THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY ARCHIVAL AND INFORMATION STUDIES

SLAIS ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

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More Choices, More Opportunities

Dr. Ken Haycock

The School of Library, Archival and Information Studies has enjoyed a remarkable few years.

MAS

The SLAIS Master of Archival Studies program received international recognition from the Society of American Archivists as an exemplary program making outstanding contributions to the discipline and the profession. This was the first time the SAA Distinguished Service Award was given to an education program, and the first time the award was given outside the United States. The faculty has also led an international research team with funding from many different countries and agencies to examine the authenticity and reliability of electronic records.

MLIS

The SLAIS Master of Library and Information Studies program received from the American Library Association the full seven years of re-accreditation with many specific commendations. We continue to improve the program through more flexible curriculum delivery, including entry three times a year for both full- and part-time students and new contracts to deliver courses through distance education. Our First Nations concentration is bringing educators from outside the country to examine our program and curriculum and our Visiting Scholar for the coming year will be a professor specializing in this area. Funded research includes investigation of public library effectiveness, barriers to access to electronic information and Internet use. A new required course in collaborative research has resulted in student teams working with faculty on critical projects to advance the profession.

The new SLAIS sign in front of the Main Library with students from Professor Lynne Lighthall's 1999 class on Cataloguing of Special Materials (a.k.a. Cruel and Unusual Materials). From left, front row: Kathy Bossort, Katia Strieck, Christy MacKinnon, Shana Bystrom; back row: Toby Willis-Camp, May Chan, Caroline Hyslop, Lynne Lighthall, Mimi Doyle-Waters.

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Faculty and Student Research in Libraries & Archives

InterPARES Project Doubles Participant Countries

InterPARES Project: International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

Under the direction of Dr. Luciana Duranti, the InterPARES project completed its first full year of organization and research and moved forward to almost double the number of participating countries. The goal of the project is to develop the theoretical and methodological knowledge required for the permanent preservation of authentic records created in electronic systems. In addition to Canada, the list of participating countries now includes: Australia, China (including Hong Kong), England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden, and the United States.

SLAIS faculty members Professor Terry Eastwood and Dr. Heather MacNeil acted as chairs of two of the four InterPARES research task forces, those related to authenticity requirments (domain 1), and appraisal criteria and methods (domain 2). Two MAS graduates, Tahra Fung and Peter Van Garderen, have been acting respectively as Project Coordinator and Technical Coordinator.

MAS students working as research assistants for the InterPARES project include: Lisa Beitel, Deirdre Bryden, Kathleen Burns, Robert Edwards, Anna Gibson, Prisca Giordani, Erica Hernandez, Robyn Hulley, Marta Maftei, Ian McAndrew, April Miller, Sion Romaine, Claire-Yasmina Veisseire, Lara Wilson, and Jane Zhang.

Because the InterPARES Project is a multi-national, collaborative research initiative, a significant portion of the first year was devoted to examining and deliberating over research methodologies and the organizational structure of the project, as well as beginning substantive research activities. The project is divided into four major domains of inquiry. In addition to the domains mentioned above, there is one dedicated to preservation methods, and one to policies, strategies, and standards.

The research methodology known as grounded theory has been adopted to select case studies, which are carried out through interviews, based on a questionnaire and analyzed according to a template for analysis developed on the basis of diplomatic concepts and methods. Business process modeling of the appraisal and preservation functions is now underway, and diplomatic analysis of the systems examined in the course of the case studies will be carried out in the near future.

For more information on the project, see the InterPARES Web site at http://www.interpares.org.

Peter Van Garderen and Tahra Fung, InterPares' Technology and Project Coordinators

Professional Experience Projects

The following projects were completed between July 1999 and the end of June 2000 by students in the Library and Information Studies and the Archival Studies programs. There is a list of all projects completed since the course started in 1994 on the SLAIS Web site at http://www.slais.ubc.ca. Students receive full course credit for these projects, and are expected to devote about 120 hours to a project.

MLIS Program

Special Libraries and Information Agencies/ Organizations

- Original cataloguing and re-classification of the art gallery library's permanent collection catalogues, and assistance with collection management (Josephine Yaba)
- Development of a thesaurus on Down Syndrome (Ivana Prijic-Niseteo)
- Assessment of the information and research