The Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group has had a very productive year in 2018-19. The BSLISE is a working group within the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), devoted to strengthening the international quality of library and information science education (LIS), and as a result, the excellence of LIS professional practice. It emerged out of deliberations at the 2016 IFLA Satellite Meeting (Dublin, Ohio, USA) on quality assessment of LIS education programs, hosted by the IFLA Section on Education and Training and the Section on Library Theory and Research. The BSLISE Working Group is comprised of members from across the globe and is an initiative of the IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET), LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG, and Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR). At the moment the group comprises of 27 people who are from all 5 IFLA regions, representing 14 countries and 14 languages (see website for list of members). Below are listed the activities from September 2018 to August 2019, and additional information on the group can be found on our website: bslise.org (formerly lisedu.wordpress.com)

POST-WHITE PAPER ACTIVITIES


The White Paper was published last August after 1.5 years of BSLISE work. It presented an action plan arising from the 6 key findings of an international survey to learn the differing qualification requirements (education, certification, individual credentialing system) for library and information “professional” practice in order to develop a better understanding of the equivalence of credentials and the role of LIS education. The BSLISE worked on the following three of six recommended action areas that were identified in the White Paper.

**Action A: Develop an international resource that identifies local structures (Recommended Action 4).**

**Members:** Clara M. Chu and Chris Cunningham [co-leaders, USA], Nuria Bautista Puig (Spain), Anna Gruzova (Russia), Albina Krymskaia (Russia), Felipe Martinez (Mexico), Fatih Oguz (USA), Virginia Ortiz-Repiso Jimenez (Spain), Monica Peres (Brazil), Ana María Talavera Ibarra (Peru)

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| With funding and infrastructure support from IFLA, the BSLISE Working Group, will build on the existing databases of LIS programs worldwide to develop a regularly updated, international database and asset map, capturing information about LIS schools and programs and local | 1. **Survey** to identify/document LIS programs* (informal data collection at IFLA, collect data in September 2019; data clean up until November 2019)  
2. **Map** LIS programs, as well as the items below (map by January 2020) |
structures, organizations, and procedures that address the issues of professional qualifications, accreditation, certification, and registration for professional practice.

3. National professional qualification* - a definitive national response (see 1 (data collected via survey) and 2 (data mapped))
4. LIS professional national association - NOT collecting data at this time
5. LIS accrediting organization* (of programs) or professional qualification organization* (of individuals) (see 1 (data collected via survey) and 2 (data mapped))

*=data to be collected

Action B: *Develop an international framework for the assessment of quality standards for LIS education (Recommended Action 2).*

**Members:** Anthony Chow (United States) and Jaya Raju (South Africa) [Co-leaders]; Theo Bothma (South Africa); Keren Dali (Canada/United States); Dick Kawooya (United States/Africa); Ekaterina Shibaeva (Russia)

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| The BSLISE Working Group will engage the IFLA leadership and constituents to address the need for this framework (or related mechanism) and its role in developing and managing this assessment mechanism. Aligning this framework with IFLA’s Global Vision is necessary. Based on these deliberations, the BSLISE Working Group will work with the IFLA leadership, staff, and units, as well as other appropriate LIS entities, to move this action forward. | • Interview questions and consent form - available at: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_VPOW_aDTJpN6-G9zVEdNiLDxkJ7kb](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_VPOW_aDTJpN6-G9zVEdNiLDxkJ7kb)  
• Purposive sample: representatives of 15 organisations/constitutions  
• Timeline 2019: February-March (instrument design); April-July (data collection); July-August (data analysis)  
• Return rate: as of 18 August 2019, 15 out of 17 responses (88%); 2 pending  
• Qualitative data analysis using content analysis of responses per question and use of summaries to ascertain trends and patterns |

Action C: *Identify core and other competencies for transferability and reciprocity (Recommended Action 1).*

**Members:** Kendra Albright (United States) and Primoz Junic (Slovenia) [Co-leaders], Helen Emasealu (Nigeria), Barbara Marson (United States), Anna Maria Tammaro (Italy)

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| The BSLISE Working Group will work with the IFLA SET, Section on Library Theory and Research, and the LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG to incorporate an examination of existing competency standards, developed by professional associations and regulatory bodies, | • LIS competencies have been identified through comparing and mapping competencies from IFLA, ALIA, CILIP, ALA, EUCLID and other descriptive lists  
• A conceptual framework has been developed |
PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS, PUBLICATIONS, AND ONLINE PRESENCE

Presentations (8)

- An event organized by the Erasmus+ EINFOSE project (http://einfose.ffos.hr)
- See publication in Proceedings below

Chu, Clara M.; Ferreira, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto; Martinez, Felipe; and Talavera, Ana Maria. “Fortalecimiento de la educación en Bibliotecología y Ciencias de la Información en Latinoamerica y el Caribe: lecciones de una encuesta internacional,” XI Encuentro de la Asociación de Educación e Investigación en Ciencia de la Información de Iberoamérica y el Caribe (EDICIC), Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecología de la Universidad de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), October 16-19, 2018. 
http://www.udea.edu.co/wps/portal/udea/web/inicio/institucional/unidades-academicas/escuelas/interamericana-bibliotecologia/encuentro
- See publication in Proceedings below


Tammaro, Anna Maria; Južnič, Primož; and Albright, Kendra. “Conceptions of LIS profession and education globally: An IFLA study,” Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS): 10th International Conference; 16-19th June 2019; Ljubljana, Slovenia.


can information professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean be part of it?),


Publications (6)


**Online Presence** (2)

The BSLISE began its social media presence in 2019: https://www.facebook.com/bslise
The BSLISE website now has a unique URL bslise.org (formerly lisedu.wordpress.com)