

School of Information Studies Annual Report

2015-2016



Faculté des arts
École des sciences de l'information

Faculty of Arts
School of Information Studies

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Highlights

- Dr. Sylvie Grosjean, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, took on the role of Interim Director at ÉSIS for 2015-2016
- As part of the University of Ottawa’s institutional quality assurance process, ÉSIS completed a comprehensive self-study covering all aspects of its master’s and graduate diploma programs
- As part of its multi-year planning cycle, the School also conducted a review of the revised curriculum that was introduced in 2014
- The first students who had enrolled under the revised curriculum were required to complete a capstone project demonstrating their ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained over the course of the MIS program in an integrated way
- Dr. Mary Cavanagh is the principal investigator for a research project on legal information seeking practices that was awarded a \$65,000 grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario
- Dr. André Vellino is co-investigator on a research project on metadata harmonization that was awarded an \$80,000 grant by the Mitacs Accelerate Graduate Research Internship Program
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) confirmed the award of an Insight Grant to Dr. Heather Morrison for the continuation of her research project on the knowledge commons until 2021
- Elizabeth Chrétien, a first-year student in the MIS program, received the CO-OP Student of the Year Award (2015) for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Erica Vanden Bosch, another first-year student in the MIS program, received the 2016 Young Professional Award for Excellence from Health Canada
- Dr. Lynne Bowker, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, cross-appointed to ÉSIS, and César Villamizar, a 2015 graduate of the MIS program, received the CAIS/ACSI best practitioner paper award for their paper entitled *The embedded records manager: A pilot study emphasizing the importance of community as a key to success*

Our Team

Faculty and administration

During 2015-2016, the teaching faculty comprised four regular ÉSIS professors, one cross-appointed professor, two adjunct professors, and four sessional lecturers. In addition to those teaching, the full faculty includes another seven cross-appointed professors, and one other adjunct professor.

Sylvie Grosjean, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, served as Interim Director of ÉSIS for 2015-2016. The Director is supported by an administrative assistant and a secretary.



Left to right: Tom Delsey (Adjunct Professor), Inge Alberts (Assistant Professor), Mary Cavanagh (Associate Professor), Michel Boutet (Sessional Lecturer), Sylvie Grosjean (Interim Director), Heather Morrison (Assistant Professor), André Vellino (Associate Professor), Ginette Malette (Administrative Assistant), Daniel Paré (Cross-appointed Associate Professor), Tony Horava (Cross-appointed Professor).

Student body

Twenty-two new students enrolled in the MIS program for 2015-2016, joining another twenty-seven continuing students, for a total enrolment of forty-nine in the program. In addition, there were two students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma program.



Our Priorities

The second iteration of the School's four-year planning cycle was initiated in 2014-2015 with a review of the school's mission, goals, and objectives. In June 2014, as part of that review, the school organized a planning session attended by external stakeholders representing employers in various sectors of the information community and graduates of the program, as well as ÉSIS faculty and staff. Participants were invited to share their views on current and emerging trends in the information sector, and to identify what they consider to be the key educational requirements for today's information professionals.

With input from that planning session as well as from numerous internal discussions on various aspects of the program, the strategic priorities that were established for the period 2010-2011 to 2013-2014 have been the subject of ongoing review. In 2015-2016, in the context of a program review conducted every eight years under the University of Ottawa's institutional quality assurance process, ÉSIS completed a comprehensive self-study covering all aspects of its master's and graduate diploma programs—objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration, and resources—and submitted a report to the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee of the Faculty of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies.

