

"Mastery  
does not mean  
having a plan for the whole, but having an  
awareness of the whole."

Peter M. Senge. *The Dance of Change*. 1999.

### ***What is "Systems Thinking?"***

A thought and review process that fosters looking at the whole rather than the parts to understand an organization or situation.

### ***Why Systems Thinking for information professionals? It ...***

- Generates innovation through shared vision
- Facilitates proactive effort
- Fosters learning from experience
- Uncovers the root causes of failure
- Creates leveraging opportunities
- Instills constructive thought
- Supports creative decisionmaking
- Improves effectiveness through seeing strategic influences

### ***Why Self-Assess?***

- Learn about how to see the big picture in a novel way
- Understand how personal behaviors contribute to an innovative view
- See new ways to interact with others

### ***Where Can You Learn More about Systems Thinking?***

#### ***The Systems Thinking Perspective Project***

***[www.sla.org/division/dbio/Systems](http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/Systems)***

The intent of this site is to provide a collection of resources about systems thinking. They illustrate how systems thinking can benefit information professionals and help them increase leverage in their interactions with professional colleagues.

The self-assessment tool provided on the site is designed to stimulate individual reflection and thought. Working through the questions will result in an understanding of how personal style and philosophies add to an information professional's ability to contribute to the overarching goals of the organization and obtain personal achievement.

**For more information:**

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# Systems Thinking

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