Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE), an IFLA working group
2022-23 Annual Report

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Website: https://bslise.org/

In 2022-23 the Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) working group had a productive year, which was guided by its action plan. The BSLISE is an IFLA working group devoted to strengthening the international quality of library and information science education (LIS), and consequently, the excellence of LIS professional practice. It emerged from deliberations at the [2016 IFLA Satellite Meeting on "International Quality Assessment of LIS Education Programs"](#) (Dublin, Ohio, USA), hosted by the IFLA Section on Education and Training (LTR) and the Section on Library Theory and Research (SET). The BSLISE is made up of members from across the globe and is an initiative of IFLA SET, LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG, and LTR.

Since the inception of the BSLISE, the membership of the group has been dynamic. We have members who continue to be engaged, some who have left, and others who are new. At the moment the group is composed of 27 members who are from all 6 IFLA regions, representing 15 countries and 13 languages (see [website](#) for member information).

The BSLISE activities from August 2022 to August 2023 are reported below, and additional information on the group can be found on the BSLISE website: [bslise.org](#). These activities advance the work described in the action submitted jointly and in coordination with SET and LTR.

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 ongoing work of the BSLISE continues to be informed by identified issues and needs, and the White Paper, published by the BSLISE on August 2018. It presented an action agenda 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. Based on the ongoing work flowing from the White Paper recommendations, and interests and expertise of the BSLISE, a planning retreat was held in September 2022. The following actions were identified, and submitted as part of the 2022-23 SET and LTR action plans. The following table presents a status report.

Action	Status	Notes and recommendations
Guidelines		
1. Formation of a Guidelines Stewardship Committee (Composition: SET, LTR and other BSLISE members) to respond to questions about the Guidelines and provide guidance, where necessary, on application of the Guidelines to specific contexts.	Completed	[IFLA announced publication of Guidelines 25 July 2022](#) FAQ page created and to be added to BSLISE website.
2. Translations of the Guidelines into IFLA's seven official languages: Arabic, Chinese,	Nearly complete	Five of the 7 have been done, plus additional languages

English, French, German, Russian and Spanish, plus other IFLA community languages		
3. Workshops/webinars (min. 2/yr) to promote Guidelines	Completed	2022-23 Workshops (IFLA 2022, EDICIC 2022, MERCOSUR 2023, AfLIA 2023) Presentations/webinars (Hungary 2023, Croatia 2023, Asia (2 in 2022), Mexico 2023) For 2023-24: Support/guide LIS schools in implementing Guidelines (five or more)
4. Feasibility review of procedural and declarative knowledge as a framework for professional qualification and certification	Completed at IFLA WLIC 2023	
LIS Education Programs Map		
1. Current Library and Information Science (LIS) Schools map and database	Completed and updating ongoing	
2. Exploration of collaborative opportunities to enhance data collection	Completed and updating ongoing	LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG made promoting and adding to the BSLISE map their priority this year <6 June 2022 IFLA News>
3. Searchable LIS education schools directory	In progress	Map User's Guide was created, two information sessions presented, two articles (under review and in process), BSLISE International Scholar in partnership with SJSU was implemented, the Sunburst software was used to develop the data visualization that can be automatically generated from the database. 2023-24 Proposal - create directory and a process/system to add and update data.

OTHER PROJECTS: EXISTING AND POTENTIAL

The BSLISE working group has one project in its formative stage:
- LIS programs in international ranking systems - Review of world ranking systems in order to understand how external international systems assess the quality of LIS education (Project leaders: Virginia Ortiz Repiso, Nuria Bautista Puig, Sara Martínez Cardama)

The BSLISE working group considered the following project proposal:
On 14th February 2023, Anna Maria Tammaro and Albina Krymskaya presented the IFLA SET Training School as SET representatives. SET proposed that the BSLISE lead the future coordination and planning of the SET Training School. Questions regarding roles and responsibilities were raised, and Anna Maria indicated she would be sending documentation for further consideration of this project by potential project

leaders. It was also discussed that new SET members, starting their term in August 2023, may also be interested in leadership of the project.
For more details, see:
https://www.ifla.org/news/set-satellite-conference-set-training-school-towards-a-curriculum-for-social-and-digital-inclusion-and-lifelong-learning/ | Call https://2022.ifla.org/cfp-calls/education-and-training-section/

PROJECT ASSISTANTS

Three project assistants (PAs) undertook internships with the BSLISE. The term project assistant was selected after IFLA requested that a new term be used instead of "intern" to describe the role/participation of students involved in BSLISE activities. PAs had the following assignments and supervisors:

Time	Social media Supervisors: Dr. Amara Malik, Dr. Diane Pennington	Website Supervisor: Dr. Barbara Marson	Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Supervisor: Dr. Albina Krymskaya
Aug-Dec 2022	Castillo, Jan Francis (Philippines)	Abdulroheem, Ismail (Nigeria)	
Jan-May 2023		Young, Christina (US)	Castillo, Jan Francis (Philippines) Young, Christina (US)

PARTNERSHIPS

The BSLISE working group partnered with the San Jose State University School of Information to create the Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) International Scholar program. The SJSU iSchool funds an MLIS student to participate in the BSLISE International Scholar Program and provides the opportunity to join a collective of LIS scholars and professionals from around the world and learn from and with them on research activities to strengthen the quality of LIS education internationally. The BSLISE Scholar participates in BSLISE projects enhancing LIS education and improving mobility of LIS professionals around the world for a one-year term, which may be renewed. Sabrina Gunn was the Inaugural BSLISE International Scholar, 2022. Phoebe Yip is the 2023 BSLISE International Scholar.

