



Association for Information Science and Technology

ASIS&T EDUCATIONAL GUIDELINES

These Guidelines were approved by the ASIST Board November 8, 2001. They replace the ASIS Educational Objectives approved by the ASIS Board October 29, 1991. The guidelines were prepared by the Committee for Information Science Education of ASIST. Members of the Subcommittee who drafted the guidelines were Carol Barry, Dania Bilal, Amy Wallace, Beth Logan, chair.

The educational guidelines for the Association for Information Science and Technology include six general areas which programs of Information Science would be most likely to include in their curricula. They include both academic and practical applications of information science topics but are not intended to be exclusive descriptions of information science, nor to dictate what should be included in the curriculum of any one program. The intent is rather to provide guidelines broad enough to encourage the unique qualities of any program.

ASIST Guidelines for Information Science Education include the following general areas. Within these six general areas are topics and, in some cases, more detailed listing of what the topic includes.

1. Foundations of Information Science

This area includes the nature of information, its historical roots as well as its generation and dissemination to individuals, organizations, and society. Included in this category are:

- History of Information, Information Science, and Information Technology
- Nature of Information
- Information and Society (global, cultural, legal, professional, ethical considerations)
- Information Economics and Policy Issues

2. Information Use and Users

This area includes theories, principles, and investigation of information use and user behavior in information-related environments. This category includes:

- Information Seeking Behavior and Information Use
- Human-Computer Interaction
- User-centered Design and Product Development
- Needs Assessment and Evaluation

3. Methods of Inquiry This category includes methodologies which explore and facilitate investigations of information science in a variety of contexts. These include:

- Basic Research Methods
- Measurement and Evaluation
- Assessment Technologies
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

4. Information Processing

This category includes organization, storage, and distribution of information in various formats and technologies for meeting the needs of users and user groups.

- Information Creation, Generation, and Acquisition
- Information Representation and Control
- Information Access, Retrieval, Dissemination, and Interpretation
- Information Storage and Preservation

5. Information Technology

This category includes design, evaluation, and implementation of technologies relevant to information processes.

- Information Systems:
 - Software, Hardware, Retrieval
- Telecommunication and Networking
- Information Architecture and Infrastructure
- Programming for Information Processes

6. Information Service Provision and Management

This area includes the principles, planning, and procedures of managing and organizing information organizations:

- Organizational Theory
- Planning:
 - Strategic, Financial, Operational
- Resource Identification, Management, and Evaluation
- Information Marketing
- Human Resource Management

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