



**Editor's Column**

**By Dr. Susmita Chakraborty**

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Wish you all a very happy and fruitful 2018! We at SET has spent 2017 with many interesting activities. We had several programs within WLIC 2017: Open Sessions, Standing Committee Meetings among others. We did collaborate a lot with other Sections. There were two SET programs in the Open Session of WLIC 2017. One was chaired by Lisa Travis and the other open session on BSLISE theme, were co-chaired by Jaya Raju and Felipe Martinez. Felipe Martinez, the outgoing Convener of SIG on LIS Education in Developing Countries, said that this year's Open Session has extracted interests from many global LIS professionals. LIS-Dev Program showcased efforts from Latin American participants and from African participants.

The year 2017 was a memorable year for SET as we are continuing our research project BSLISE: Building Strong Library and Information Science Education. The current SET research project on BSLISE has done an international survey which received about 700 hundred responses from 100 countries.

A report on BSLISE works is to be presented by some team members at ALISE 2018 Conference. We welcome everyone to visit [www.lisedu.wordpress.org](http://www.lisedu.wordpress.org) to know more about BSLISE project. WE thank our past chairs (Primoz Juznic and Suzanne Samir) for their

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contributions and welcome our new chairs: Saif Al-Jabri and Kendra S. Albright. We also welcome Elham Sayyad Abdi for succeeding Felipe Martinez as the Convener of LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG. We, the Members of the Standing Committee of SET, take this opportunity to request your active participation in our activities. Please keep up sending us reports of LIS education and training events from your region.

Apart from the regular features, this issue of SET Bulletin has one article on LIS Education in Philippines and another article on LIS education in Romania by Robert Coravu and Angela Repanovici. Happy browsing!

### **Message from the SET Chairs**

**By Dr. Saif Al-Jabri<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Kendra S. Albright<sup>2</sup>**

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2. Professor and Director, School of Information (The iSchool at Kent State), Kent State University, Kent, OH, USA; Editor-in-Chief, Libri: The International Journal of Libraries and Information Studies

*Despite the change that affects our lives during the information age and the fast developments in information technology and intelligence, the human brain is still the best and its role is still vital in producing, gathering, organizing and disseminating information.*

*This good news means that there is still a need for librarians and information specialists to play a role in steering the information age, but in different environments and with different tools and techniques.*

*Therefore, we should embrace these changes; not only in the workplace, but also in our schools and LIS departments of higher education as well. We should have a global view*



and a focus on how we prepare ourselves for the present and the future. In order to do so, we should think and work together and learn from each other.

**IFLA SET: Know your SC Members**

**ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ - PERALEJO:**

**Current Affiliation:** Chairman, Technical Committee for Library and Information Science, Commission on Higher Education, C. P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

**EDUCATION:** Master of Education, Major in Educational Technology (1988) and Bachelor of Library Science (1975)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:** IFLA-SET, Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL), International Association of School Librarianship (IASL), Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI), Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), Philippine Association of Professional Regulatory Board Members, University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association (UPLSAA), Philippine Association for Media Education (PAME), Philippine Association of School Librarians (PASL), Philippine Universities Audio Visual Center, Inc. (PUAVC).



**PUBLICATIONS:** "Alternative Services: A Must for School Libraries", *New Challenges in Library Services in the Developing World : Proceedings of the Eight Congress of Southeast Asian Libraries*, Jakarta, Indonesia, June 11-14, 1990.

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"Ensuring a Continuing Professional Education Among Registered Librarians in the

Countries: Conference Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians, Hanoi, Vietnam, April 20-23, 2009. Elizabeth has edited the first peer-reviewed PLAI Journal (published in 2016) as well as the 2017 PLAI Handbook of Information.



**Stacey Greenwell**

Since 2001, Dr. Stacey Greenwell has served the University of Kentucky Libraries in several roles, including Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research, Head of the Information Commons, and Head of Desktop Support. Recently she began working with the information literacy and assessment department to provide instructional design support, teach, and work on research projects. Dr. Greenwell is a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association and has held numerous leadership roles. She is a member of the Programme Committee for the European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL). She has taught an academic libraries course for the iSchools at Syracuse University and the University of Kentucky. She co-authored the second edition of *Academic Librarianship* with G. Edward Evans which will be published in January 2018.



