Library and Information Science

Interim Director
  • Jennifer Burek Pierce

Graduate degree: M.A. 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 (LIS) is an interdisciplinary field of study that centers on the documentation that records our stories, memory, history, and knowledge. LIS 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 (SLIS) 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 M.A. in library and information science and the graduate Certificate in Special Collections Librarianship. SLIS offers 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 Ph.D. 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 M.A. in library and information science.

Student Organizations and Activities

All M.A. 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 also 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 percent of the preceding year's graduating class. To be eligible for membership, graduates must achieve a g.p.a. of at least 3.75, demonstrate professional promise, and be recommended by the faculty.

Related Certificate

Public Digital Humanities

Students may apply to earn the Certificate in Public Digital Humanities. The program requires 12 s.h. of graduate credit and offers credentials to students who plan to incorporate digital technology into their future research, training, or careers. For more information, see the Certificate in Public Digital Humanities in the Catalog.