

IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group

2017-18 Annual Report

Clara M. Chu and Jaya Raju (Co-Chairs)

August 28, 2018

Website: lisedu.wordpress.com

The Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group has had a very productive year in 2017-18. The BSLISE is a working group within the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), devoted to strengthening the international quality of library and information science education (LIS), and as a result, the excellence of LIS professional practice. It emerged out of deliberations at the 2016 IFLA Satellite Meeting (Dublin, Ohio, USA) on quality assessment of LIS education programs, hosted by the IFLA Section on Education and Training and the Section on Library Theory and Research. The BSLISE Working Group is comprised of members from across the globe and is an initiative of the IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET), LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG, and Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR). At the moment the group comprises of 24 people who are from all 5 IFLA regions, representing 12 countries and 12 languages. Below are listed the activities of the past year and additional information on the group can be found on our website: lisedu.wordpress.com

Presentations, Proceedings and Workshops

7 presentations/workshops, 4 proceedings

“DHDS 2018: An International Seminar on Digital Humanities and Digital Societies in the Contemporary World,” University of Calcutta, January 18-19, 2018 <https://sites.google.com/view/incon2018/home>.

Presentation: Saif Al Jabri.

“LIS Qualifications, Certification, and the Meaning of ‘Professional’ around the World,” *2018 ALISE Conference* (<http://www.alise.org/2018-conference>), February 6-9, 2018.

Panel Presentation: Saif Al Jabri, Kendra Albright, Clara M. Chu, Dick Kawooya, Jaya Raju, Ana Maria Talavera, Anna Maria Tammaro

- Extended Abstract published in conference proceedings by Saif Al Jabri, Kendra Albright, Clara M. Chu, Keren Dali, Dick Kawooya, Jaya Raju, Ana Maria Talavera, Anna Maria Tammaro

“Setting the Stage for Building Strong LIS Education in Africa” Workshop, Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Association (SCECSAL XXIII), Entebbe, Uganda, April 23-28, 2018. <http://www.scecsal.org/conferences/scecsal2018.html>

Workshop Presentation: Clara M. Chu, Dick Kawooya and Jaya Raju.

- Extended abstract in conference proceedings by Clara M. Chu, Dick Kawooya, Jaya Raju and Theo Bothma

IFLA Latin America and Caribbean Section Mid-term Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 26, 2018.

- Presentation and paper published in conference proceedings by Ana Maria Talavera

“La formación de profesionales para bibliotecas públicas” Panel, I Encontro Pan-Amazônico de Bibliotecas Pública, Fundação Cultura do Estado do Pará, June 4-5, 2018

<http://snbp.culturadigital.br/blog/2018/05/30/eventolivrobelem/>

Presentation: Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira

“Building Strong LIS Education Globally: Findings and Implications of an International Survey on Qualification in the Library and Information Profession,” IFLA Satellite Meeting on "Transforming the Society: Libraries as the Torch-bearer of Change," Asia and Oceania Section joint with Education and Training, University of Calcutta, India <https://sites.google.com/view/iflacu2018/home>

Presentation: Clara M. Chu

- Extended Abstract written and submitted by Clara M. Chu, Christopher Cunningham, Dick Kawooya, Jaya Raju

“IFLA's role in building strong LIS education: an international approach to quality assessment and qualification in the library and information profession” Open Session (joint Library Theory and Research Section with Section on Education and Training), 2018 IFLA World Library and Information Congress; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 24-30, 2018.

- Coordination by Clara M. Chu and Jaya Raju

Publications (2)

Chu, Clara M.; Juznic, Primoz; Raju, Jaya, and Tamaro. Anna Maria. Reflections on the Ongoing IFLA Global Vision Conversation: A Spotlight on Library and Information Science (LIS) Education Library Theory and Research Section Newsletter, January 2018; pp. 2-6.

IFLA BSLISE Working Group (2018). *Building Strong LIS Education: A Call to Global and Local Action – An IFLA BSLISE Working Group White Paper*. Cape Town: University of Cape Town Libraries. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15641/0-7992-2542-6> (forthcoming 29th August 2018)

The White Paper listed above is the culmination of 1.5 years of BSLISE work. It presents an action plan from the findings from an international survey to learn the differing qualification requirements (education, certification, individual credentialing system) for library and information “professional” practice in order to develop a better understanding of the equivalence of credentials and the role of LIS education.