**LIS Education in the Philippines**

by

**Elizabeth R. Peralejo**  
Chair, Technical Committee for LIS  
Commission on Higher Education

Librarianship in the Philippines is one of the **44** professions being regulated by the Board for Librarians (BFL) under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). This came about in 1990 by **Republic Act No. 6966** ("An Act Regulating the Practice of Librarianship and Prescribing the Qualifications of Librarians"), and in 2003 by **Republic Act No. 9246** ("An Act Modernizing the Practice of Librarianship in the Philippines"). Those who aspire to practice as such are required to finish a Bachelor or a Master of Library and Information Science (BLIS/MLIS) degree, pass the Librarian's Licensure Examination, and obtain a license. On the other hand, the government agency that is tasked to regulate the schools and their program offerings is the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), by of **Republic Act No. 7722** or "The Higher Education Act of 1994". Under the Commission is the Technical Committee for Library and Information Science (TC-LIS), whose main responsibility is to develop and improve the LIS curriculum and, at the same time, assess and monitor schools that are applying for or have already been offering the BLIS/MLIS program.

The state-run **University of the Philippines** pioneered the offering of a two-year Associate Certificate in 1914, then the formal degree programs at the baccalaureate level in 1917 and the graduate level in 1952. As per the data provided by CHED in 2015, a total of **84** schools all over the country have been granted the authority to offer the baccalaureate and the master's programs (BLIS - **64**; MLIS - **20**). Most of these library schools are being supervised by a Program Coordinator or a Department Chair either under the Dean of the College of Education or the College of Computer Studies. Most of the



faculty teaching the courses are part timers, having a maximum load of nine (9) units or three (3) courses per semester. To supplement the teaching faculty, library and information technology specialists from other libraries, information centers or from the industry are invited as lecturers.

As regard to the curriculum, the CHED Memo Order No, 24, series of 2015 entitled "**Revised Policies, Standards, and Guidelines for the BLIS Program**" is now being enforced. This revised PSG requires a minimum of **54 units (18 courses)** of General Education and **84 units of 28 professional courses**. The professional courses are divided into three categories: (a) Basic/Core Courses, (b) Information and Communication Technology Courses, (c) Special Topics (LIS/Free Electives). The BLIS program also provides for the completion of a thesis/research project and a one-year practicum as requirements for graduation. Higher education institutions may add preferred courses or modify the suggested program of study provided the required courses will be included and the minimum total number of credit units will be met.

A regular monitoring of library schools is being conducted by a team of assessors from the CHED and the PRC who consider their curriculum, faculty, and resources and give the necessary recommendations for improvement. Those schools that do not comply with the recommendations are issued warnings and continuous non-compliance can result to closure. On the other hand, those that are offering distinct academic programs that have continually exhibited excellent qualities are identified as Center of Excellence (COE) or Center of Development (COD). COEs and CODs can avail of financial assistance from CHED by submitting project proposals that are geared towards improving instruction, research, and publication, as well as extension and linkages.

One of the findings of these monitoring visits is that a number of library schools have stopped offering the program due to lack of student enrollees and/or lack of qualified faculty to teach the courses. To address this concern, the following measures are being undertaken, among others: apply marketing strategies to entice students to enroll in the



program (e.g. giving scholarships to deserving students, providing tuition and/or miscellaneous fee subsidy, providing student assistantship program with allowance); conduct continuing professional development activities and teacher training courses; and provide various incentives for faculty to develop professionally and, if possible, teach full time.

**Conference Report from India: 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
TRASFORMING LIBRARY 2017: A BRIEF REPORT**

**By Dr. Sangram Brahma**

Librarian, Central Institute of Technology  
Kokrajhar, Assam, India

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Transforming Library, 2017 was held on 8<sup>TH</sup>, 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10 July 2017 at Central Institute of Technology Kokrajhar and was organised by Central Library, CIT Kokrajhar, BTC, Assam in Association with Department of Library and Information Science (Golden Jubilee Year), Guwahati University, Guwahati-14.

The conference received huge response from the library professionals of India and abroad. Total 300 delegates took part in the conference. The Inaugural Session was started at 10 AM on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 with national anthem of India followed by anthem of Guwahati University and Bodo traditional Dance. The distinguished guests were felicitated by organizer with mementos.

Dr. Sangrang Brahma, Organising Secretary and Librarian, Central Library, CIT Kokrajhar delivered welcome address by welcoming all the distinguished guest and participant from abroad and different part of our country to CIT Kokrajhar and Bodoland. He apprised that total 123 papers were selected for presentation and publication in the conference proceedings out of about 150 papers and express his pleasure as said publication is the first conference publication of CIT Kokrajhar and First ever International Conference of CIT Kokrajhar.



