inula notes

Indiana University Librarians Association

Volume 11, Number 4, September 1995

Communicate, participate, cooperate, succeed ...

Mary Krutulis, InULA Chair, 1995-1996

Happy New Year! Although, thankfully with all we have to do, it's not nearly 1996 yet, it is the start of a new year for InULA. The new officers are rallying around this year's goal of advancing the profession through support of the individual professional. A lot of what we hope to accomplish will center around the new InULA World Wide Web site which Jian Liu, Chair of the Publications Committee, has already established. Vice President Phil Bantin has agreed to spearhead with Jian the format and content of our new "home" on the web. In addition to membership information and application material, we hope to include Research Incentive Fund updates and applications, SLIS scholarship information, InULA Notes in electronic format, and, another major project for this year, a resource guide of and for IU Librarians. In addition, we are anxious to have your input concerning what you think should be included on our Web site, so please contact Phil, Jian, or any other board member if you have suggestions or ideas.

Board members are particularly excited about the resource guide which we envision as a clearing house of information where individual librarians can find those with a needed expertise as close as their own campus, or at least no farther than an email message away. In the near future we will be asking all IU librarians to tell us about your talents and skills, and to make those available to your colleagues by being part of the InULA resource guide.

Recognizing the expanding role of the InULA Publications Committee, the board will be seeking the members' approval to rename it the Communications Committee.

All of the above, and perhaps more, are in the plans for this year. Everything we plan can succeed only with the support and participation of individual librarians, so please join your organization and participate in the programs and activities as fully as you possibly can. Begin by attending the membership meeting which will be held at my home in Martinsville on September 29. The invitations and directions to the meeting will be appearing soon on the InULA Listserv. Best wishes to everyone for a successful and exciting year!

InULA WWW Address (URL):
http://www.indiana.edu/~inula/

New Master's Degree and Curricular Changes at SLIS

Debora Shaw, Associate Dean
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Recognizing the dramatic changes in information professionals' responsibilities and career options, the School of Library and Information Science has redesigned the Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) degree and introduced a Master of Information Science (M.I.S.) degree. These innovations position the school to provide students with the knowledge and skills in information organization, use, and management required for professional positions in today's diversified marketplace.

The June 1995 issue of *American Libraries*, the journal of the American Library Association, offers cheers to IU SLIS for the newly initiated M.I.S. degree and another initiative, the Specialization in African Studies Librarianship. The column also refers readers to the SLIS World Wide Web site (URL http://www-slis.lib.indiana.edu/) for further information about the school and its programs.

The new SLIS curriculum is outlined in Figure 1. All students are required to complete L401, a three-hour course on computer-based information tools. Going beyond computer literacy, this course introduces the essentials of information retrieval systems and accessing networked information resources. The courses of the common core introduce the fundamentals of library and information science, emphasizing organization, use, and management of information as well as research skills for information professionals. Depending upon the degree being sought, students then take courses from the core of the library science or information science tracks, followed by elective courses for advanced topics and specialization. All courses in a student's program are chosen in consultation with the faculty adviser to ensure that each graduate completes a focused program pertinent to his or her professional goals.

The M.L.S.

The Master of Library Science program prepares students who will take positions of responsibility in dynamic environments and institutions. The new curriculum requires completion of 36 graduate credit hours in SLIS, and, except in instances of established dual degree programs or specializations, does not permit transfer of credit from other departments. This change from the former curriculum recognizes that most students enter the program with little or no background in librarianship and, therefore, need to concentrate on germane topics in preparation for professional positions.

In addition to the distribution of courses required from the common core and the M.L.S. core, students in the M.L.S. program will select additional courses from those remaining in the common core, the M.L.S. core, the M.I.S. core, or the elective courses.

The total of 39 credit hours (L401 plus 36 graduate credit hours) required for the M.L.S. degree may be completed in one calendar year, including both sessions of one summer. Students are advised that such one year completion involves overload scheduling, and it is best to allow at least one extra semester or an additional summer (two sessions) beyond the calendar year for degree completion.

The M.I.S.

The Master of Information Science degree is new to SLIS, and helps to instantiate the scope implied by the school's name. Applicants have expressed interest in a variety of non-library professional positions with business, government agencies, and in other countries where the term "library" sometimes does not connote the information handling skills expected of librarians in the United States.

The degree focuses on understanding and applying information technology and the management of information resources. It requires successful completion of 42 hours of graduate credit, of which six hours may be taken outside the School.

In addition to the distribution of courses required from the common core and the M.I.S. core, students will select additional courses from those remaining in the common core, the M.I.S. core, or the elective courses.

