

# High impact leadership roles for the 21<sup>st</sup> century academic librarian

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## ○ Information Schools

- What is an iSchool?
- What does an iSchool do?
- Why is this important?



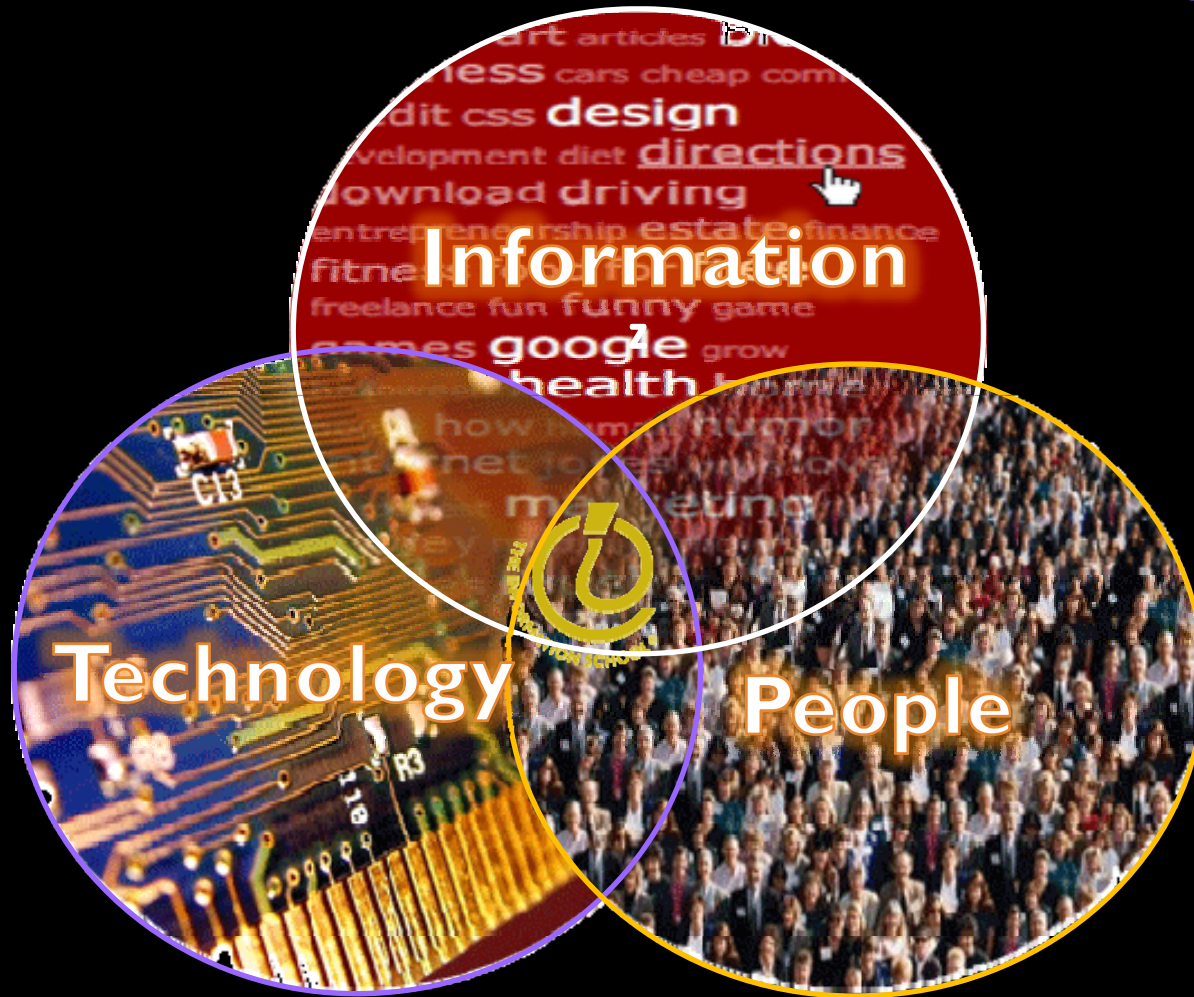
## ○ Leadership roles for the 21<sup>st</sup> century academic librarian