The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Khampa Borgoyari, Hon`ble Deputy Chief of Bodoland Territorial Council. He also released the conference proceedings. Mr. Borgoyari expressed his pleasure to be the part of 1<sup>st</sup> international conference on transforming library 2017. He recalled the birth and development of CIT Kokrajhar and his personal involvement in the entire period. He also gave brief account of development of education sector in BTAD area and praised the role of CIT central library as umbrella library of entire Bodoland area and advised to serve entire Bodoland area.

Prof. Debkumar Chakraborti, Director of CIT Kokrajhar delivered a short speech as chief patron and welcomed all the participant. He also wished a grand success of the conference.

Mr Vivek Mehra , CEO, Sage publication emphasised on how we can enriched knowledge repository going hand to hand by library and publishing industry in right direction. He praised CIT library which can be compared with top ranking library of our country. He also stressed on issues on concept of IP, copy right, role of institution and learning for free.

Prof. Alaka Buragohain and Prof. Narendra Nath Sarmah, both former professors of Department of Library And Information Science, Guwahati University were awarded with "Life Time Award" for the contribution in the field of Library and Information Science in North East India and India. Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh who is the chairman of the Organising Committee and Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Guwahati University read out the citation of both the awardees.

In their speech, both Prof. Buragohain and Prof. Sarmah thanked the organizers for the award and recalled their days in Guwahati University and assure their service for LIS profession in days to come.

Prof. Prasanna Ranaweera, Director of National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka participated as Chief Guest of the inaugural session. He addressed as saying library as heart of education. He stressed on modern ICT





tools for better library services and visualized libraries of tomorrow based on the needs of the users. He opined that the tradition and modernization should go simultaneously.

Prof. Clara M Chu, Director and Distinguished Professor, Mortenson Centre for International Libraries, United States of America and Prof. C.R. Karisddappa delivered keynote address on the inaugural session on the main theme of the conference. Prof. Rajani Kanta Barman, the Conference Director spoke a few words about the conference.

In his Chairman's address, Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University highlighted the initiative taken by government as such digital India which can be very much instrumental for transformation of libraries in right direction. The inaugural session was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Sangrang Barhma, Organising Secretary and Librarian of the Central Library, CIT Kokrajhar.

### **Technical session I- Transforming Library**

The first technical session was chaired by Prof. Bhim Dhoj Shrestha, HOD, Department of Library and Information Science, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal and Co- Chaired by Dr. M Madhusudan, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information science, University of Delhi and Dr. Bikika Laloo, Associate Professor, Department of Library Information science, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

There were 4 (Four) Keynote presentations. Prof. Jose Rodolfo Hernandez- Carrion, Department of Applied Economics, University of Valencia, Spain delivered his Keynote address on Transforming Libraries: From a Traditional to a 21<sup>st</sup> century sharing economic model. Prof. Prasanna Ranaweera, Director of National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka presented his keynote address on need for transforming libraries for tomorrow: how the library should adapt to the teaching learning process of 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Prof. A.S Chandel, Librarian, Central Library, Sikkim University



presented his keynote address on the topic "Call for transforming library: some stray observations and thinking". Mr. Manoj Kumar K, Scientist D, Inlibnet Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujrat also presented his keynote address on the line of the theme of this technical session.

All together 14 papers were presented in this session and another 4 numbers of papers from technical session II also presented in this session.

### **Technical session II- ICT application in the libraries**

The second technical session was chaired by Prof. Alaka Buragohain, former Professor Department of Library science, Gauhati University and Co- chaired by Dr. Kishore Sathpathy, Librarian, Central Library, NIT Silchar and Dr. Saptarishi Ghosh, Head of the Department, Department Library and Information Science, University of North Bengal, West Bangal. There were two keynote presentations which were presented by Mr. H. G. Hosamani, Scientist C, Inlibnet Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and Mr Upendra Prasad Mainali, Chief of Nepal National Library, Nepal. All together 18 out of 29 papers were presented in this session.

### **Technical session III- Library Management**

The third technical session was chaired by Mr. Wooma Shankar Devnath, Librarian, K.K. Handique Library, Gauhati University and Co- Chaired by Dr Utpal Das, Deputy Librarian, Dibrugarh University, Assam and Dr. Susmita Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, West Bengal. Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma, Librarian, Assam University, Silchar, Assam presented keynote address in this technical session. Out of 11 papers 7 papers were presented in this technical session.