Students should plan on a minimum of one calendar year, including both sessions of one summer, plus an additional regular semester (or summer) to complete the 45 credit hours (L401 plus 42 graduate credit hours) required for the M.I.S. degree. This plan involves overload scheduling, and it is best to allow at least four regular semesters plus both sessions of one summer or the equivalent for degree completion.

Accreditation

The M.L.S. program is accredited by the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation (COA). It will be reviewed for reaccreditation in 1999, when the school will also apply for accreditation of the M.I.S. degree. Should the COA consider the M.I.S. program, and if the committee accredits it, the experience of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina indicates that accreditation will be retroactive to degrees conferred before 1999. However, it is worth noting that many M.I.S. students and their potential employers do not see ALA accreditation as particularly relevant to their career or hiring decisions.

Introducing the New Curriculum

The new curriculum, with its L401 prerequisite, choices among electives, and multiplicity of options, increases the complexity of program requirements and class scheduling. The previous five required courses have expanded to a menu of fifteen courses covering the nucleus of both theory and practice; as a consequence, it is no longer possible to offer all core courses three times per year. With the new curricula, it is more important than ever to plan a course of study wisely, ensuring that prerequisites are fulfilled and desired electives fit into a student's schedule. Students will need to consult even more closely with their advisers, and records of program planning will be maintained to ensure focus and pertinence of each individual's degree program.

In recognition of the varying strengths and resources at each campus, courses toward the M.L.S. and M.I.S. will be offered at the Indianapolis and Bloomington campuses; M.L.S. courses will be offered at the South Bend campus.

Students entering SLIS in the fall semester 1995 will follow the new curriculum as outlined in the 1995-97 *Bulletin of the School of Library and Information Science* and on the SLIS World Wide Web site at http://www-slis.lib.indiana.edu/. Students who have entered the program before this semester have the option of working under the former M.L.S. or either of the new degree programs. In this period of transition, as the former curriculum is phased out and new courses are brought on stream, we expect that even more opportunities for improvement will become obvious. We encourage comments and advice from SLIS students and alumni, adjunct faculty, and all who care about the preparation of the next generation of information professionals.

Members Welcome!

InULA welcomes new members anytime throughout the year. If you are interested in joining, contact Lou Malcomb, UGL, IUB (email: malcomb@indiana.edu).

InULA Notes is a publication of the Indiana University Librarians Association. Letters and comments should be addressed to:

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Reference Department, Main Library, Bloomington

InULA Notes is available on the InULA www site at:
http://www.indiana.edu/~inula/

INDIANA UNVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

OUTLINE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS
NEW CURRICULUM: FALL, 1995

PRE-REQUISITE COURSE FOR ALL M.L.S. AND M.I.S. STUDENTS

To attain appropriate information technology skills, every student must complete the following course, preferably in the first semester of enrollment. L401 does *not* count toward the credit hours required for a SLIS graduate degree.

L401 Computer-based Information Tools

COMMON CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL M.L.S. AND M.I.S. STUDENTS

A candidate for either the Master of Library Science or the Master of Information Science degree must complete at least three of the following four common core courses (selected in consultation with the student's adviser):

L503 User Needs and Behavior in Theory and Practice
L505 Organization and Representation of Knowledge and Information
L507 The Management of Information Environments
L509 Introduction to Research and Statistics

M.L.S. STUDENTS Core Requirements

A candidate for the Master of Library Science degree must complete 36 credit hours of graduate course work, all of which must be taken from IU-SLIS. A student must complete at least three of the following five core courses (selected in consultation with the student's adviser):

L520 Bibliographic Access and Control
L522 Perspectives on Librarianship, Literacy, Communication, and Reading
L524 Information Sources and Services
L526 Library Automation
L528 Collection Development and Management

M.I.S. STUDENTS Core Requirements

A candidate for the Master of Information Science degree must complete 42 credit hours of graduate course work: at least 36 of which must be taken from IU-SLIS. A student must complete at least four of the following six core courses (selected in consultation with the student's adviser):

L542 Introduction to Human Computer Interaction
L543 Strategic Intelligence
L544 Information Technology Standardization
L545 Systems Analysis and Design
L546 User-centered Database Design
L547 Organizational Information Resource

ALL M.L.S. AND M.I.S. STUDENTS

Core courses and additional units to complete degree requirements must be selected in consultation with the student's adviser. Students should plan their courses of study with the awareness of course scheduling rotations on various campuses. This is particularly true at the IUPUI and IU South Bend campuses where most courses are offered less frequently than at Bloomington.