Undergraduate LIS Education in the U.S. and Europe:

Practices and Trends

By
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Background and Purpose of Study

- First Professional degree in North America is the master’s degree
- More and more LIS graduate schools either have or are considering offering undergraduate degrees
- Interesting to analyze these undergraduate degrees
- Concentrating on iSchools because they are new
Sixty-two schools have ALA accredited Master’s programs.

Fifteen (56%) of the 27 iSchools are ALA accredited.

Eight (53%) of the 15 ALA accredited iSchools offer undergraduate degrees.

ALA Accredited iSchools Offering Undergraduate Degrees

- Drexel
- Florida State
- Rutgers
- Syracuse
- Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Univ. of North Texas
- Univ. of Pittsburgh
- Univ. of Washington
• B.S. in Information Science: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Information Systems Minor); University of North Texas; University of Pittsburgh

• B.S. in Information Systems (BSIS): Drexel

• B.S. in Information Technology (BSIT): Drexel; Florida State

• B.S. in Software Engineering (BSSE): Drexel

• B.S. in Information Technology and Informatics: Rutgers

• B.S. in Informatics: University of Washington

• B.S. in Information Management and Technology: Syracuse
• **B.S. in Information Systems (BSIS)**
  - *Drexel*
    - Design, create, manage, and use modern *information systems*

• **B.S. in Information Technology (BSIT)**
  - *Drexel*
    - *IT infrastructure* and services, *networking technology, server* technology, and *systems analysis*...use of technologies for *solving complex problems in computing* systems
  - *Florida State*
    - *Information Technology, Information Science, Database* Concepts, or *Health Informatics* can provide you with a basic understanding of technology, as well as the *social and policy issues* surrounding computers, the *World Wide Web, data* storage and sharing, or health information.
• B.S. in Software Engineering (BSSE)
  ◦ Drexel
    ▷ Encompasses behavioral, managerial and technical aspects of software engineering and attempts to synthesize disciplinary paradigms and themes.

• B.S. in Information Technology and Informatics (ITI)
  ◦ Rutgers
    ▷ Evaluation, implementation, use, and management of information technologies for...organizations and corporations, and social and organization aspects of information and communication technologies.

Degree Elements – (CONTINUED)
• B.S. in Informatics
  ◦ University of Washington
    ‧ Linking information, technology, and people; tackling key social and technical problems to link between users of information and designers of information systems; connecting society with the information; programming, web development, and database management as well as courses in project management, user-centered design, systems analysis, and information policy

• B.S. in Information Management and Technology
  ◦ Syracuse
    ‧ Management, problem-solving, and communication skills that will help you work effectively with information users, regardless of the industry. You will also gain an understanding of technology so you can bridge information needs with technical designers.
• Certification for School Librarianship
• Certification for Public Libraries
• Continuing Education Courses
• Dual MS/MSIS Degree (on campus and online)
• B.S. in Education with Major in Library Science
• Minors in Library Science
Education for librarianship began in the late 19th Century and was essentially an American phenomenon.
- First library training approaches – experience and apprenticeship

1876-1900
- Ideal librarian almost superhuman: patient, manners, friend and equal of scholars, leader in world of learning,
  - In Roy and Sheldon, p. 12, quoting Mary W. Plummer, “Pratt Institute Library School” Library Journal 23 (1898): C60

Formal library education
- 1887-First library school, Columbia School of Library Economy
- 1926 Univ. of Chicago – first grad. School of librarianship so Masters Degrees became the norm for US library education
- 1960-1971 – Information Specialists and Information Science Education

Development of Formal Library Education US
Diversity is characteristic of EU LIS education

- Two groups:
  - Traditional/theoretical (UK and West Germany)
  - Training in routines and techniques

- EU library schools rarely exist independently
  - Most co-exist with other forms of national libraries or other libraries and culture institutions.

- Library Association are strong in U.S. Not in most EU countries (British exception)
- Cross-boundary issues
- Curricular issues
- Curriculum content and revision in LIS
- New breed of information professionals
- New information industry is not limited to place or libraries
- LIS education contexts vary across borders
- Higher education systems vary in regulations and legislative frameworks
- Academic credit systems
- Complexity of course structures

• Change in LIS Programs
• Closing of Library Schools (1980’s)
• Survival Strategies: merge with larger partner and expansion into IT fields (over half the iSchools resulted from mergers or realignments):
  - Rutgers partnered with communication and journalism
  - UCLA with education

- U of California, Berkley – School of Information
- U of California, Irvin – Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences
- U of California, LA - Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
- Carnegie Mellon U - School of Information Systems and Management, Heinz College
- Drexel U – College of Information Science and Technology
- Florida State U – College of Communication and Information
- Georgia Institute of Technology – College of Computing
- Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin – Berlin School of Library and Information Services
- U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – Graduate School of Library and Information Science
- Indiana U – School of Informatics and Computing
- Indiana U – School of Library and Information Science
- U of Maryland – College of Information Studies
- UMBC - Department of Information Systems
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**The iSchools Caucus (2010) – (continued)**
Challenges for training librarians
Challenges for serving communities
Future of library science education

Look forward to hearing your comments on this!
Thank you for your attention!

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