**Panel discussion I: Transforming Library: Looking Past, Present and Future.** This panel discussion was a brainstorming session where Prof. N. Laxman Rao, UGC Emeritus Professor led the session as the moderator. Prof. Pijus Kanti Panigrahi, Head of the Department,



Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, Prof. Bhim Bhoj Shrestha, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, Prof. Jose Rodolfo Hernandez carrion, University of Velencia, Spain, Prof. Prasanna Ranaweera, Director of National Institute of Library and Information Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Prof. Muhammad Mezbah ul Islam Head & Chairman Department of Library science, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Prof. N. N. Sarmah, Formar Professor, Department of Library and Information Science Gauhati University, Guwahati were the panellist in this session. All the panellist discussed every pros and cons of "Transforming Library: Looking Past, Present and Future". It was a brainstorming and fruitful session with deliveries from highly proclaimed national and international experts in the field of Library and Information Science.

#### **Technical Session IV: LIS Education and Research**

The fourth technical session was chaired by Prof. Pijus Kanti Panigrahi, Head of the Department, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, West Bengal and co-chaired by Dr. Ch. Ibohal Singh, Department of Library and Information Science, Manipur University, Manipur and Dr. Tilok Hazarika, Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, Assam.

There were 3 (Three) keynote Speakers in this session. Prof. Pijus Kanti Panigrahi,, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, West Bengal presented his keynote paper on "Transforming Library and Information science Education". Dr Ibohal Singh from Manipur University presented his paper on "LIS education, research & training in India: Towards transforming libraries". Prof. Muhammad Mezbah ul Islam, Head & Chairman Department of Library science, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh presented his keynote paper on "The 21<sup>st</sup> century work place of information literacy, training programme for Bangladesh: Is this empowering Students". Out of 23 papers 19 papers were presented in this session.

**Technical Session V: Best practices in the Library: The last technical session which is technical session 5 (Five) was chaired by Prof. Subarna Kumar Das, Department of Library**



and Information Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal and Co- Chaired by Dr. Manoj Kumar Verma, Asst. Prof, Mizoram University, and Dr. Monawwer Eqbal, Deputy Librarian, Tezpur University, Assam. Prof. C. R. Karisddappa, Emeritus Professor, Karnataka University presented as keynote paper on the topic "Are all ideas Second-hand and Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh, University of North Bengal, West Bengal also presented a keynote paper. Out of 23 papers 14 papers were presented in this session

A workshop on "Re-imagining the Library with New Learning Spaces" was conducted by Prof. Clara M. Chu, Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, USA which received well response from the participants.

Another workshop on "Empowering Users with Media and Information Literacy Skills: An opportunity for Library and Information Professionals" by Dr. Harinder Pal Singh Kalra, Vice-Chair, International Steering Committee, UNESCO facilitated Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy; and Professor, Department of Library And Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala (Punjab). This workshop also got huge response from the conference participants.

### **Valedictory Session**

The valedictory session was graced by Prof. A.K. Baruwa, Chairman, BOG, CIT Kokrajhar as Chief Guest and stressed on need for transforming library as per the need of the user and looking the present and future development of Information Communication Technologies. Prof. N. Laxman Rao, UGC- Emeritus Fellow, Dept. Of Library and Information Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, Prof. Pijush Kanti Panigrahi, Prof. & Head, Dept. of LIS, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India and Prof. Narendra Nath Sharmah former Professor, DLISC, Gauhati University, Guwahati took part as guest of honours in the session and delivered their valuable speeches. The session was concluded with the vote of thanks from the Organising Secretary of the conference Dr. Sangrang Brahma.



On 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the conference, i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 a trip to Gelephu, Bhutan was made the part of the conference where more than 250 participants joined in the trip. And the conference came to an end with this trip.

**Report from Philippines: Manila hosts the 21<sup>st</sup> SEAPAVAA Conference**

by

**Elizabeth R. Peralejo**  
Chair, Technical Committee for LIS  
Commission on Higher Education, Philippines

The University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies (UPSLIS), together with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and in cooperation with the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), hosted and organized the **21<sup>st</sup> Conference and General Assembly of the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association (SEAPAVAA) in Manila from April 1 to 9, 2017.**

With the conference theme "Imagining an AV Archive of the Future," the gathering aimed to explore how audiovisual archives position themselves to be in the right shape, with the right services, at the right time in the light of continuously changing technologies, socio-political landscapes, industry developments, market structures, skill requirements, stakeholder expectations, and community needs. The conference was attended by 213 participants composed of librarians, archivists, curators, content producers, filmmakers, broadcasters, scholars and the like, representing 24 countries across and beyond the Asia-Pacific.