As noted in the self-study report, ÉSIS has made significant progress in recent years toward achieving its strategic goal to consolidate a relevant and challenging program of study by:

- developing a set of student learning outcomes designed to reflect the knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the profession, and to provide our students with the grounding they will need to pursue productive and meaningful careers;
- implementing a revised curriculum that provides students a range of opportunities for constructing programs of study that focus on their own areas of interest within the field and the particular competencies that fit best with their career plans; and
- implementing a capstone experiences designed to provide students with an opportunity to integrate the knowledge, skills, and values they have developed over the course of the program through coursework, field experience, and community engagement

Priorities identified for the upcoming years include:

- defining career-oriented “tracks” within the curriculum for students who want to pursue a more specialized program of study
- collaborating with the University's Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute to provide our students with opportunities to improve their second language competencies
- formalizing ÉSIS links with the Digital Humanities undergraduate minor

Teaching and Learning

Curriculum

In 2014-2015 ÉSIS implemented an extensively revised curriculum designed to ensure that all students receive a solid grounding in the core competencies of the profession. Under the revised curriculum, all students must complete seven mandatory foundation courses plus either a capstone course or thesis, with electives making up the remainder of the 48 course credits required to complete the program.

In 2015-2016, the School conducted a review of the revised curriculum as part of its multi-year planning cycle, the focus for the year being on teaching and learning. An initial meeting of teaching faculty was held in August 2015 to launch this review, with particular attention paid to assessing how well the core courses address the student learning outcomes (SLOs) defined for the MIS program. In November 2015 the results of that meeting were tabled for discussion at a meeting with representatives of community stakeholders on the ÉSIS Curriculum Advisory Committee, including employers and graduates of the program. The revised curriculum was also the subject of two student focus group sessions held in November 2015 and April 2016.

Overall, the feedback on the curriculum was positive, emphasising the strengths of the program:

- students found that the core courses provide a comprehensive foundation for the program and are helpful in determining the types of electives to pursue
- graduates considered themselves well prepared for employment in the information professions
- supervisors gave consistently high ratings to students on CO-OP work terms
- employers were eager to hire graduates of the MIS program

The School also uses a broad range of mechanisms to assess student learning outcomes—course assignments and exams; employer evaluations of students on CO-OP placements; capstone courses and the master’s thesis; student course evaluations; reports submitted by students completing CO-OP and experiential learning assignments; surveys of students on CO-OP placements, students completing their studies, and alumni; and post-degree employment statistics. The data collected by means of those mechanisms form the basis for a comprehensive assessment of the degree to which the learning outcomes are being achieved. The assessment of student learning outcomes for the 2014-2015 academic year indicated a solid level of achievement on the part of students, in their course work as well as in their CO-OP and experiential learning assignments.

CO-OP assignments

Twelve 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 2015 CO-OP placements included:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Canada Revenue Agency
Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
Courts Administration Service
Financial Services Commission of Ontario

Justice Canada
Library and Archives Canada
Library of Parliament
Parks Canada
Statistics Canada

The employers gave top ratings—exceptional or excellent—to the students’ performance in all twenty-four CO-OP assignments.

Capstone projects

In 2016, the first students who had enrolled under the revised curriculum were required to complete a capstone project. The capstone project is designed to demonstrate the student’s ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained over the course of the MIS program in an integrated way. For the capstone projects completed in the winter 2016 session, students worked in teams of three to develop a proposal for a digital repository in a public institution. The deliverables for the project included an organizational profile, a contextual survey, an analysis of functional requirements, an assessment of potential technology platforms, a cost-benefit analysis, and an evaluation framework.

The organizations chosen by the teams, and the proposed projects included the following:

Library and Archives Canada: A collaborative portal for archival resources related to the Canadian brewing industry

Statistics Canada: An Open Government initiative to provide public access to statistical microdata files

International Development Research Centre: Enhancement of the Centre’s digital repository of research materials

Parks Canada: An image repository of heritage artefacts curated by the agency

Library of Parliament: Collection, scanning, and display of resources relating to the history of the library

Student research assistants

The following students and alumni were research assistants for Professor Heather Morrison’s *Sustaining the Knowledge Commons* project in 2015-2016:

Widlyne Brutus

Tanoh Laurent Kakou

César Villamizar

Lisa Desautels

Guinsly Mondésir

Sara Wheatley

Myriam Dumais-Desrosiers

Jihane Salhab

The following students were research assistants in 2015-2016 for Professor Mary Cavanagh’s project on legal information seeking practices:

Marie-Claude Gagnon

Xavier Lajule

Katherine Laprade

Joel Rivard

Graduates

Twenty-one students received the Master of Information Studies degree in 2015-2016:

Margaret Ashburner

Rabab Gomaa

Lynn Peterson

Anna Baccin

Aleksandra Grobelna

Guillaume Régimbauld-Brien

Bradley Belisle
Elizabeth Chretien
Sherin Vasukhi Emmanuel
Sarah Farewell
Marie-Claude Gagnon

Catherine Lachaîne
Chantal Lareau
Camille Mcallister
Patrick Duncan McLean
Laura McLeod

Jihane Salhab
Anushka Samarawickrama
Swuzie Marie Carmelle Sanon
Melissa Vernier
Sara Wheatley

Two students received the Graduate Diploma in Information Studies: Samy Agha and Carly Dybka



Fall convocation, 2015. *Left to right:* Professor Mary Cavanagh, University Librarian Leslie Weir, Professor Tom Delsey, MIS graduates Aleksandra Grobelna and Anna Baccin, Professor Lynne Bowker.



Spring convocation, 2016. *Left to right:* MIS graduates Sara Wheatley, Lynn Peterson, Camille Mcallister, Anushka Samarawickrama, Laura McLeod, Patrick McLean, Catherine Lachaîne, Margaret Ashburner, and Sarah Farewell. *Rear:* Professors Tony Horava, Mary Cavanagh, and Tom Delsey.

Research

Funding

Funding Agency /Program	Research Project	Investigator	Amount (Year)
Law Foundation of Ontario Responsive Grants Program	Mapping the Front End: Legal information seeking practices	Dr. M. Cavanagh, Principal Investigator	\$65,000 (2016-2017)
Mitacs Accelerate Graduate Research Internship Program	A Model-Driven Framework for Meta-Data Harmonization in Business Intelligence	Dr. André Vellino, Co-investigator	\$80,000 (2016)
National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program	A Model of Information Value Criteria To Automate Records Retention & Disposition	Dr. I. Alberts, Principal Investigator	\$8,000 (2015)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grants	Utilisabilité des interfaces de navigation à facettes pour la recherche des documents administratifs numériques	Dr. I. Alberts, Co-Investigator	\$62,998 (2012-2016)
	Sustaining the knowledge commons: Open access scholarship	Dr. H. Morrison, Principal Investigator	\$182,445 (2014-2021)
	Social-biblio.ca: Meaning and method behind Canadian public library micro-blogging practices	Dr. M. Cavanagh, Principal Investigator	\$28,028 (2014-2016)

Publications

Recently published journal articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters by ÉSIS faculty, students, and alumni:

Alberts, I. (2015). Caractérisation du genre des textes administratifs dans les environnements numériques de travail. Dans *Les genres de documents dans les organisations*, (pp. 69-86). Québec, QC : Presses de L'Université du Québec .

Bebbington, S., & Vellino, A. (2015). Can playing Minecraft improve teens' information literacy? *Journal of Information Literacy*. Forthcoming

Bowker, L., & Buitrago Ciro, J. (2015) Investigating the usefulness of machine translation for newcomers at the public library. *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 10(2), 165-186.

