

International Education SIG: Global Concerns on a Local Scale

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ABSTRACT

LIS education is an ever-evolving process as the nature and perception of information shifts, as technology creates new access and barriers to information, and as the society reacts to and address the changing concerns and expectations. Part of LIS education is to consider how these concepts influence the profession both locally. Each of the presentations provides a

different view of LIS education in an international context with considerations of local application, global events, local disasters, cultural setting, and historical and current information policies and practices.

In the first presentation, *Unrecognized Relevance: Mainstreaming International Content in LIS Courses*, Keren Dali discusses the role of this content in LIS education. Earlier research on the experiences of culturally and linguistically diverse students in LIS programs has shown that the lack of international content and non-Western international perspectives is noted by some as a shortcoming of the current curriculum and pedagogical approaches. . Integrating international contents by design in traditionally North-America-focused classes requires patience, creativity, and awareness on the part of instructors. Not only should this content be added seamlessly; its “relevance” to students’ employment and learning experiences should be clearly and convincingly demonstrated.

In the second presentation, *LIS Education in the UAE: A Profession in Search of an Identity*, Kristine Stewart will present on how the history and context of libraries in the UAE has greatly influenced the status and prominence of these institutions and the profession at present. Although this proposal focuses on librarianship and libraries in the UAE, regional examples will also be discussed for the purposes of contrast and comparison and to identify related aspects of colonization that have hindered the development of LIS as a profession within the region. As institutions which are relatively new in the country, libraries and by proxy, reading and literacy, are also somewhat newly acquired skills within the country. The purpose of this proposal is not to call into question the value of the oral tradition and history of the UAE, but as a means of illuminating some of the obstacles and challenges now faced in the development of library and information science (LIS), as a profession.

The final presentation, *Stories from Away: Impact and Action*, Elizabeth Burns and Nancy Abreu Baez examine the findings of travel course to Puerto Rico. Internship experiences should promote social, intellectual, and cultural growth. To capitalize on this belief, the LIS program at Old Dominion created a study away opportunity for students in San Juan Puerto Rico. The presentation will discuss the findings of a group of 10 students who traveled to Puerto Rico to engage in a Study Away experience, as well as highlight faculty opportunities and the challenges of coordinating a faculty-led program to meet the rigorous demands of a credit-bearing internship course in a study-abroad setting. It will also share the experiences of the 10 students and highlight their action research projects conducted on-site.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Pedagogy; Critical Librarianship; Social Justice

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

International Education; Professional Identity; Local Impact