

This page and its content was produced by the Newspapers in Education department of The News & Observer January 4, 2001



career

Future job opportunities

Where/how to get training

Students in the library and information technology curriculum will learn how to use electronic resources for information retrieval, inventory control, information cataloging and classification, program promotion, circulation systems, audiovisual operations, and hardware/software maintenance. A major emphasis will be placed on Internet development and support.

Graduates of the program will be considered paraprofessionals. Currently there is no standard set for paraprofessionals - this program will set that standard.

Employers can expect a certain level of specialized training from graduates of this program that started in the fall of 2000. Graduates can specialize or be a generalist. They can find work in the public sector at schools or universities or in the private sector at, say, corporate or medical libraries.

An interesting aspect of the curriculum, and one in step with its commitment to modernization, is that the CCCC library program is one of only four in the country to offer courses on-line, and all eight library courses are offered over the Internet.

Students can take all the other non-library related courses in the curriculum - which include classes in English, networking, keyboarding, etc. - at CCCC or at their local community college. That means that students across the state, and the country, can take this course without ever stepping foot on the CCCC campus.

Students in the library and information technology curriculum can earn a two-year associate in applied science degree or exit after one year with a diploma. This program could be expanded to a bachelor's degree and ultimately to a master's in library science.

Scholarship Information

Grants, scholarships, loans and work/study programs are available for college and private school students. For most of this aid, students should submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance counselors and higher education financial aid offices.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4-FEDAID

focus on jobs in
Library and Information Technology

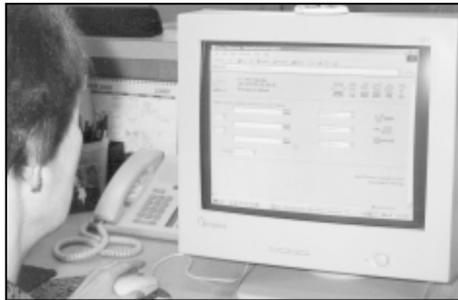
The days of flipping through a tray of dusty, tattered cards from the local library's card catalog in search of an elusive book are numbered. Most libraries have already replaced card catalogs with computers, and many reference materials are being replaced or supplemented by CD ROMs and the Internet. The library, along with most other institutions in the world, is changing with the times. To address this change, Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) has created a library and information technology curriculum, the only one of its kind in the state. The genesis for this program rose from the troubles CCCC administrators encountered in trying to fill vacancies for library technicians at the college.

"In our hiring we recognized the challenges that we were facing in finding staff able to meet the needs of today's modern library," said Linda Stone, director of library services at CCCC. "We also knew those challenges were being experienced by other libraries, so we decided to create this curriculum."

As part of the research into the feasibility of starting the curriculum, Nancy Turner, dean of liberal arts, communication and business programs at CCCC, distributed surveys to over 300 libraries and information centers across North Carolina. "The information received showed a definite need for the curriculum," she said. "In fact, more than 75 positions suitable for graduates of this curriculum exist right now in North Carolina."



Deborah Whitley archives records onto cds in The State Library of NC.



Emailed requests are answered daily.



Census tracking maps are used by anyone involved with land issues wanting to know the demographics of a specific area.



Hard copy research is still available.

New technologies are rapidly transforming libraries. The need for library personnel has grown dramatically while the pool of qualified applicants has decreased. Research has indicated that more than 75 positions, suitable for graduates of this new curriculum, currently exist in North Carolina, and more positions are projected through the next decade. Library technicians usually advance by assuming added responsibilities.

What you wear



Librarians and Information Technology positions are usually in a casual business setting and dress is usually business attire

Want to know more?

For more information about the library and information technology curriculum, call 919-718-7300 or 1-800-682-8353. Additional contact: Ellen Dickey at 919-718-7439, Central Carolina Community College, edickey@gw.ccarolina.cc.nc.us

Jobs in this field

Title	Description	Where found	Average wage*
Librarians	Select, order, catalog and take care of library materials, provide research	Schools, colleges & universities; government agencies, hospitals & libraries	\$28-\$34,000
Library Technicians	Check books in and out, sort & shelve library materials, help people find information	Government agencies, schools colleges and universities and businesses	\$21-30,000

*Salaries may vary widely depending upon education, experience and size of employer

Activity

Find an article in today's newspaper that would have involved research. Look through the classified ads and find an advertisement looking for an individual to work in a library and / or do research.



Profile

Marilyn Yorke-Smith
Apex, NC



Marilyn is currently working part-time in the research library at Lord Corporation in Cary, NC, while taking classes in the Library Science and Information Technology curriculum at Central Carolina Community College(CCCC). Before moving to Apex in 1997, she worked for the local government in England, where she interviewed individuals for public housing. After moving here, Marilyn worked for temporary agencies that sent her to work first at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, where she worked in the payroll department. She told me, "After that assignment ended I was sent to Lord Corporation, where I worked part of the time in their library before becoming a permanent employee. My husband saw an advertisement for the Library Science and IT course at CCCC, and I talked to an advisor before signing up for the first semester of this new course in September 2000". "I have been working for Lord Corporation as a part-time employee for the past year as a Library Clerk. I currently do many things from shelving library materials to Internet searches, as well as help prepare requests for patents and articles. Every day is different. Because I work in the library of a company, the needs are immediate. We provide information to help scientists do their research." Marilyn shared that, "I am taking the Library Science and IT course so that I can update my skills. The college teachers have been extremely helpful and, even though all of the course work is done at home, I feel part of the class and get individual attention. My emails are answered promptly." She anticipates graduating in three years instead of the normal two since she is working while attending classes.

Best Advice

Don't wait. If you enjoy working on your own and are a self-starter, you're never too young or too old to start something you want to do.

If you would like to make a statement about your business's commitment to education, call Mary Moxin at 829-4870 or email mmoxin@nando.com to find out how you can sponsor a School to Career Page. There are more than 100 job titles available. For information about Newspapers in Education, call Jean House 829-8921 or Anita Stack 829-4811.

This educational partnership sponsored by:



This page and previous "School to Career" pages are archived online at www.bizednetwork.org