IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group

2018-19 Annual Report

Clara M. Chu <cmchu@illinois.edu> and Jaya Raju <jaya.raju@uct.ac.za> (Co-Chairs)
Submitted August 2019

Website: bslise.org

The Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group has had a very productive year in 2018-19. 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 27 people who are from all 5 IFLA regions, representing 14 countries and 14 languages (see website for list of members). Below are listed the activities from September 2018 to August 2019, and additional information on the group can be found on our website: bslise.org (*formerly* lisedu.wordpress.com)

POST-WHITE PAPER ACTIVITIES

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 (29th August 2018)

The White Paper was published last August after 1.5 years of BSLISE work. It presented an action plan arising from the 6 key findings of 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 worked on the following three of six recommended action areas that were identified in the White Paper.

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

Members: Clara M. Chu and Chris Cunningham [co-leaders, USA], Nuria Bautista Puig (Spain), Anna Gruzova (Russia), Albina Krymskaia (Russia), Felipe Martínez (Mexico), Fatih Oguz (USA), Virginia Ortíz-Repiso Jimenez (Spain), Monica Peres (Brazil), Ana María Talavera Ibarra (Peru)

Objective	Outputs (Timelines)
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	1. **Survey** to identify/document LIS programs* (informal data collection at IFLA, collect data in September 2019; data clean up until November 2019) 2. **Map** LIS programs, as well as the items below (map by January 2020)

	3. National professional qualification* - a definitive national response (see 1 (data collected via survey) and 2 (data mapped))
structures, organizations, and procedures that address the issues of professional qualifications, accreditation, certification, and registration for professional practice.	4. LIS professional national association - NOT collecting data at this time
	5. LIS accrediting organization* (of programs) or professional qualification organization* (of individuals) (see 1 (data collected via survey) and 2 (data mapped))
	*=data to be collected

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

Members: Anthony Chow (United States) and Jaya Raju (South Africa) [Co-leaders]; Theo Bothma (South Africa); Keren Dali (Canada/United States); Dick Kawooya (United States/Africa); Ekaterina Shibaeva (Russia)

Objective	Activities
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.	● Interview questions and consent form - available at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_VPOW_aDTJpN6-G9zVEdNiLUDxsLj7kb ● Purposive sample: representatives of 15 organisations/constituencies ● Timeline 2019: February-March (instrument design); April-July (data collection); July-August (data analysis) ● Return rate: as of 18 August 2019, 15 out of 17 responses (88%); 2 pending ● Qualitative data analysis using content analysis of responses per question and use of summaries to ascertain trends and patterns

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

Members: Kendra Albright (United States) and Primoz Junic (Slovenia) [Co-leaders], Helen Emasealu (Nigeria), Barbara Marson (United States), Anna Maria Tammaro (Italy)

Objective	Outputs
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,	● LIS competencies have been identified through comparing and mapping competencies from IFLA, ALIA, CILIP, ALA, EUCLID and other descriptive lists ● A conceptual framework has been developed

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).	

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS, PUBLICATIONS, AND ONLINE PRESENCE

<u>Presentations</u> (8)

Primoz Juznič, Flavia Renon and Tilen Heco. Towards building strong LIS education: Preliminary findings from an international environmental scan of LIS education, certification and professional identity (European focus). International Symposium on the Future of Education in Information Sciences (FEIS 2018), Pisa, Italy 10-11 September 2018 https://www.unipi.it/index.php/unipieventi/event/3921-feis-2018-the-future-of-education-in-information-science - An event organized by the Erasmus+ EINFOSE project (http://einfose.ffos.hr)
- See publication in Proceedings below

Chu, Clara M.; Ferreira, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto; Martinez, Felipe; and Talavera, Ana Maria. "Fortalecimiento de la educación en Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información en Latinoamerica y el Caribe: lecciones de una encuesta internacional," 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
- See publication in Proceedings below

Chu, Clara M. "International and ASIS&T Perspectives," in Education for the Information Professions session, iConference 2019 "Inform, Include, Inspire"; March 31-April 3, 2019; College Park, Maryland (USA). https://iconference2019.umd.edu/

