

Digital libraries are blurring the borderlines of the LIS field:

searching for divergence or convergence
in the scientific landscape

Irene Wormell
Professor

The Swedish School of
Library and Information Science
Irene.Wormell@hb.se

Call for

Strategic pragmatism

in the modern LIS profession

...for entering a wide
range of new and
challenging work tasks
in today's
information society

Roles vs. Tasks

*The traditional
“task orientation”
in the LIS profession
has to be changed
to a “role” perspective
in professional strategies*

Competitive evolution

in the
information landscape

Profession,
like ecological niches,
are dynamics.

The professional role

a system of working behaviors
a person is entitled to show
on the basis of acquired
competences and skills

...competences and skills

*The professional life cycle,
adds / loses power*

- depending on competitiveness
- soc. and org. pertinence
- capacity to taking up new work interfaces

Professional nichemanship

a work space ...

... in which a system of competences, experiences and learning capabilities are integrated and transferred in order to perform a set of closely interrelated activities

Professional nichemanship

Library work

a niche

actual working context

Librarianship

the body of knowledge
associated with the niche

Functions of the modern information professionals

- **facilitate** information use
- **navigate** knowledge systems and info. sources
- **consult** and advice on information problems
- **audit** the optimal management of info. resources
- **integrate** technical and cultural systems
- **translate** between languages and technologies

Functions of the modern information professionals

- **transform** data and info. flows between systems
- **connect** social and cultural contexts
- **educate** users
- **provide** resources for information literacy
- **offer** support to info. policy and strategic goals

How to preserve LIS specialities and professional niches?

Alternatives

- 1) **divergence**
- 2) **convergence:** integration of the theoretical basis of the LIS profession with other related disciplines

Search for the intellectual intersections !

Bridging two words

User

IT Professional

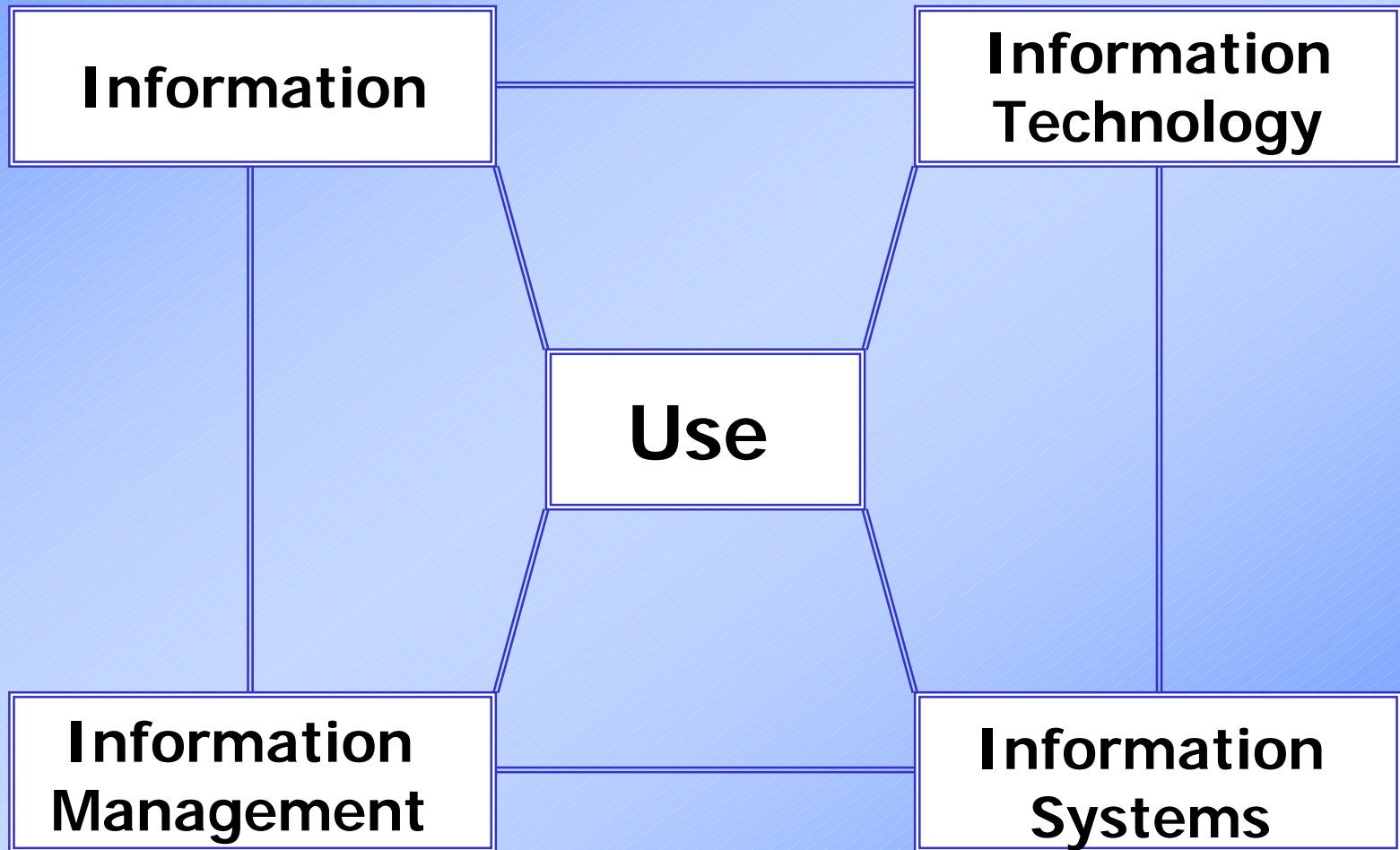
The hybrid nature of multifunctional information work