The BSLISE will work on the following three action areas that have been identified in the White Paper.

Action A: Develop an international resource that identifies local structures (Recommended Action 4).

With funding and infrastructure support from IFLA, the BSLISE Working Group, will build on the existing databases of LIS programs worldwide to develop a regularly updated, international database and asset map, capturing information about LIS schools and programs and local structures, organizations, and procedures that address the issues of professional qualifications, accreditation, certification, and registration for professional practice.

Action B: Develop an international framework for the assessment of quality standards in LIS education (Recommended Action 2).

The BSLISE Working Group will engage the IFLA leadership and constituents to address the need for this framework (or related mechanism) and its role in developing and managing this assessment mechanism. Aligning this framework with IFLA’s Global Vision is necessary. Based on these deliberations, the BSLISE Working Group will work with the IFLA leadership, staff, and units, as well as other appropriate LIS entities, to move this action forward.

Action C: Identify core and other competencies for transferability and reciprocity (Recommended Action 1).

The BSLISE Working Group will work with the IFLA SET, Section on Library Theory and Research, and the LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG to incorporate an examination of existing competency standards, developed by professional associations and regulatory bodies, into their strategic plans. Support to carry out the project will be solicited by IFLA sections from the Professional Committee (PC) Project funds. Relevant IFLA sections will introduce and obtain support for their strategic work on LIS education from IFLA Divisions 4 (Support of the Profession) and Division 5 (Regions).

The group has its agenda set for the coming two years to implement the above 3 actions. As well, members will continue to present its work at forthcoming conferences. Some that are scheduled include:

International Symposium on the Future of Education in Information Sciences (FEIS 2018), Pisa, Italy 10-11 September 2018 <http://feis2018.di.unipi.it> - An event organized by the Erasmus+ EINFOSE project (<http://einfose.ffos.hr>)

Presentation and paper to be published in conference proceedings: Flavia Renon, Primoz Juznic and Tilen Heco

XI Encuentro de la Asociación de Educación e Investigación en Ciencia de la Información de Iberoamérica y el Caribe (EDICIC), Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecología de la Universidad de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), October 16-19, 2018
<http://www.udea.edu.co/wps/portal/udea/web/inicio/institucional/unidades-academicas/escuelas/interamericana-bibliotecologia/encuentro>

Presentation: Clara M. Chu, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Felipe Martinez, Ana Maria Talavera

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Questions and comments may be directed to Clara M. Chu <cmchu@illinois.edu> and Jaya Raju <jaya.raju@uct.ac.za>

Appendix A. IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group Members

Clara M. Chu, Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ~ cmchu@illinois.edu (United States) [Co-Chair]

Jaya Raju, Associate Professor, University of Cape Town ~ jaya.raju@uct.ac.za (South Africa) [Co-Chair]

Saif Abdullah Al-Jabri, Director, Information Center, College of Economics and Political Science, Sultan Qaboos University ~ saljabri01@gmail.com (Oman)

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Theo Bothma, Emeritus Professor, University of Pretoria ~ theo.bothma@up.ac.za (South Africa)

Susmita Chakraborty, Associate Professor, University of Calcutta ~ sclis.india@gmail.com (India)

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Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Emeritus Professor, University of São Paulo ~
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Primož Juznic, Professor, University of Ljubljana ~ Primož.Juznic@ff.uni-lj.si (Slovenia)

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Rebecca L. Miller, Principal Consultant, BiblioDev, LLC ~ rmiller@bibliodev.com (Germany/United States)

Flavia Renon, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Carleton University ~ flavia.renon@carleton.ca (Canada)

Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, University Librarian, University of Waterloo ~ bsnamach@uwaterloo.ca (Canada) [Co-Chair, 2016-17]

Ana Maria Talavera-Ibarra, Professor, Pontifical Catholic University ~ atalave@pucp.edu.pe (Peru)

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Joan Weeks, Head Near East Section, African and Middle Eastern Division, Library of Congress ~
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Lai (Kathy) Wei, Associate Professor, Northeast Normal University ~ weil875@nenu.edu.cn (China)