Dear Editors,

According to Library Journal's Placement & Salary 2008 Survey, iSchool graduates are earning a significant salary premium. According to the survey, "A straight dollar-to-dollar comparison suggests that graduates describing their jobs as IS earned almost 20% more on average for their starting salaries than other graduates ($48,354 compared to $40,308). Five of the iSchool Caucus members reported average starting salaries significantly above the overall averages (ranging from 9.6% higher to a whopping 31.9% higher)." If high salaries are distinctive of iSchool, a strong sense of identity is not: "On the other hand, designation as an iSchool and membership in the iSchool Caucus seem to have less impact on how the graduates defined themselves."

The more overt technology (and business) focus of iSchools may partly explain the higher salaries that these graduates are experiencing. That appears to be the case at Michigan in any respect: "In a much more predictable pattern, the University of Michigan (UM), an iSchool, dominated the “other” category, placing 56.3% of its graduates in agencies such as consulting, e-commerce, financial services, and interactive marketing."

This news of higher salaries for iSchools salaries may well provide some much needed stimulus to the iSchool Caucus.


Best regards,
Bruce Harpham