School of Information Studies
Annual Report

ÉSIS Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Faculté des arts
École des sciences de l’information

Faculty of Arts
School of Information Studies
Highlights

- Hélène Carrier completed her third term as Interim Director of ÉSIS at the end of June 2020.
- Dr. Mary Cavanagh was appointed Director of ÉSIS for a three-year term effective July 1, 2020.
- Dr. Stefanie Haustein, an assistant professor in ÉSIS, was awarded a research grant by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to fund an interdisciplinary project exploring a range of issues relating to scholarly data use and citation.
- Dr. Lynne Bowker, a full professor in the School of Translation and Interpretation, cross-appointed to ÉSIS, was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant to investigate how machine translation can help to level the linguistic playing field for international research.
- Dr. Jada Watson, an adjunct professor in ÉSIS, was the recipient of the Faculty of Arts 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award (Part-time).
- Ross Gordon, Director of Records and Information Management at Environment and Climate Change Canada, began a one-year term in the School as Public Servant in Residence on August 1, 2019.
- Dr. Alexandre Fortier, Metadata and Taxonomy Librarian at the Library of Parliament, has been appointed as an adjunct professor in ÉSIS effective July 1, 2020.
- In September 2019, ÉSIS established an Accreditation Advisory Committee to advise on the development of the Self-Study that is required for the continuing accreditation of the school’s Master of Information Studies program.
- In October 2019, ÉSIS celebrated its tenth anniversary, hosting a reception attended by former directors, faculty, sponsors of the school’s scholarships, alumni, and friends of the school from across the National Capital Region.
- Changes have been made to the MIS CO-OP option, effective May 1, 2020, to align it with university-wide practices.

Website: [http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/](http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/)

Twitter: @UO_ESIS
Our Team

Faculty and administration

During 2019-2020, the teaching faculty comprised the interim director, three regular ÉSIS professors, one cross-appointed professor, five adjunct professors, and two sessional lecturers. In addition to those teaching, the full faculty includes two other regular professors who were on academic leave, another four cross-appointed professors, and two other adjunct professors.

Top row, left to right: Interim Director Hélène Carrier, Associate Professor Inge Alberts, Associate Professor Mary Cavanagh, Assistant Professor Stefanie Haustein, Full Professor Lynne Bowker, Adjunct Professor William Curran. Bottom row, left to right: Adjunct Professor Pierre Desrochers, Adjunct Professor Alexandre Fortier, Adjunct Professor Amy Tector, Adjunct Professor Adjunct Professor Jada Watson, Lecturer Kerry Badgley, Lecturer Alexandra Yarrow.

Hélène Carrier, Associate University Librarian, began a third one-year term as Interim Director of ÉSIS on July 1, 2019.

Associate Professor Dr. Mary Cavanagh has been appointed as Director of ÉSIS for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020.

Dr. Alexandre Fortier, Metadata and Taxonomy Librarian at the Library of Parliament, was appointed as an adjunct professor in ÉSIS effective July 1, 2020.

Mr. Ross Gordon, Director of Records and Information Management at Environment and Climate Change Canada, began a one-year term in the school as Public Servant in Residence on August 1, 2019.
**Student body**

Fourteen new students enrolled in the Master of Information Studies (MIS) program and five in the Graduate Diploma in Information Management (GDIM) program for 2019-2020, joining another twenty-five continuing MIS students and one continuing GDIM student, for a total enrolment of forty-five in the school’s programs.

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**Our Priorities**

In November 2019 a long-range planning workshop was held to review program goals and priorities for the 2018/19–2021/22 planning cycle. Those goals and priorities stem in part from the prioritized areas for improvement and enhancement identified in the self-study that was conducted for the cyclical review of our programs in 2015-2016; in part from the initiatives proposed in the school’s input to the Faculty of Arts strategic plan, Roadmap for Arts 2030, in 2017; as well as from a review of priorities and implementation plans that was initiated in December 2018.

The school’s strategic goals for the planning period are:

- To increase enrolment in the MIS and GDIM programs
- To enrich the student experience through refinement of the curriculum
- To maintain the MIS program’s accreditation status
- To maintain the MIS program’s post-degree employment rate

For the purposes of program planning, the school identifies its priorities under five key areas of focus: curriculum and the student experience; research development; resources and leadership; community engagement; and marketing and visibility. During the 2019-2020 academic year, significant progress was made on a number of priorities in each of those areas of focus, as noted below.

**Curriculum and student experience**

Changes have been made to the MIS CO-OP option, effective May 1, 2020, to align it with university-wide practices. Under those changes, credits attached to the two CO-OP work terms no longer count as credits toward the MIS degree. To offset that change, credits are now given to the applied research projects associated with the CO-OP work terms. The net effect, however, is that the total number of credits earned...
for the combined works terms and applied research projects in the CO-OP option have been reduced from 12 to 6.

To partially offset the reduction in credits earned for the CO-OP component, the total number of credits required for the degree has been reduced from 48 to 45 for all options (course-based, CO-OP, and thesis) by eliminating one compulsory course from the curriculum. We will be monitoring the impact on the overall program both of the changes to the CO-OP option and the reduction in the number of credits required for the degree.

