Library and Information Science

Director
- Lucilia (Lucy) Santos Green

Graduate degree: MA in library and information science
Graduate certificate: special collections librarianship
Faculty: https://slis.uiowa.edu/faculty-and-staff
Website: https://slis.uiowa.edu/

Library and information science is an interdisciplinary field of study that centers on the documentation that records our stories, memory, history, and knowledge. Library and information science professionals serve as custodians of printed materials, records, photographs, audiovisual materials, and ephemera, in both analog and digital form. Librarians and other information professionals collect, organize, preserve, and provide access to these materials and are the stewards of the knowledge that they contain. The School of Library and Information Science connects people to the resources that they need to understand their histories, communities, and the world around them. The school advocates for free and open access to these resources and train folks to use these materials to better themselves and society as lifelong learners.

The school offers the MA in library and information science and a variety of dual degrees and certificates to specialize in these areas of librarianship, including joint offerings with the UI Center for Book, the public digital humanities program, Special Collections at the University of Iowa Main Library, and a school librarian endorsement for licensed K-12 teachers. In addition, the degree may be pursued while completing other degrees at the University of Iowa, including other master's and PhD degrees. Undergraduates at the University of Iowa also may apply for the Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) degree program and complete their baccalaureate degree in combination with the MA in library and information science.

Student Organizations and Activities

All MA students in the school are automatically members of LISSO, the Library and Information Science Student Organization, which also serves as the student chapter of the American Library Association. LISSO sponsors various activities, such as speaker series, workshops, brown bag lunches, and social events. Participation in LISSO events provides students with significant opportunities for professional and extracurricular growth. Students are encouraged to join other state and national professional organizations.

Honor Society

The Beta Beta Theta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the international honor society for library and information science, is located at the University of Iowa. Each year new members are chosen from the top 25% of the preceding year's graduating class. To be eligible for membership, graduates must achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.75, demonstrate professional promise, and be recommended by the faculty.

Related Certificate
Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and Technologies

Students may apply to earn the Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and Technologies. The program requires 15 additional s.h. of graduate credit through the University of Iowa Center for the Book for students who are enrolled in the joint Library and Information Sciences MA/Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and Technologies program. For more information, see the MA and Certificate in Book Studies in the catalog.

Gunther Commons

Gunther Commons, a state-of-the-art collaborative equipped with workstations, is the school's combined student center and technology lab. Individuals and teams of students gather in the collaboratory to work on course assignments and to gain experience with specialized software that supports the latest teaching technologies. Students have access to Windows and Macintosh computers fully equipped for videoconferencing, and seminar classrooms with videoconferencing systems and large high-definition screens.

University of Iowa Libraries

All of the resources of the University of Iowa Libraries are available to the school's students and faculty. The system contains more than 4 million volumes in the Main Library and six departmental libraries.

The web-based catalog provides access to books and periodicals, electronic indexes, and full-text databases held by the university libraries. In addition, InfoHawk+ provides online resource access to selected internet and CD-ROM resources arranged by subject and academic discipline. Wireless internet access is available in the Main Library.

The school benefits with proximity to the Learning Commons. It encompasses the majority of public space on the first floor of the Main Library. The Learning Commons is a technology-
infused, comfortable and flexible learning space, and an academic and information help center.

The third floor of the Main Library houses the map collection, Special Collections, and University Archives, including the Iowa Women's Archives.

Other Libraries

Students have access to a variety of libraries through field trips, practicum experience, and personal use: the State Historical Society of Iowa library in Iowa City; the Iowa City, Coralville, and Cedar Rapids public and school libraries; the Augustana, Coe, Cornell, Mount Mercy, and Grinnell college libraries; and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch.

Other Resources

The second floor of the University Capitol Centre houses the instructional services and campus services departments of the university's Information Technology Services. It provides instructional and research computing facilities and services for the university community. All university students, staff, and faculty may use the center's computers for university-related research, thesis preparation, and class work. Instructional Technology Centers provide campuswide access to the university's academic computing resources and the internet.

Courses

Library and Information Science

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:4150</td>
<td>Introduction to Book Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:4910</td>
<td>The Book in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:4920</td>
<td>The Book in Early Modern Europe</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5010</td>
<td>Libraries, Culture, and Society</td>
<td>1-3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5020</td>
<td>Foundations of Computing</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:5030</td>
<td>Information Organization</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:5040</td>
<td>College and University Libraries</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5042</td>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
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<td>SLIS:5044</td>
<td>School Library Media Administration</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5200</td>
<td>Innovation and Technology Methodology</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5220</td>
<td>Resources for Children</td>
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SLIS:5030 Information Organization  3 s.h.
Introduction to information organization, the systems and standards used in libraries and information centers to describe and organize documents and records for optimal stewardship and retrieval; hands-on experience in creating media (e.g., LibGuides, Omeka galleries) and encoding XML documents; preparation for further practice in cataloging, metadata, preservation, and retrieval. Requirements: admission to library and information science.

