SUMMER 2010 COMPREHENSIVE EXAM QUESTIONS
MAY 10, 2010

DAY 1

1. In the current economic downturn, we have seen the closing or threatened closing of many types of libraries and information centers. Librarians are competing for scarce financial resources and must present rationales for the continued support of libraries. For a library or information center of your choice, explain how you would develop a presentation to stakeholders and decision makers to advocate for continued support for your services. Your answer should address the factors you would emphasize to ensure that it is compelling and persuasive. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

2. Metadata standards and cataloging standards are often discussed as if they are solutions to different information organization needs. Describe how these two types of standards are related and explain how organizing information with metadata is similar to or different from cataloging. Then discuss what library and information professionals need to consider when implementing metadata and cataloging standards. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

3. The Library of Congress (LC) recently announced that it will acquire the entire Twitter archive. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, argues that "The Twitter digital archive has extraordinary potential for research into our contemporary way of life." Develop one argument for and one argument against the value of this acquisition, based on professional LIS principles. Then explain one preservation or access challenge the LC faces with this collection. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

4. In recent years, some libraries have implemented SOPACs – Social Online Public Access Catalogs. These SOPACs add peer production or social media capabilities to traditional online catalogs. Identify and explain three functions or features that distinguish SOPACs from traditional OPACs. For a library or information service setting of your choice, discuss two advantages or added benefits of SOPACs over OPACs, and two potential problems or pitfalls. Explain how you would mitigate or overcome the problems or pitfalls. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

5. In order to develop user services, an information professional should understand the client group being served, e.g., engineers, children, lawyers, medical doctors, etc. Identify a client group, and then:
   a. Describe one information need, constraint, context of use, or other characteristic attribute of the group;
   b. Explain how it affects the information seeking behaviors that characterize this group;
c. Describe one service that you could provide in response to the need, constraint, etc. described in part a. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

**DAY 2**

6. Information literacy is recognized as a critical skill in the 21st century. Describe the information literacy standards recommended by one professional association. Select a library or information setting and describe a program you would use to develop information literacy skills among users of that library. Explain how your program would address the standards and how you would assess its impact. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

7. Some libraries organize their collections by a bookstore organization system (using terms like Romance or Self-help), instead of traditional classification systems such as the Dewey Decimal Classification. For a library or information setting of your choice, discuss two benefits of organizing a collection by a traditional classification system and two benefits of organizing a collection by a bookstore system. If you were the head of your chosen information setting, explain which system you would use to organize your collection and why. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

8. Library and information professionals understand the value of scholarly works and cultural materials and are conscientious in collecting them for access, but there are many challenges. Describe two critical issues related to the collection, preservation, or access of these materials. For each issue, describe one strategy for addressing the issue. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

9. It has been reported that people have been using public libraries at a much greater rate over the last couple of years and that young people have been using the internet at public libraries at a much greater rate. Do these findings mean that public libraries are meeting the needs of their users and achieving their mission? Support your position with a discussion of the values and philosophy of the library and information science profession. Include references to the literature as appropriate.

10. Groups and individuals who have previously filed challenges, attempting to censor library materials, have taken a new approach. On several occasions, such groups have donated materials that promote their values and point of view to libraries. As a matter of professional ethics and values, do you believe that libraries are obligated to accept these materials and add them to the collection? Why or why not? For a library setting of your choice, describe how you would respond if such a donation were made. Include references to the literature as appropriate.