Research development

Assistant Professor Stefanie Haustein was awarded a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation worth over $280,000 in Canadian funds for research on meaningful data counts.

Full Professor Lynne Bowker, cross-appointed to ÉSIS, was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC) grant of $72,000 to investigate how machine translation can help to level the linguistic playing field for international research.

Associate Professor André Vellino is collaborating on a new project funded by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada researching the application of smart voice technology and custom AI to help persons with cognitive and mental-health-related disabilities participate in the digital economy.

Adjunct Professor Jada Watson is collaborating on a new project funded by SSHRC studying the literary, musical, and historical significance of Christina Rossetti’s poetry in music-literary collaborations.

Community engagement

Ross Gordon, Director of Information Management Services at Environment and Climate Change Canada, joined the school’s faculty for the 2019-2020 academic year under the Public-Servant-in-Residence program. During his residency, Mr. Gordon co-taught the elective course on Knowledge in Organizations and the capstone case problem course. In addition, he conducted research on information management trends and technologies in the Government of Canada and facilitated further interaction between students and faculty in our MIS program and other key players in the information management field within the federal public service.

Resources and leadership

Hélène Carrier completed her third term as Interim Director of ÉSIS at the end of June 2020. Associate Professor Mary Cavanagh has been appointed to serve a three-year term as Director of ÉSIS beginning July 1, 2020.

Adjunct Professor Tom Delsey was appointed as accreditation coordinator for a period of sixteen months beginning in May 2019. The position was funded on a part-time basis by the Faculty of Arts in recognition of the importance of the accreditation process to our program as well as the extra work that this entails for our school.

Marketing and visibility

ÉSIS received funding from the Faculty of Arts to hire a student from the work-study program to work on the school’s promotional material and website.
Teaching and Learning

**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 2019 CO-OP placements included:

- Administrative Tribunal Support Services of Canada
- Canadian Medical Association (Joule)
- Carleton University Library
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada
- Library and Archives Canada
- Library of Parliament
- National Research Council
- New Brunswick Public Library Services
- Ottawa Hydro
- Public Service Commission
- Shopify
- Statistics Canada
- University of Ottawa - Information Technologies

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

**Capstone projects**

The Case Problem capstone experience offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in a broad range of professional competencies. Students work in teams to solve a problem in information studies specified by their instructors. The Case Problem presents a challenge relating to the management of information resources or the creation of a service and sets the problem in a political, cultural, economic, organizational and technological contexts. Students address the problem by producing outputs such as a problem analysis, an environmental scan, best-practices recommendations, and a prioritized plan to achieve the objectives.

The projects for the Winter 2020 capstone experience included the following:

- Archiving Social Media at Library and Archives Canada
- Indigenous Rights and the Duty to Consult at Library and Archives Canada
- The future of the Federal Science Library
- Developing communication/training strategies for the Information Management Division at Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Creative Spaces for the new Central Ottawa Public Library
- Organisation des collections à la Bibliothèque de Gatineau
Student research assistants

ÉSIS student **Alyssa Jeffrey** was a research assistant for Professor Stefanie Haustein’s project on metric literacy.

ÉSIS student **David Bynoe** was a research assistant for Professor Sylvie Grosjean’s project on the role of technologies in health care programs.

Graduates

Twenty students received the Master of Information Studies degree in 2019-2020:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>岩Backdrop in Pink</th>
<th>Emilie Gin</th>
<th>Emilie Moreau-Johnson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Cole</td>
<td>Caralie Heinrichs</td>
<td>Marie-Ève Nicol</td>
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<td>Emily Ann Da Silva</td>
<td>Andrea Lemieux</td>
<td>Vanessa Presseault</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leoh Droppo</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe Lepage</td>
<td>Véronique Thibault</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonia Duquette</td>
<td>Amanda Lipson</td>
<td>Emilie Katherine Dawn Vandal</td>
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Rachel Fiozandji | Elizabeth Marasse | Mitchell Wagner |
Caecilia Geraghty | Emilie Michaud |

There were also three students who received the Graduate Diploma in Information Management:

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<tr>
<th>岩Backdrop in Pink</th>
<th>Emilie Michaud</th>
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<tr>
<td>Imane El Emile</td>
<td>Domenic Graham</td>
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<td>Jean Rolsen Jerome</td>
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Our graduates were celebrated “virtually” by means of a Zoom session on June 10, 2020. Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada and former cross-appointed professor in ÉSIS, opened the session with a message of congratulations and encouragement to this year’s graduates.
# Research

## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Agency /Program</th>
<th>Research Project</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Amount (Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</td>
<td>Meaningful Data Counts</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>US$199,977 (2020-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada</td>
<td>Smart Voice Technology with Custom AI to Help Persons with Cognitive and Mental Health-Related Disabilities Participate in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
<td>$48,000 (2020-2021)</td>
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<td>Ontario Library Association</td>
<td>Ontario School Library Impact Study</td>
<td>Dr. M. Cavanagh, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$2,500 (2018-2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Understanding the Societal Impact of Research Through Social Media</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Co-investigator</td>
<td>$54,350 (2016-2019)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Sustaining the Knowledge Commons: Open Access Scholarship</td>
<td>Dr. H. Morrison, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$182,445 (2016-2021)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Librarian Involvement in Academic Program Reviews: Investigating the Faculty Perspective Using Corpus-based Methods</td>
<td>Dr. L. Bowker, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$75,186 (2017-2020)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grants</td>
<td>Gender Representation in the Country Music Industry, 1944-2017</td>
<td>Dr. J. Watson, Principal Investigator, Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
<td>$58,870 (2018-2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>A Data-Driven History of Country Music's Geo-Cultural Origin</td>
<td>Dr. J. Watson, Principal Investigator, Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
<td>$78,475 (2018-2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Agency / Program</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Investigator</td>
<td>Amount (Year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Canadian Smart Cities: Smart for All or Only Some? Dr. T. Scassa, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$45,000 (2018-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Developing a Public-interest-based Approach to Ownership: Users' Rights and Privacy Interests in Publicly Accessible Platform Data Dr. T. Scassa, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$50,000 (2018-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Christina Rosetti in Music: A Study of the Literary, Musical, Historical and Global Significance of Rossetti’s Poetry in Music-Literary Collaborations Dr. J. Watson, Collaborator</td>
<td>$96,843 (2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Digital Literacy and Global Research: Can Machine Translation Help to Level the Linguistic Playing Field for International Research? Dr. L. Bowker, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$72,229 (2020-2024)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Ottawa Seed Funding</td>
<td>Development of a Metrics Literacy Research Program Dr. S. Haustein, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$19,842 (2018-2020)</td>
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**Publications**

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


Community Engagement

Conference presentations

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


Rivard J. (2019, June). Subject coordinator: A new role to support team-based research services. Presented at the Atlantic Province Library Association Annual Conference, St. John’s, NL.

Samokishyn, M., Tsonos, V., and Leblanc, J. (2020, January) *Getting to know our students: Using visitor-resident typology maps to examine students’ use of online information resources*. Poster presented at the Ontario Library Association 2020 Superconference, Toronto, ON.


Awards and honours

Scholarships

David Bynoe, Alyssa Jeffrey, and Emilie Michaud were awarded Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Scholarships.

Caecilia Geraghty was awarded the Barbara Clubb Scholarship in Information Studies.

Audrey Kemzang and Véronique Thibault were awarded University of Ottawa Library Bursaries.

Andrea Lobel, Amanda Lipson, Alyssa Jeffrey, and Carley Meredith were awarded H. W. Wilson Foundation Scholarships in Information Studies.

Lina Harper was awarded the May Court Club of Ottawa Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship.

Elyse Lemay was awarded an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Rock Bisson-Picard was awarded a University of Ottawa Graduate Studies Scholarship.

Awards

Professor Lynne Bowker was named Researcher in Residence at the Concordia University Library in Montreal for 2019-2020.

Professor Stefanie Haustein was named as a Highly Cited Researcher in Social Sciences for 2019 by Web of Science.

Professor Jada Watson was the recipient of the Faculty of Arts 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award (Part-time).

Alyssa Jeffrey received a travel award for the Bromley Memorial Event sponsored by the Institute for Science, Society and Policy.

Student volunteers

Leoh Droppo served as president of AÉSIISSA, the Information Studies Student Association. Andrea Lemieux served as Events Planning Officer, Rachel Fiozandji served as Financial Officer, Amanda Lipson served as Full-time Student Representative, Erica Morissette served as Part-time Student Representative, and Lina Harper served as Communication Officer and Webmaster.

Francine Forget served as a Student Councillor for ABO-Franco, the Association des bibliothèques de l’Ontario.

Erica Morissette served as a volunteer on the Steering Committee for the ARMA-NCR Fall IM Days 2019 event held in Ottawa in November 2019.

Emilie Michaud served as a volunteer virtual reference service operator for Ontario Colleges Library Services.

David Bynoe and Andrea Lemieux served as student representatives on the ÉSIS Accreditation Advisory Committee.

Emilie Da Silva, Caralie Heinrichs, and Katherine Wagner served as volunteers at the 2020 Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference held in Toronto in January 2020.
Leigh Ann Butler served as a volunteer on the Canadian Journal of Library and Information Science’s Open Access Initiative Committee.

Rosa Leal served as a volunteer at the Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement.

Alumni

A reception was held on October 3, 2019 to celebrate the school’s tenth anniversary, with more than fifty alumni in attendance. Two ÉSIS alumni, Emily Farrell, CEO, Brockville Public Library and Chantal Lareau, Director, Information Management, Supreme Court of Canada, acted as Masters of Ceremonies. Dean Kevin Kee and Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, offered opening and keynote remarks. Dorothy Scorsone, President of The May Court Club of Ottawa, presented the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship to the 2019-2020 recipient Lina Harper.