# The Interaction of Information,

# Technology,

# & People

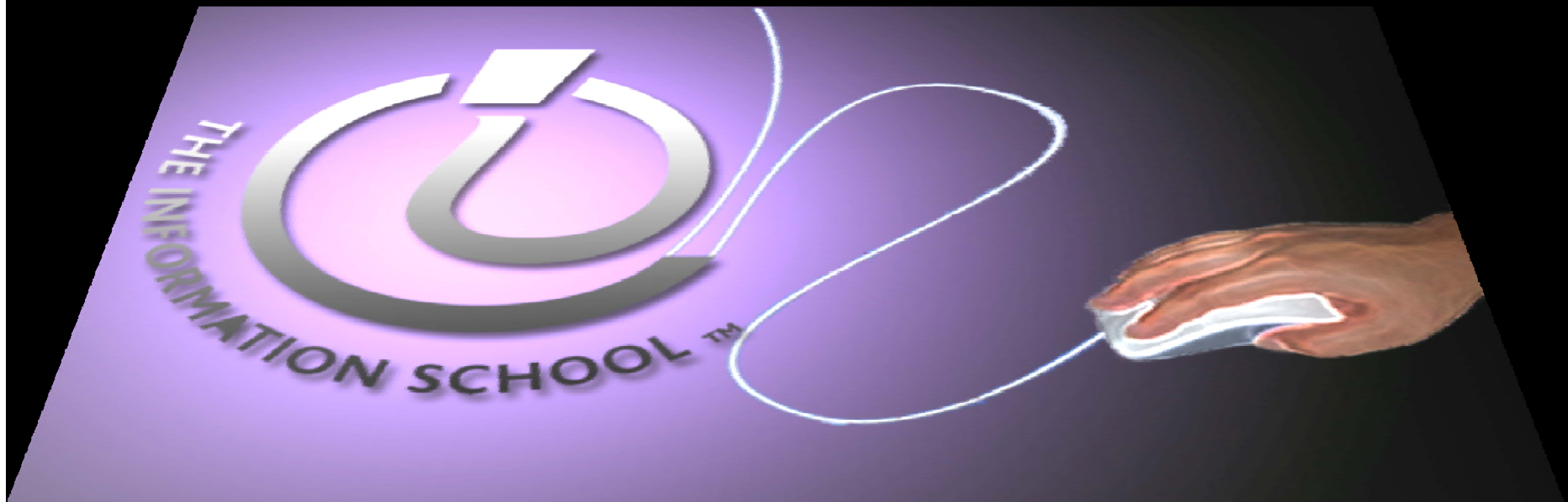


# What is an iSchool?

- The defining characteristics of iSchools include:
  - an interest in the relationship between information, technology, and people;
  - a commitment to learning and understanding the role of information in human endeavors;
  - a recognition that expertise in all forms of information is required for progress in science, business, education, and culture; and
  - a belief that this expertise must include understanding of the uses and users of information, as well as information technologies and their applications.