SLIS:5041 College and University Libraries  3 s.h.
Focus on praxis of academic librarianship—the way theories and ideas are applied and embodied in day-to-day work of librarians and organization of academic libraries; exploration of different types of academic libraries and their goals, functions, services, and contexts in which they operate; different types of academic librarianship; development of a preparedness for engaging complexities of academic library work as it progresses the goals of higher education; for students interested in academic librarianship, archives, and special collections. Requirements: admission to library and information science program.

SLIS:5042 Public Libraries  3 s.h.
Modern public libraries were founded on principles of equality, democracy, intellectual freedom, and public good; exploration of the historical development of public libraries and current issues related to their management and operations; practical projects and observation of library operations; opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world work; for students interested in working in a public library or archives. Requirements: admission to library and information science program.

SLIS:5044 School Library Media Administration  3 s.h.
How to create and deliver a program that focuses on teaching responsibilities of school librarians and their collaborative role in the school; examination of research, standards, curricular frameworks, information process, and inquiry models; administrative and leadership roles of teacher librarian including policy and procedure development, budgeting, and program evaluation; development of a functional library program plan.

SLIS:5200 Innovation and Technology Methodology  3 s.h.
Power of technology to connect, communicate, create, convince, and collaborate within library setting; development of a personal philosophy and network within the innovative technology realm; introduction to a variety of multimedia tools; creation of projects on multiple platforms.

SLIS:5220 Resources for Children  3 s.h.
Children's literature and librarianship are entwined, interdisciplinary fields that now encompass everything from storytelling to new media, reflecting the field's service to a population spanning from newborns to 14-year-olds; survey of issues that youth librarians must understand by studying a progression of ages and developmental stages, issues of professional practice, and elements of genre and media for young people, anchored by books and media suited to these ages; strategies and resources that youth services professionals can use for creating responsive services and collections in the 21st century.
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<td>Resources for Young Adults</td>
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<td>SLIS:5240</td>
<td>Resources for Adults</td>
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<td>SLIS:5520</td>
<td>Studies in Book History and Technologies</td>
<td>0-3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:5530</td>
<td>Preservation Management</td>
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<td>SLIS:5535</td>
<td>Book Conservation</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:5600</td>
<td>Reading Culture: History and Research in Print and Digital Media</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5630</td>
<td>Introduction to Special Collections and Archives</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:5700</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:6020</td>
<td>Literacy and Learning</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:6040</td>
<td>Media Production Workshop</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:6115</td>
<td>Information and Inquiry</td>
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<td>SLIS:6130</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<td>SLIS:6140</td>
<td>Digital Environments and Library Users</td>
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<td>SLIS:6145</td>
<td>Digital Preservation and Stewardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6150</td>
<td>Information Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6155</td>
<td>Information Visualization</td>
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**Prerequisites**: SLIS:5010.
SLIS:6170 Management, Teams, and Leadership 3 s.h.
Managers, teams, and leaders are critical for effective operations of libraries and information centers; exploration of principles and practices of organizational management, human resources, financial management, budgeting, communications, policy making, and strategic planning; strategies for cultivating and supporting inclusive, culturally competent organizations and structured approaches for planning and evaluating library programs and services; practical assignments that prepare students to work in libraries and archives. Requirements: admission to library and information science program.

SLIS:6250 Cataloging and Classification 3 s.h.
Introduction to various systems used to describe materials and information in library catalogs; principles of organizing catalog information for effective retrieval; standards used across libraries, archives, and museums including Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR2), Resource Description and Access (RDA), Dewey Decimal System, and Library of Congress Classification; knowledge and skills needed to begin work as professional catalogers in a diverse range of libraries.

SLIS:6255 Rare Books Cataloging 3 s.h.
Application of cataloging standards to rare books and other special collections materials; hands-on cataloging of rare books and visits to local collections; critical skills and confidence necessary to begin cataloging rare, special, and unusual books using accepted standards from the field; for students interested in archives and special collections librarianship.

SLIS:6330 Collection Development 3 s.h.
Collecting is a core library activity that includes various types of media collected from traditional print to digital media; focus on curating an inclusive collection that is accessible to all library patrons; examination of the life cycle of a resource within the library from understanding intellectual freedom policies to identification of resource needs, selection and acquisition, promotion and use, to deselection; collection development across library settings and how collection development relates to instruction in libraries. Prerequisites: SLIS:5010 and SLIS:5030.