The conference consisted of a symposium, archival gems screening night, workshops, opening and farewell dinners, cultural tours and institutional visits. Three concurrent workshops were held at the Cinematheque Centre of the FDCP on the 3rd and 4th of April. The workshop on "Handling AV Collections in Libraries" was led by Prof Howard Besser of New York University (NYU) and Joshua Harris of Department of Preservation and Conservation at the Library of the University of Illinois, USA. The workshop on "Personal Digital Archiving" was facilitated by Marie Lascu of Crowing Rooster Arts, and Yvonne Ng of WITNESS. The Oral History workshop was led by Dr. Lye Soo Choon and Mark Wong from the Oral History Centre, National Archives of Singapore.

In addition, a Community Archiving Workshop in partnership with the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) was held on the 1st of April. Led by Prof. Mona Jimenez from NYU, local participants together with international volunteers organized, catalogued, and facilitated the preservation of U-matic tapes of the AsiaVisions Collection held by the IBON Foundation.

The symposium featured keynote lectures by Prof. Nick Deocampo of University of the Philippines and Reto Kromer of AV Preservation by Reto.ch. The lectures explored what shape AV archives could take in the future. The presentations, panels and discussions probed on the current situations and developments in the field of AV Archiving at the international, regional, and national levels, with focus on sustainability and continuity.

The General Assembly which was attended by members of SEAPAVAA and observers was held at the Silangan Hall of the CCP on the 7th of April. For this year, a new set of Councillors was elected for a three-year term 2017-2020 comprising Irene Lim (President), Ricky Orellana (Secretary General), Joshua Harris (Treasurer), Benedict Salazar ("Bono") Olgado, Christophe Augias, Pawarisa Nipawattanapong, Prof Ray Jiing and Sanchai Chotirosseranee.



**News Updates on LIS Education and Training in the Philippines**

- by Elizabeth R. Peralejo

*Chair, Technical Committee for LIS, CHED, Philippines*

The last three years (2014 - 2016) have seen a lot of activities and changes in the field of LIS education in the Philippines, particularly the revisions made on the policies, standards, and guidelines (PSGs) set by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Several PSGs have been revisited, revised, and/or enhanced and one such revision, which is considered as the most important, is that of the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) program. It reflects the shift to learning competency-based standards and outcomes-based education (OBE) framework. It specifies the competencies expected of a graduate of the program regardless of the type of HEI he/she graduated from. The standards and guidelines have also been aligned with the frameworks of international organizations, agencies, and institutions.

Another change is the revision of the instrument that assess or monitor the performance of the schools offering the BLIS/MLIS programs. This instrument is being used by appointed experts in the field of librarianship when they visit library schools. They consider prepared exhibits/documents, check resources and facilities, interview concerned individuals, after which they answer the instrument and make their own recommendations. In these monitoring visits, the following areas are evaluated: institutional vision/mission, administration, faculty, curriculum, instructional standards, library, students, and the school's annual performance in the licensure examination conducted by the government. There were forty-one (41) library schools visited in the last three years out of seventy one (71) which have been actively offering the LIS program.

Moreover, two (2) library schools were granted a Center of Excellence (COE) and Center of Development (COD) status by the Commission. The said schools have been identified using the newly revised criteria and guidelines. The **University of the Philippines' School of Library and Information Studies** was awarded as a COE while the **University of Sto. Tomas' Department of Library and Information Science** was awarded as a COD.



Through these awards, the schools are expected to take the lead in uplifting the quality of education in their discipline. They are also expected to offer quality graduate degree programs, initiate linkage and networking projects focusing on faculty development, joint research activities, and other industry-academe collaboration, as well as enable the sharing of equipment and library resources. They are not only to become an inspiration but also as a resource in strengthening other library schools within their own localities or regions. Both schools are in the nation's capital.

