]](http://www.aiim.org)
- Library Job Postings on the Internet [\[http://www.libraryjobpostings.org\]](http://www.libraryjobpostings.org)
- LISJobs, March 2005 Issue on Alternative Careers [\[http://www.lisjobs.com/newsletter/archives2005.htm\]](http://www.lisjobs.com/newsletter/archives2005.htm)