# Human Engagements with

# Information and Technology



**We facilitate, support and**



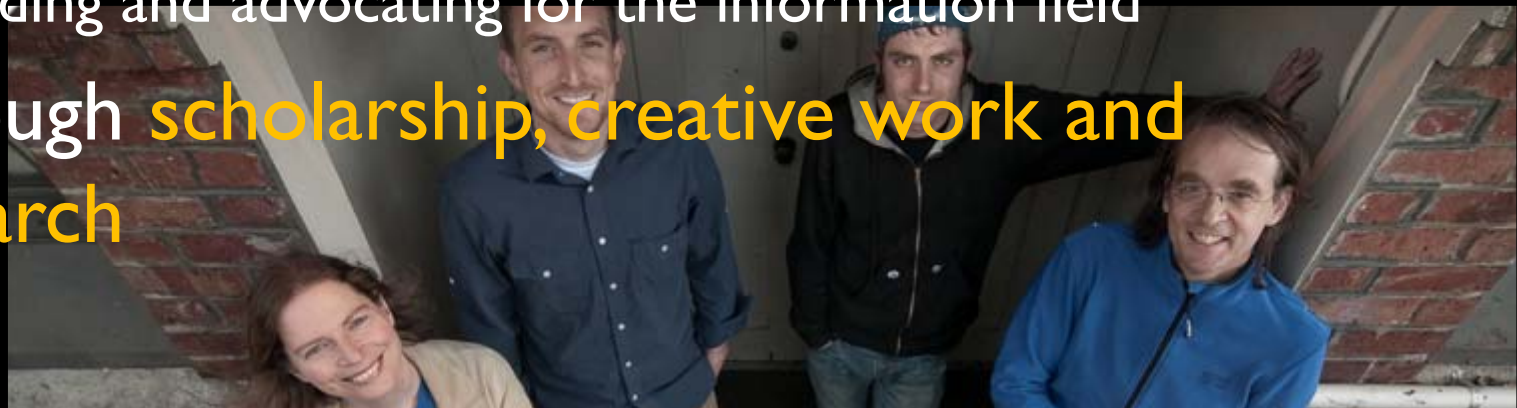
**enrich these engagements**

# Why is this important?

- Effective human engagements with information and technology
  - Learning
  - Problem solving
  - Innovation
  - Discovery
  - Decision making
  - Fun
- Leadership, human flourishing, community development and growth



- Through **academic programs**
  - preparing information specialists with a repertoire of professional interventions that impact each component of the information life cycle – creation to use
  - Informatics, MLIS, MSIM and Ph.D. in Information Science
- Through **service**
  - informing our professional and scientific communities
  - leading and advocating for the information field
- Through **scholarship, creative work and research**



## Faculty Disciplinary Areas.

- Business/ management
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Information Science
- Psychology
- Information Technology
- Library Science
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Law
- Anthropology

- We design solutions to information challenges
  - We design, build, augment, and evaluate technologies, systems, and services that help people find and use the information they need to do their work, to make good decisions, and to flourish professionally and personally.
- We prepare information leaders and innovators



- University research and education is challenged to confront the big issues facing our world – energy, the environment, global health, mass urbanization, etc. These issues are:

- **Interdisciplinary**
- **Data centric**
- **Global**
- **Multi-lifespan**

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- University academic and research initiatives emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems
- Trend towards the blurring of barriers between disciplines
- Funding agencies supporting large scale interdisciplinary studies

- Academic librarians are trans-disciplinary:
  - Their skills bridge disciplines



- They manage information so that it can flow across the spaces that separate fields of practice and expertise.
- They are experts in the synthesis and presentation of information critical to the work of complex teams.

- Academic librarians **can** leverage and promote their expertise in information management, organization, design, dissemination, synthesis, presentation, project management and team building



- Data collection and knowledge generation in the physical, environmental and health sciences is transformed
- Increasingly data-rich
  - Environmental sensors
  - Vast storage and data processing capacity





- Academic librarians **can**:
  - Facilitate e-sciences – help to organize, manage, and transfer large and complex data sets for ongoing discovery
  - Support the cumulative processes of scientific enquiry and discovery - capture
  - Provide access for the multiple disciplines that apply these data to discovery and new knowledge

- Information provision and dissemination is global
  - Impacts, benefits, challenges and issues cross national, political, ethnic and cultural boundaries



- Academic librarians **can:**

- Design and manage information systems that accommodate global perspectives
- Champion the perceptions and uses of information across cultural and ethnic groups

- Value and accommodate the needs and perspectives of a diverse (world-wide) community of users



- Global online information systems must be secure
  - Information assurance
- Academic librarians **can**:
  - Provide users with secure, low risk, online information interactions
  - Explore, promote, and manage the issues of human values, privacy, ethical use, and public policy that will ensure and promote secure information systems



- Online education and e- learning
  - Information intensive and global
  - New pedagogies, new opportunities, re-envisioning universities and information provision for education



- Academic librarians **can:**
  - Collaborate in research and practice developing new applications and pedagogies for online education and e-learning
  - Experiment with and validate new techniques



- Need to evaluate, validate, justify and advocate the impact, benefit, and quality of
  - Professional practices and interventions
  - Information services and resources
  - Information systems

- Academic librarians **need to** establish a culture of assessment and evaluation
  - Develop effective metrics and techniques for measuring and validating the impact of information provision, services and systems
- Measure and articulate the value of information in educational and professional settings





- A new generation of information users who learn, communicate, read, write and multitask differently – digital natives
- Academic librarians **can**:
  - Study the new generation of information users and learners
  - Inform the university community



- Digitally created information
  - What must we preserve?
  - How do we preserve?
  - How will future generations access and use these documents?

- Academic librarians **can:**
- Develop policies and techniques to ensure that digital information artifacts are preserved for the long term
- And **are challenge to** develop information systems that embed human values and support the resolution of global challenges extending beyond a single human lifespan.



○ Thank you