User

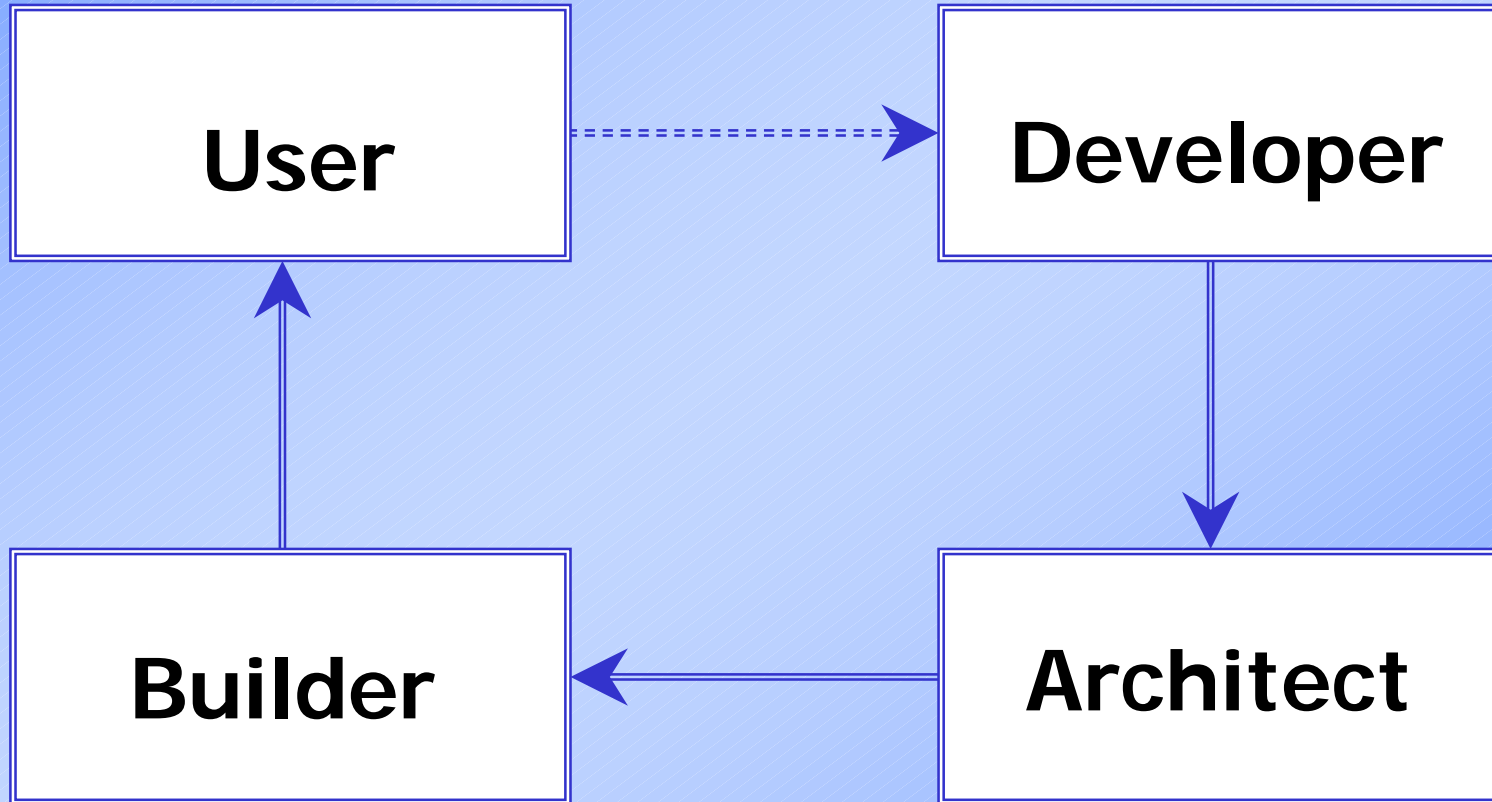
Hybrid
Manager

IT Professional

LIS professionals are focusing on



Roles in Development





The End