- Cavanagh, M.** (2015). Micro-blogging practices in Canadian public libraries: a national snapshot. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. Published online before print, January 2015. doi:10.1177/0961000614566339
- Cavanagh, M.** (2015). Structuring an action net of public library membership. *Library Quarterly*, 85(4), 406-426.
- Delsey, T.** (2015). The making of RDA. *Italian Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*, 7(2). 25-47.
- Horava, T.** (2015). Adventures in collection management: What is a collection budget for nowadays? *TECHnicalities*, 35(6), 1-6.
- Horava, T.** (2015). Reading in a Digital Age: Issues and Opportunities - Part One. *Against the Grain*, 27(1), 1-13.
- Horava, T.** (2015). Some Reflections on Social Reading. *Against the Grain*, 27(3), 14-16.
- Horava, T.** (2016). Making OA monographs happen: Library-Press collaboration at the University of Ottawa, Canada. *Insights*. 29(1), 57–63. doi: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.278>
- Horava, T.** (2016). The oligopoly of academic publishing: What does it mean for us? *TECHnicalities*, 36(2), 10-14.
- Jeske, M., **Intahchomphoo, C.**, Landriault, E., & Bioni, B.R. (2016). The intersection of freedom of information, privacy legislation and library services in Canadian jurisdictions. *Legal Information Management*, 16(1), 14-21. doi:10.1017/S1472669616000050
- Morrison, H.** (2015). Open access to scholarly knowledge: the new commons. In P. Elliot & D. Hepting. (Eds.), *Free knowledge: Confronting the commodification of human discovery* (pp. 256-266). Regina, SK: University of Regina Press.
- Morrison, H.** (2015). Small scholar-led scholarly journals: can they survive and thrive in an open access future? *Learned Publishing*, 29(2), 83-88.
- Morrison, H., Mondésir, G., Salhab, J., Villamizar, C., Calvé-Genest, A., & Desautels, L.** (2016). Open access article processing charges (OA APC) longitudinal study 2015 preliminary dataset. *Data*, 1(1). doi:10.3390/data1010004
- Morrison, H., Salhab, J., Calvé-Genest, A., & Horava, T.** (2015). Open access article processing charges: DOAJ survey 2014. *Publications*, 3(1), 1-16.
- Scassa, T., & Singh, N.** (2015). Open data and official languages regimes: An examination of the Canadian experience. *Journal of e-Democracy*, 7(1), 117-133.
- Vellino, A.** (2015). Harmonizing the metadata among diverse climate change datasets. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, 10(1), 268-279. doi:10.2218/ijdc.v10i1.367
- Vellino, A.** (2015). Recommending research articles using citation data. *Library Hi Tech*, 33(4), 597-609. doi:10.1108/LHT-06-2015-0063
- Zhu, X., Turney, P., Lemire, D., & **Vellino, A.** (2015). Measuring academic influence: Not all citations are equal. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 66(2), 408-427. doi:10.1002/asi.23179

Community Engagement

Information crossroads

Six presentations were given in 2015-2016 as part of the ÉSIS speakers' series, *Information Crossroads*:

Leslie Weir, University Librarian, University of Ottawa, *Trends in Academic Libraries: The Brewing Perfect Storm* (September 21, 2015)

Highlighting the growing trend in academic libraries away from an emphasis on collections and print-based services to a focus on the Library role in the university learning and research enterprises. Topics discussed included e-learning, digitization, scholarly publishing, open access, digital humanities, and management of research data.

Inge Alberts, Assistant Professor, ÉSIS, *La sémiotique comme cadre d'analyse de la valeur de l'information archivistique dans les organisations* (October 19, 2015)

Exposant le développement d'un modèle, basé sur une analyse sémiotique des genres documentaires et des actes de langage, permettant d'automatiser le calcul de la valeur archivistique de différentes ressources informationnelles d'une organisation, ainsi que leur taux de dépréciation selon un axe temporel.

Susan Haigh, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, *National Matters / Questions nationales* (November 30, 2015)

Outlining a number of key issues that preoccupy CARL and why they are priorities on a national basis. Among the issues discussed were copyright, competencies, licensing, digitization, preservation of Canada's documentary heritage, and the Portage initiative for research data management.

Heather Morrison, Assistant Professor, ÉSIS, *Sustaining the Knowledge Commons: An Open Approach to Research / Soutenir les Savoirs Communs: Une Approche Ouverte de la Recherche* (January 25, 2016)

Addressing the key question of how to create and sustain fully open access scholarly journals. The presentation reported on a longitudinal study funded by SSHRC to determine trends and to analyze some business models for open access.