The BSLISE working group is collaborating with the IFLA SAA working group Training and Education in Subject Access (TESA) - Debbie Schachter (LTR) and Diane Pennington (SET) and Aida Slavic (BSLISE) are the liaisons for communication to support and promote TESA activities.
- report on the *Guidelines* https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/AidaSlavic-TESA-Webinar-2022-08-31.pdf

The BSLISE communicates and shares information with organizations and individuals. The ABECIN LIS schools member directory (Brazil) has been shared with the BSLISE to invite fuller participation from the Brazilian LIS schools and to be shared via our website.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, PUBLICATIONS, AND ONLINE PRESENCE

Presentations (8)

1. University of Zululand (South Africa) IS Conference (6-8 September 2022
2. 47th Croatian Library Association General Conference and Assembly, The Providur's and Rector's palace, Zadar, October 5 – 8, 2022 and other opportunities - Contact: Jasenka Pleško. Jaya and Clara presented <PPT>

3. Pakistan Library Association (PLA) Conference (2-4 Nov. 2022, virtual)
Singh, D. & Warraich, N. F. (2022, November 4). *Preparing Librarians for Tomorrow: The New IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programmes* [Conference Presentation]. Pakistan Library Association Conference, Lahore, Pakistan.
4. 2° Congreso Internacional de Investigación sobre Educación en Bibliotecología, Documentación y Archivística, UNAM (Mexico), 17-19 October 2022 <program> - keynote by Clara and Ana Maria on "Transformar la educación en Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información: implementación de las Directrices de la IFLA 2022 en América Latina"
5. Agnes presented at a conference in Hungary, March 29th 2023, on competencies, the Guidelines and LIS education in Hungary
6. 24-26 Apr 2023 - XIII Encuentro de Directores y XII Encuentro de Docentes del Mercosur - Keynote
https://fic.edu.uy/noticia/encuentros-de-directores-y-docentes-de-escuelas-de-bibliotecologia-y-ciencia-de-la
7. LIS Education Programs Webinar, Wednesday, May 3, 2023; 10-11 am ET <Announcement on IFLA News
https://www.ifla.org/news/new-lis-education-programs-map-advances-ifla-strategy-contributions-welcome-and-may-3-2023-webinar/>
8. LIS Education Programs Map – A Webinar in Spanish and Portuguese, August 8, 2023; 11-12 am ET

Workshops (4)

1. EDICIC 2022 (November 21-23, 2022, virtual) - workshop submitted by Ana Maria and Clara, which will become the Iberian region promotion workshop. See notes of group discussions.
2. 24-26 Apr 2023 - XIII Encuentro de Directores y XII Encuentro de Docentes del Mercosur - workshop
https://fic.edu.uy/noticia/encuentros-de-directores-y-docentes-de-escuelas-de-bibliotecologia-y-ciencia-de-la
3. 5th AfLIA Conference and 7th African Library Summit which was held physically in Accra, Ghana, May 22, 2023 https://web.aflia.net/
4. IFLA WLIC 2023; Monday, 21 August, 12:30 PM – 02:00 PM, Session 080; Rotterdam. "Foundational Knowledge Areas: Unpacking LIS Competencies" session.

Publications (2)

1. LIS Guidelines translations: Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish. German, Korean, and Japanese are in review.
2. Clara M. Chu and Jaya Raju. IFLA Guidelines for LIS Education Programmes: A Global Framework to Transform LIS Education in Local Contexts," *SET Newsletter*, Vol. 24, No. 1; January 2023; pp. 9-15 https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/SETnewsletterJan2023.pdf

Resources

Guidelines promotion materials - prepared and available for use
LIS Education Programmes Guidelines FAQs https://bslise.org/lis-education-guidelines/

Online Presence

The BSLISE website is at bslise.org
Its social media presence was initiated in 2019 on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bslise. Students from around the world are featured on our Facebook account as part of the **Student Spotlight Project** started in 2020 – Spotlight activities on hold during the reporting period. We also have Twitter

https://twitter.com/BSLISE_ifla and Instagram https://www.instagram.com/bslise_ifla/ social media presence.

LIS Student Voices: Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Project (Albina supervising project, Anthony, Alice, Barbara, Jasenka) - Project description - the following webinars are scheduled:
Webinar Series for LIS Students (with Division C, 3rd year)
- October 26, 2022, 16-17:30 CEST Projects in Libraries <news>
- November 23, 2022, 16:00 – 17:30 CEST Classic and Non-Classic Career Fields for LIS Students <news>
- December 2nd 2022, 16:00 – 17:30 CEST Volunteering in Libraries <news>
- March 14, 2023 session - Interesting panel attended by Ana Maria, moderated by Christina

<u>Future Activities</u>

At its meeting on September 12, 2023, the BSLISE will hold a retreat to plan its 2023-24 activities, which will then be integrated into the SET and LTR action plans for 2023-24.