Per un’internazionalizzazione dell’insegnamento in biblioteconomia

12 marzo 2010
Milano Palazzo delle Stelline
Sala BRAMANTE
h. 9.30-13.00
Collaboration between the U.S. and the EU in Educating Librarians

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Presented at
Towards Internationalisation of LIS Education
Milan, Stelline, March 12th, 2010
Past Achievements:

**ICIMSS** (International Centre for Information Management Systems and Services) at Nicholas Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. 1998-2000

**ENSSIB** – Internationalization at the French National Library School
Past Achievements:

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs (University of Illinois – 1991 to date.)

Open Society Institute (focus on Eastern Europe)

Fulbright Program (Senior Specialist Program)

UI Research Fellows for two year collaboration.
Past Achievements:

University of Parma

International Master’s program in Information Studies (2000-2009) with Univ. of Northumbria University at Newcastle (UK) A distance program that had international lecturers.

Anna Maria Tammaro
Current Efforts

International Master in Digital Library Learning (DILL)

An EU funded project to recruit students from around the world to a two year program at three EU LIS schools (Tallinn, Estonia; Oslo, Norway; and Parma, Italy)

Faculty from the EU and the US participate

WISE Consortium
Current Efforts

The WISE Consortium
Future Efforts

EU-US Atlantis Proposal

A 2010 proposal to seek EU and US funding for a collaborative exchange of doctoral students and faculty at three US LIS schools and three EU LIS schools.

Future Efforts

ALISE-EUCLID-IFLA
Sponsored:
IFLA Satellite Meeting, 8-9 August 2010,
Borås, Sweden

“Cooperation and Collaboration in Teaching and Research: Trends in Library and Information Studies Education”
Obstacles and Barriers

Different education programs
Master’s degree first prof. degree in NA.

Bachelor’s degree in most of rest of world.
Obstacles and Barriers

Different employment requirements

Cultures and Economies
Obstacles and Barriers

Different employment requirements

N.A. has specific competencies

EU has more general curricular suggestions
LIS Competences in the U.S.

American Library Association

“Core Competences of Librarianship”

Approved January, 2009

Defines the basic knowledge by all who graduate from an ALA accredited master’s program. Librarians working in school, academic, public, special, governmental and other contexts may need more specialized knowledge beyond that outlined in the Core Competences.
LIS Competences in the U.S.

Eight Categories of Competences:

1. Foundations of the Profession
2. Information Resources
3. Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information
4. Technological Knowledge and Skills
5. Reference and User Services
6. Research
7. Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning
8. Administration and Management
LIS Competences in the U.S.

Note additional competences:
Over fifteen competences lists by other organizations related to LIS.

http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompspecial/knowledgecompetencies.cfm
LIS Competences in the E.U.

EUCLID

European Curriculum Reflections on Library and Information Science Education

Royal School of Librarianship and Information Science 2005
LIS Competences in the E.U.

Among Eight Long Term Objectives or the Reflections document, Two are especially relevant to competences:

- To develop a common conceptual framework for defining core elements within the LIS curriculum as a basis for enhancing mobility flows and accelerating the Bologna Process
- To work towards greater flexibility, transparency and comparability of curricula
LIS Competences in the E.U.
Thirteen chapters, Twelve have potential competences.

1) LIS curriculum in a European Perspective
2) Digitization of the cultural heritage,
3) Information literacy and learning,
4) Information seeking and information retrieval,
5) The information society: Barriers to the free access to information.
6) Knowledge Management/Information Management.
7) Knowledge Organization,
8) The Library in the Multi-Cultural Information Society,
9) Information and libraries in an historical perspective,
10) Mediation of culture in a European context,
11) Practice and theory
LIS Competences in the U.S.

Related Issues:

Need for increased enrollments in LIS programs.

Alternative Careers for LIS Graduates

iSchool movement with focus on research and broader scope of education.
LIS Competences in the U.S.

Other Issues:

Competences vs. Accreditation

Practitioners vs. LIS faculty

Students vs. LIS Faculty
Trends in North America & Europe

North America tradition of Professional Organizations such as ALA involved in quality control of LIS Professional education programs.

Europe with Bologna Process may be more directed toward having the educational programs or governments responsible for quality control.
Trends in North America & Europe

Within the IFLA Section on Education and Training, various options for quality control have been discussed.

Within North America, some LIS accredited programs have considered leaving ALA accreditation program.
Trends in North America & Europe

With the focus of the iSchool group on research and a broader base of education than professional degrees, will the iSchools will stimulate more examination of the relevance of the professional LIS degree?
It is possible that the coming years under the Bologna Process will determine the future of LIS education in Europe.

Economic factors will undoubtedly determine the direction of all LIS education as well as the iSchools.
The increase interest in exchanges of faculty and students would seem to be the more positive trend, predicting greater collaboration and cooperation between the U.S. and the EU.
Thank you for your attention.

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