Johanna Smith, Director General of the Services Branch, Library and Archives Canada, *Strength in Numbers: Working with Others to Digitize LAC's Collections / L'union fait la force : numériser les collections de BAC en partenariat* (February 29, 2016)

Highlighting collaboration between Library and Archives Canada and its partners on digitization projects aimed at making available a wide range of material in the LAC collections more accessible for Canadians.

Lewis Eisen, Information Manager, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; Marina Sokolova, Professor, Institute for Big Data Analytics; Karim Bechane, Director, Information Management, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, *The Challenge of Managing Information in Organizations : From Big Data to Thick Data / Le Défi de la gestion de l'information dans les organisations : des Big Data aux Thick Data* (April 25, 2016)

A panel presentation bringing together researchers, professionals and students to discuss Big Data and Thick Data in the context of information management issues in organizations. The panellists addressed the challenges of developing strategies and methods for analyzing Big Data and “making sense” of the data collected and analyzed.

Conference presentations

Papers and posters by ÉSIS faculty, students, and alumni recently presented at conferences:

- Alaieri, F., & Vellino, A.** (2016, April). *The ethical characteristics of autonomous robots*. Poster presented at the We Robot Conference 2016, Miami, FL.
- Alberts, I.** (2015, November). *Information value as a dynamic concept: Moving towards more agile records management*. Presented at the ARMA NCR 2015: Fall Information Management Conference, Ottawa, ON.
- Alberts, I.** (2016, January). *Business Analysis as a Strategic Tool for Information Management*. Presented at the INFONEX Conference, Managing E-Records in Canada's Public Sector, Ottawa, ON.
- Alberts, I.** (2016, June). *Analyse des processus d'affaires et gouvernance de l'information*. Presented at Journée de l'Association des archivistes du Québec, Gatineau, QC.
- Cavanagh, M., & Silk, K.** (2015, July). *Constructing an L-value index for Canadian public libraries*. Presented at the 11th Northumbria Conference, York University, Edinburgh Scotland. Proceedings to be published in 2016.
- Jeske, M., & Intahchomphoo, C.** (2015, May). *Global economic challenges of information services: World report and European law library solutions*. Presented at the Canadian Association of Law Libraries 2015 conference, Moncton, NB.
- Horava, T.** (2015, November). *Library/press collaboration at the University of Ottawa, Canada*. Presented at the Charleston Library Conference, Charleston, SC.
- Horava, T., & Davis, K.** (2015, November). *A Canadian consortium's experience with local hosting of ebooks*. Presented at the UNC Charlotte Ebooks Summit, Charlotte, NC.
- Horava, T., & Ward, M.** (2015, April). *Library consortia and article processing charges: An ICOLC survey*. Presented at the ICOLC Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- Lynch, J., Intahchomphoo, C., Jeske, M., & Holmes, A.** (2015, June). *Web accessibility upgrade: A social responsibility for libraries*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Library Association 2015 national conference and trade show, Ottawa, ON.
- Moisil, I., & Horava, T.** (2015, May). *Students and the e-book dilemma: a case study*. Presented at the 7th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference, Paris, France.
- Moisil, I., & Horava, T.** (2015, June). *Ebooks: What do students and faculty really want?* Presented at the CLA Conference, Ottawa, ON.
- Morrison, H.** (2015, April). *Open access and copyright: Let's open the conversation*. Presented at the Emerging Trends in Scholarly Publishing Seminar, Washington, D.C.
- Morrison, H.** (2015, June). *Open access: What scholars need to know*. Panel presentation at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ottawa, ON.

Morrison, H. (2015, June). *Sustaining the knowledge commons: a correlation study of journals using article processing charges*. Presented at the Canadian Association of Information Science conference, Ottawa, ON.

Morrison, H. (2015, June). *Two approaches to support for open access publishing*. Presented at the Canadian Association of Professional Librarians conference, Ottawa, ON.

