

SET Bulletin

IFLA Education and Training Section

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Dear Fellow Professionals,

SET Bulletin wishes you a very HAPPY and professionally rewarding New Year 2017.

SET Bulletin is a platform to share news and events on LIS Education and Training from all over the world. This issue contain an article on LIS education in Philippines,

Primoz Junic (Slovenia) and **Suzanne Samir** (Egypt), Co-Chairs of this section have given a concise summary of the activities held in the last year. It seems 'collaboration' was a keyword for the year 2016. In this issue, you will also find report of LIS events in Philippines.

Please send reports of international education and/or training events in your country/region. SET Bulletin requests short article on LIS education scenario. Please feel free to write to the editor for further details.

Happy browsing!

- **Susmita Chakraborty**

Editorial

**SET Standing
Committee**

**Message from the
Chairs**

**LIS education in
Philippines**

**Report from
Philippines**

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Please send your contributions and suggestions to the **editor** Dr. Susmita Chakraborty,

Department of Library & Information Science, University of Calcutta, India, Pincode: 700073

Email: sclis.India@gmail.com

Standing Committee members of SET:

Chairs:

Primoz Junic (Slovenia) and **Suzanne Samir** (Egypt)

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Letter from the Co-chairs

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Primoz Juznic



Suzanne Samir

Dear colleagues,

We wish you, your families and all your beloved ones a happy 2017!

In 2016, the IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET) collaborated with the Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR) and organized the satellite meeting prior to the World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, with the support of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), OCLC, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The satellite meeting, “International Quality Assessment of LIS Education Programs”, was scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 in Dublin, Ohio, with the help of OCLC, and specifically Nancy Lensenmayer.

According to the evaluation report prepared by Primoz Juznic, the Co-chairs Clara Chu and Terry Weech announced that the overall impression was very positive. The participants enjoyed group discussions part that was very fruitful. Three working groups were formed to continue the discussions and transform the headlines into actions.

Also, the SET collaborated with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section and the Information Technology Section in organizing the Open Session 124: “All about E-Learning: Connection. Collaboration. Community”, that was held during the IFLA Congress in Columbus, Ohio, USA, on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. The open session was attended by 300 participants and had very successful presentations.

We are very proud of the collaborative work we had in 2016, and looking forward to continue in 2017.

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Best wishes,

IFLA SET Co-chairs,

Primoz Juznic

Primoz.Juznic@ff.uni-lj.si

Suzanne Samir

Suzanne.samir@bibalex.org

Library and Information Science Education in Philippines

Elizabeth R. Paralezo

Chair, Technical Committee for LIS Commission on Higher Education

Abstract: The paper traces the history, current situation, challenges and future prospects and directions of library and information science (LIS) education in Philippines

Keywords: LIS education, Philippines, **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 virtue of Republic Act No. 6966 ("An Act Regulating the Practice of Librarianship and Prescribing the Qualifications of Librarians"), and in 2003 by virtue of 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 virtue 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

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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, libraryem and information technology specialists from other libraries, information centers or from the industry are invited as lecturers.

As regards 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 look into 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.

News Updates on LIS Education and Training in the Philippines

- reported by Elizabeth R. Peraleja, Chair, Technical Committee for LIS, CHED

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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 look into 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

thirty five library schools visited in the last three years.

Moreover, two (2) library schools have been 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 particular 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 located 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

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evaluating team, whether for initial program offering, program recognition, or just regular monitoring. That is why the Technical Committee on LIS (TC-LIS) under the Commission 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 already been presented for public hearings/consultations to various stakeholders and is expected to be approved by the Commission anytime soon.

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 the area of 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.

*IFLA World Library & Information Congress
2017*

*Don't forget to book your
registration now!*

*Early Bird Registration closes
on 15th May, 2017!*