School of Information Studies
2012-2013 Annual Report
Contents

Message from the Director ................................................................. 2
Our team .............................................................................................. 3
What we value .................................................................................... 4
Teaching and learning ........................................................................ 5
Beyond the classroom ......................................................................... 6
Graduates ............................................................................................. 9
Research ............................................................................................... 9
Other notable news ............................................................................ 11

Message from the Director

New faces, a new home, and lots of activities! The School of Information Studies (ÉSIS) continues to grow and develop, and on behalf of ÉSIS, I am pleased to present this annual report corresponding to the 2012-2013 academic year.

Our team is growing as we not only welcomed a greater number of students but also two new full-time faculty members – Dr. Inge Alberts and Dr. André Vellino. We also moved from our temporary location on the Lees Avenue Campus to a permanent home on the eleventh floor of the modern and well-equipped Desmarais Building at the heart of the main campus.

As always, as candidates for accreditation by the American Library Association, we have continued to work hard to demonstrate our compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies.

For additional information on ÉSIS, including updates on our ongoing activities, please visit us online at:

www.sis.uottawa.ca

School of Information Studies
University of Ottawa
55 Laurier Ave East (DMS 11-101)
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5
Tel: 613-562-5130
Email: esis@uottawa.ca

Lynne Bowker
Our team

During 2012-2013, the ÉSIS team expanded and was composed of:

- 5 regular, full-time professors
- 7 cross-appointed professors (from the library, as well as the departments of translation, communication, and law)
- 6 adjunct professors
- 2 part-time professors
- 3 part-time support staff

Back: Ginette Malette (Administrative Assistant), André Vellino (Associate Professor), Lynne Bowker (Director and Full Professor), Mary Cavanagh (Assistant Professor), Jenny Mitchell (Accreditation Co-ordinator)

Seated: Claire Dormann (Assistant Professor), Tony Horava (Cross-appointed Professor), Tom Delsey (Adjunct Professor), and Inge Alberts (Assistant Professor).

ÉSIS has also continued to benefit from the guidance of an External Advisory Committee whose members include:

- Pam Bjornson, Director General, Knowledge Management, National Research Council
- Daniel Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Library and Archives Canada
- Daniel Godon, Directeur du service de la bibliothèque, Université du Québec en Outaouais
- Margaret Haines, University Librarian, Carleton University
- Carole Laguè, Chef de division, Bibliothèque municipale de Gatineau
- Sonia L’Heureux, Parliamentary Librarian, Library of Parliament
- Danielle McDonald, CEO, Ottawa Public Library
- Leslie Weir, University Librarian, University of Ottawa

Our new home in the Desmarais Building at the north end of the main campus.
What we value

ÉSIS operates on a four-year planning cycle, and each year, the emphasis is placed on one of the following four areas: strategic planning, teaching and learning, research, and community engagement. For the academic year 2012-2013, the focus was placed on research.

As part of our commitment to providing breadth and depth across the areas of research interest in information studies, we welcomed two new regular full-time professors (Dr. Inge Alberts and Dr. André Vellino) and three new adjunct professors (Craig Eby, Dr. Jennifer Schellinck and Dr. Amy Tector). Each of these newly appointed faculty members brings experience in a different area, and with their expertise, ÉSIS is now even better able to support a broad base of research in information studies, including projects on subjects such as:

- Organizational information compliance
- Data curation and harmonization
- Archival studies
- Automatic classification of records
- Semantic technologies
- Information flow in complex systems

Celebrating excellence in research!

Dr. Lynne Bowker of ÉSIS (right) receives her award from Dr. Lynn Connaway of OCLC at an reception in Seattle, WA, in January 2013.

ÉSIS is proud to report that the School director, Dr. Lynne Bowker, was named as a 2013 recipient of a prestigious OCLC/ALISE Research Award worth US$15,000. Dr. Bowker will use the grant to consult with Spanish-speaking newcomers to Ottawa who are users of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) in the project, “Can machine translation facilitate outreach to newcomers? A pilot study investigating the needs of Spanish-speaking users of the Ottawa Public Library.” The results of this study will help to determine if machine translation can be used as a partial solution for finding a cost-effective means of translation that would allow OPL to offer a wider range of translated texts to an under-served newcomer community.
Teaching and learning

ÉSIS continues to admit a healthy number of students, both full- and part-time, into its MIS program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic year</th>
<th>2009-2010</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of new students admitted</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students registered (Sept. 1)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of different courses offered</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some of the electives taught for the first time during the 2012-2013 academic year included *Gestion des documents* and *Gestion des documents électroniques*.

In addition, the extensive curriculum review launched last year is continuing as ÉSIS seeks to ensure that it continues to offer a relevant and top-quality program for all stakeholders. In the context of this revision, planning is underway to develop a capstone in the form of an *i-Portfolio*, to be piloted next academic year.

Celebrating excellence in teaching!

ÉSIS is extremely fortunate to count Professor Tom Delsey among our teaching faculty. It will come as no surprise to those who know him that Dr. Delsey was awarded a *Faculty of Arts Distinguished Teaching Award* in 2013.

Dr. Delsey’s classroom contributions include teaching courses on Subject Analysis of Information, Cataloguing and Classification, Knowledge Organization, and Metadata and Taxonomies.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Delsey is also active in thesis supervision, curriculum development, i-Portfolio examination, and a host of mentoring activities. Thank you for being such a great mentor – both inside and outside the classroom!

In the words of ÉSIS student Denise Vallaincourt: “It was a real honour to have been able to take a course that was taught by Dr. Delsey, who is a major contributor and expert in our field. This will always be a source of pride that I take away from my program at uOttawa.”
Beyond the classroom

Students on the MIS program have different opportunities to combine their class-based learning with research-oriented investigations and hands-on professional experience.