Morrison, H. (2015, November). *Elsevier's heirs, or yes, copyright IS confusing*. Presented at the Charleston Conference, Charleston, SC.

Morrison, H. (2016, June). *Sustaining the knowledge commons: the economics of transition to open access*. Society for Scholarly Publishing Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.

Paré, D. (2015, June). *Just How Open is Open?* Presented at the Canadian Communication Association, annual conference, Ottawa, ON.

Vellino, A., & Bergeron, V. (2015, May). *The future, limitations and dangers of artificial intelligence*. Presented at the 4th Annual Psychology Outside the Box Conference, Ottawa, ON.

Awards and honours

Scholarships

Shahira Aboul-Khair was awarded the Maycourt Club of Ottawa Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship for Information Studies. Shahira was also awarded Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Scholarship.

Katherine Laprade and **Caroline Olivier** were awarded H. W. Wilson Foundation Scholarships.

FGPS CO-OP Student of the Year



Elizabeth Chrétien received the CO-OP Student of the Year Award (2015) for the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. She completed two CO-OP work terms at Statistics Canada as an Information Management Assistant.

Health Canada Young Professional Award for Excellence



Erica Vanden Bosch received the 2016 Young Professional Award for Excellence from Health Canada. The award recognizes young employees who are innovative, a source of inspiration to others, and demonstrate leadership abilities.

CAIS/ACSI best practitioner paper award

Lynne Bowker, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies, cross-appointed to ÉSIS, and **César Villamizar**, a 2015 graduate of the MIS program, received the CAIS/ACSI best practitioner paper award for their paper entitled *The embedded records manager: A pilot study emphasizing the importance of community as a key to success*. The paper submitted to the CAIS/ACSI conference describes and evaluates the innovative approach that was taken in developing and implementing a classification and naming system for organizing the documents associated with quality assurance function administered by the FGPS.



Lynne Bowker (centre) and César Villamizar (right)

Student volunteers

Students curate Shakespeare exhibit

Students **Camille McAllister**, **Laurence Huot** and **Margaret Ashburner**, with help from their supervisors — **Tony Horava**, associate university librarian for collections, and Irene Makaryk, English professor and Shakespeare400 event coordinator — put together a unique exhibit of more than 100 physical and digital items as part of the University of Ottawa’s Shakespeare in Canada exhibit.



Camille McAllister, Laurence Huot and Margaret Ashburner stand behind one of the costumes on loan from the Stratford Festival archive — worn by William Hutt as Chorus in *Henry V* (1966) — on display in Archives and Special Collections as part of the University of Ottawa’s Shakespeare in Canada exhibit.

Anushka Samarawickrama served as a Director on the Board of the National Capital Region chapter of ARMA International (ARMA-NCR). **Katherine Laprade** and **Erica Vanden Bosch** served on the Steering Committee for the Fall IM Days 2016 event held in Ottawa in November 2015.

Katherine Laprade and **Janine Trimble** served as members of Librarians Without Borders.

Janine Trimble volunteered as Communications Officer and **Erica Vanden Bosch** as Book Room Operator for the Twice Upon a Time project in Ottawa.

Rabia Sajjad volunteered as Website Specialist for the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

Marie-Claude Gagnon volunteered as Communications Officer for Le Festival provincial des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Nouveau-Brunswick in Shippagan.

Joel Rivard assisted in organizing the Carleton University GIS Day 2015, the official opening of the Carleton University Ottawa Resource Room, and the AÉSISSA Associations Round-Up event.

Shahira Aboul-Khair served as the ÉSIS student representative to the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and to the Library Association of the National Capital Region (LANCR). Shahira also served as a student volunteer at the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference held in Toronto in February 2016 and at the CLA Forum held in Ottawa in June 2016.

Alumni

ESIS alumni reunion

As part of the University of Ottawa's spring homecoming celebrations, ÉSIS was pleased to host an alumni reception. Graduate Wendy Robbins (MIS 2013) gave an inspirational address entitled "10 Things I Learned From Doing My MIS".