Tammaro, Anna Maria; Južnič, Primož; and Albright, Kendra. "Conceptions of LIS profession and education globally: An IFLA study," *Conceptions of Library and Information Science* (CoLIS): 10th International Conference; 16-19th June 2019; Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Chu, Clara M., Raju, Jaya with members of the BSLISE Working Group; moderated by Dick Kawooya. "Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) - Developing an International Quality Assessment Framework," ALISE Webinar, 11th July 2019. https://www.alise.org/alise-webinars

Chu, Clara M. "Building Strong LIS Education: The Leadership Roles of Professional Associations, Higher Education and the Professional Community in Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America & the Caribbean," IFLA Division V Satellite Meeting (Theme: Leadership roles in international librarianship: how

can information professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean be part of it?), 20-21 August 2019; Alexandria, Egypt. https://www.bibalex.org/ifla-division-v/en/home/home.aspx

Albright, Kendra, Chu, Clara M., Raju, Jaya, and Tammaro, Anna Maria. "International Framework for the Assessment of Quality Standards in LIS Education: the Role of Associations, Higher Education and the Professional Community," Library Theory and Research Section Open Session, 2019 World Library and Information Congress, 27th August 2019; Athens.

Raju, Jaya. "Future LIS education and evolving global competency requirements for the digital information environment: an epistemological overview," IFLA Satellite Conference of the IFLA Section on Library Theory and Research together with Section on Education and Training, and Information Technology Section, in collaboration with the Vatican School of Library Science, ALISE and ASIS&T Education SIG ("Transforming LIS education for professionals in a global information world: digital inclusion, social inclusion and lifelong learning,") 30th-31st August 2019; Rome. https://iflasatellitevatican2019.wordpress.com/

Publications (6)

Al Jabri, Saif and Ali, Waleed. Arabic translation (2019) of 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

Babushkina Y., Paramonova I. The internationalization of professional education in library and information science (LIS). *Scientific and Technical Libraries*. 2019;(8):112-120. (In Russ.) https://ntb.gpntb.ru/jour/article/view/475/458

Brezhneva V.V., Krymskaya A.S. Towards Building Strong LIS Education: a View of Russian Researchers. Bibliotekovedenie [Library and Information Science (Russia)]. 2019:68(2):211-222. (In Russ.) https://doi.org/10.25281/0869-608X-2019-68-2-211-222

Chu, Clara M.; Ferreira, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto; Martinez, Felipe; and Talavera, Ana Maria. "Fortalecimiento de la educación en Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información en Latinoamerica y el Caribe: lecciones de una encuesta internacional," [Proceedings] *Memorias del 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. Accessed 27th August 2019 at http://enancib.marilia.unesp.br/index.php/EDICIC_2018/EDICIC_2018/paper/view/1705/1936

Juznič, Primoz; Renon, Flavia and Heco, Tilen. Towards building strong LIS education: Preliminary findings from an international environmental scan of LIS education, certification and professional identity (European focus). In: *The Future of Education in Information Science, Proceedings from FEIS – International EINFOSE Symposium*; 10–11 September 2018 Pisa, Italy, edited by Tatjana Aparac-Jelušić, Vittore Casarosa, and Elena Macevičiūtė. Osijek (Croatia): Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Osijek, 2018; pp. 112-22. Accessed 27th August 2019 at http://einfose.ffos.hr/feis-2018/proceedings

Wolfram D., Zuev A.E. Building Strong Library and Information Science Education: IFLA Working Group White Paper (Expert Review). *Bibliotekovedenie* [Library and Information Science (Russia)]. 2019;68(2):205-210. (In Russ.) https://doi.org/10.25281/0869-608X-2019-68-2-205-210

<u>Online Presence</u> (2)

The BSLISE began its social media presence in 2019: https://www.facebook.com/bslise
The BSLISE website now has a unique URL bslise.org (formerly lisedu.wordpress.com)