Student research

Directed Readings: A number of MIS students chose to explore areas of interest to them by taking a Directed Readings course, where they had the opportunity to work one-on-one with a researcher to explore a research topic in more depth. Subjects that were explored as part of a directed study in 2012-2013 included:

- Archiving special collections
- Information literacy and social media
- Emerging forms of collection development in a global context

Research Conversations: ÉSIS students continue to participate enthusiastically in the School’s monthly seminar series, where they share the results of their work with the wider ÉSIS community:


Publications and Presentations: In 2012-2013, a number of ÉSIS students have published or presented the results of their research in a variety of forums, and several won awards for their work:


Co-operative education

With regard to practical experience outside the classroom, nine students were accepted into the competitive co-operative education option, which includes two four-month full-time work placements in the field. Employers for the May-December 2012 co-op placements included:

- Bibliothèque de l’Hôpital Montfort
- Canadian Security Establishment
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Supreme Court of Canada Library
- Transportation Safety Board of Canada
- University of Ottawa Management Library
- University of Ottawa Brian Dickson Law Library

At the end of their work placement, co-op students receive an overall rating from their employers. Six of the ÉSIS co-op students earned the highest overall rating of EXCEPTIONAL, while additional two earned the next-highest rating of EXCELLENT and one the rating of GOOD.

Experiential learning

Four students participated in an elective experiential learning course, which allowed them to earn credit towards one course while gaining valuable hand-on experience working with professionals at the following two organizations:

- Bibliothèque de l’Hôpital Montfort (2 projects)
- Bibliothèque Jean-Léon Allie de l’Université Saint-Paul (2 projects)
Volunteer work and community engagement

Numerous MIS students took the initiative to enrich their formal studies with volunteer work in the field. Some of ways in which our students demonstrably embraced the values of the profession include:

- Student membership in professional associations (Canadian Library Association, Ontario Library Association, Library Association of the National Capital Region, Association des bibliothécaires du Québec/Quebec Library Association)
- Student liaison representative for the Library Association of the National Capital Region (LANCR)
- Student liaison representative for the Ottawa Valley Health Librarians Association (OVHLA)
- Volunteer student librarians in the Ask a Librarian internship program providing virtual reference service through chat (organized by the Ontario Council of University Libraries and Scholar’s Portal)
- Volunteer students librarians participating in a one-day youth engagement consultation facilitated by the Community Foundations of Canada and their Vital Signs program (Oct. 2012)
- Student volunteers at the 2013 Ontario Library Association Super Conference (Toronto, Feb. 2013)
- Volunteers at several local libraries, including Saint Patrick’s Basilica Library, the Ottawa Jewish Library and the Ottawa Public Library, as well as the City of Ottawa Archives
- University of Ottawa student chapter of Librarians Without Borders (various fundraising activities)
- Student volunteer editorial assistant for the bilingual publication Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada
- Volunteer contributors/editors to the newsletter of Asted (Association pour l’avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation)
- Volunteer proof reader for Project Gutenberg Canada
- Student blogger for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies giving insight into the graduate student experience at the University of Ottawa

Members of the uOttawa Librarians Without Borders chapter welcome Jorge Chojolan from Guatemala to speak about building a school library at the Miguel Ángel Asturias academy.

Student awards and honours

- Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship by the May Court Club of Ottawa ($5000) (P. Clark Mann)
- Bourse de l’Institut canadien-français (2 x $2500) (V. Labonté and V. Synnett)
- Students to CLA (registration + accommodation at CLA conference) (K. Sirett)
- Bromley Lectures (expenses paid to Washington, DC) (A. Ehrlich)
- UROP poster 2nd prize (A. Ehrlich)
- Meaningful Play conference Top Award paper (M. Neuvians)
Graduates

This academic year, 20 students graduated from the MIS program, and we also had our first graduate from the Graduate Diploma in Information Studies program. Congratulations to the class of 2013!

Some of the employers who have hired 2013 MIS grads:

- uOttawa Management Library
- uOttawa Library (Morisset)
- Foreign Affairs & International Trade Canada
- IT Services Branch, Public Works & Government Services Canada
- Library & Knowledge Centre, Industry Canada
- Library & Information Centre, Public Safety Canada
- Library & Archives Canada
- Supreme Court of Canada
- Cogniva Information Management Solutions
- MindShare Consulting Services
- University of Calgary

Research

ÉSIS is a research-intensive environment, and professors are active in seeking grants and in disseminating the results of the research at conferences and in journals and book chapters.

Funding

ÉSIS faculty members were successful in attracting research funding to support their research activities.
### Researcher | Source | Project
--- | --- | ---
Inge Alberts | University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Start-up funds ($5000) | Shortening the Evolutionary Path Towards Recordkeeping Compliance: Theoretical and Methodological Dimensions in the Identification of Information Resources of Business and Documentary Heritage Values

Lynne Bowker | OCLC/ALISE Research Grant (US$15,000) | Can machine translation facilitate outreach to newcomers? A pilot study investigating the needs of Spanish-speaking users of the Ottawa Public Library

André Vellino | University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Start-up Funds ($4000) | Automated Harmonization of Metadata Fields in Scientific Research Data Sets

### Selected publications and presentations


In February 2013, ÉSIS students and alumni helped to organize and deliver the Human Career Library event in collaboration with the University of Ottawa Management Library.

*****

A few months later, a very successful ÉSIS Alumni reception was held as part of the University of Ottawa’s Homecoming Week in May 2013.