SLIS:6335 Metadata Theories and Applications 3 s.h.
Introduction to concepts, principles, functional requirements, and practices of metadata; emphasis on metadata implementations in library, archive, and museum communities; extensive hands-on exercises; application and design of metadata element sets and schemas, data exchange formats, and value vocabularies.

SLIS:6345 Stewardship of Information and Collections 3 s.h.
Library collections provide a foundation for library service; exploration of issues affecting development and management of library collections including policies, assessment, budgeting, selection, deselection, acquisitions, partnerships, formats, marketing, legal issues, cooperation, and ethics; strategies for cultivating and supporting inclusive, culturally competent collections, and how this supports intellectual freedom; practical assignments that prepare students for collection stewardship work in public, academic, and school libraries. Prerequisites: SLIS:5010. Corequisites: SLIS:5010, if not taken as a prerequisite. Requirements: admission to library and information science program.

SLIS:6350 Archives: Theory and Practice 3 s.h.
Archives are the traces of people and places and can be independent organizations or found in academic, public, and community libraries; exploration of how archives are formed and ways in which archival records are used to construct histories; practice-based assignments that provide opportunities for students to engage with local archival collections; for students interested in archives, special collections, records management, or who may encounter archives and manuscripts in library and information science practice.

SLIS:6355 Advanced Topics in Special Collections 3 s.h.
Advanced focused study in the areas relating to special collections and archives. Prerequisites: SLIS:5630 or SLIS:6350. Corequisites: SLIS:5630 or SLIS:6350, if not taken as a prerequisite.

SLIS:6370 Topics in Book Studies 3 s.h.
Topics relevant to book studies and special collections. Same as UICB:6370.

SLIS:6411 Humanities Librarianship: Inquiry, Learning, and Knowledge 3 s.h.
Processes and resources that humanities students and scholars use to find information and create knowledge considered in context of larger cultural forces that shape inquiry, and library and university resources that support scholarly communication; for students interested in humanities subject librarianship, special collections, and humanities centered archives.

SLIS:6490 Information Policy and Ethics 3 s.h.
Recent developments in production, use, and organization of information have created new opportunities and raised ethical challenges that demand responses from information professionals; exploration of major ethical frameworks and their relevance for addressing ethical issues arising in information-intensive environments; practice-based assignments that provide opportunities for students to apply ethical theories to key ethical issues faced in various information-intensive contexts. Same as IGPI:6490.

SLIS:6520 Practicum in Libraries and Information Centers 3 s.h.
Focus on practical application of theory; students gain experience in library and information science work, work with faculty member to identify opportunities for practicum placement in libraries and other organizations, and set professional and personal goals; 120 hours of fieldwork; participation in classroom conversations. Requirements: 15 s.h. of SLIS coursework.

SLIS:6521 Distance and Online Education: Practicum in Library and Information Centers 3 s.h.
Supervised field experience in selected libraries and information centers; emphasis on application of theory to practice; at least 120 hours of fieldwork. Prerequisites: SLIS:5010 and SLIS:5020 and SLIS:5030 and SLIS:6170 and SLIS:6115. Requirements: minimum of 15 s.h. of SLIS coursework.

SLIS:6530 School Library Media Practicum 3 s.h.
Field experience in an elementary and a secondary school library program for a total of 40 hours; discussion of various program components including delivery of library's instructional program, collaborative efforts, integration of information literacy skills and technology to support learning, and administrative and operational tasks involved in managing a school library program; students facilitate a lesson at both sites and complete a project that supports library instruction. Prerequisites: SLIS:5044.
**SLIS:6570 Independent Study**  1-3 s.h.
Formal contract between student and faculty member. Requirements: formal proposal.

**SLIS:6571 Distance and Online Education: Independent Study**  1-3 s.h.
Formal contract between student and faculty member; opportunity to pursue in-depth research in a particular area of interest that does not duplicate an existing course in the curriculum; students meet with faculty member to design a plan of study and submit a bibliography and description of the final project. Requirements: formal proposal.

**SLIS:6580 Thesis**  0-6 s.h.

**SLIS:6900 Introduction to Legal Research for Library and Information Science Students**  3 s.h.
Introducing students without legal training to the concepts and tools necessary to provide basic legal research assistance in an academic, public, or special library; structure of the U.S. legal system, reading and understanding legal citations, and free and subscription legal research resources; ethics of providing legal research assistance to non-lawyers. Corequisites: SLIS:5010.