Another important development is the formulation of '**Minimum Requirements for Academic Libraries Common to All Programs**'. At present, there exist a considerable diversity among academic programs when it comes to the requirements for their libraries. There is no uniformity, thereby creating confusion to both the librarians and the members of the evaluating team, whether for initial program offering, program recognition, or just regular monitoring. That is why the Technical Committee on LIS (TC-LIS) under CHED decided to come out with a new set of requirements for academic libraries that would be common to all academic programs, one that will harmonize and strengthen the libraries among higher education institutions. This new set of requirements have been presented for public hearings/consultations to various stakeholders all over the country and was approved by the Commission. Although still in its draft form, another work in progress is the PSG for the **Associate in Library and Information Science (A-LIS)**. This program is meant to be taken over a minimum of one year, after the compulsory K-12 Basic Education system of the government. It is aimed to equip students with specific skills for entry into the LIS profession, allowing them to work in a library/information center/archive after getting the certificate. It will also prepare them for further studies in the degree program of BLIS.

In training, two important activities have been conducted recently. One was the '**LIS Teacher Training for IT, RDA, Archives and Records Management**' held last April 18-20, 2016 with 45 faculty members from various library schools all over the country participating. The other one was the '**Certification Program on Archives and Records Management**' which was held during the whole month of July 2016 and was participated in by 20 librarians from selected government institutions in the nation's capital. Both continuing professional development activities were conducted by the University of the Philippines' School of Library and Information Studies.





**LIS EDUCATION IN ROMANIA AFTER 1989**

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**A little history**

The beginnings of the Romanian library science higher education after the 1989 Revolution are connected to the Library and Information Science studies offered by the Faculty of Letters of the University of Bucharest, starting with the 1990-1991 academic year. Also here, in the next academic year, was established the College of Administration and Secretariat (three-year studies), one of its specializations being Librarian-Archivist.

Following the application of the Bologna process principles in the Romanian higher education, the Faculty of Letters started to offer in 2005 bachelor's and master's degree programs, among which are those entitled *Information and Documentation Sciences* and *Information Management in Contemporary Society*. Additionally, the specialized department within the faculty provides postgraduate courses in LIS. Also the doctoral school within the Faculty of Letters of the University of Bucharest is for now the only one in the country with Ph.D. supervisors specialized in LIS.

The University of Bucharest can be proud of the fact that many graduates of the LIS studies have occupied or still are occupying decision-making positions in important libraries of the country, or work as information specialists in EU institutions and large libraries around the world, such as the Library of Congress, the British Library or Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

LIS higher education studies were also offered in other university centers such as Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Sibiu, Suceava, Târgovişte or Timişoara.

In Cluj-Napoca, the library science education appeared in 1995, as college level studies (three years) hosted by Babeş-Bolyai University. Later, there were also long-term studies (four years), whose graduates benefited from a double specialization: Library Science and History. At present, the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Cluj offers bachelor degree studies in Romanian and Hungarian. It also holds the master of *Information and Documentation Sciences*, as well as the postgraduate courses *Library and Information Science* and *Teacher Librarian*.



The Department of Library Science at the West University of Timisoara was established in 1999, at the Faculty of Letters, History and Theology. Students enrolled up to the academic year 2004-2005 obtained a double specialization: librarian and teacher of Romanian or foreign languages. Starting with the next academic year, the specialization *Library and Information Sciences* (bachelor degree) became autonomous. At present, undergraduate studies are organized by the Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication Sciences for the specialization *Information and Documentation Sciences*.

"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu hosted, starting with the academic year 1991-1992, a college offering studies in Library Science and Archives. At present, the specialization *Information and Documentation Sciences* operates at the level of Bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Letters, which also organizes the master's program *Teacher Librarian*.

In parallel with the LIS study programs offered by the universities, the Romanian Library Association and the National Association of Librarians and Public Libraries in Romania organize sporadically, as necessary, post-secondary courses for librarians with secondary education who do not have specialized training or for high school graduates wishing to pursue a career in the library.





### **Perspectives**

The attractiveness of library education and its effects on the development of libraries in Romania depend on many extrinsic factors.

In our country, the percentage of the LIS education graduates who come to practice in the profession for which they have been trained is very small. Payroll conditions in libraries are the main but not the only reason. The option of specializing in the field of LIS is rarely the first option of a high school graduate when he decides to pursue higher education. Most often, this is a "backup" option, activated when the attempts to be admitted to another specialization failed. If during their studies they do not discover enough affinities with the field, students either complete the five-year cycle (bachelor + master) without the intention of practicing, or choose to pursue a master's degree program in another specialization.

With all these shortcomings, the experience of almost 28 years of post-graduate biblioteconomic higher education shows that graduates who have decided to dedicate themselves to this profession have contributed significantly to the progress of Romanian libraries and library science, thus confirming the usefulness of the specialized education.

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