Introduction

Since the last Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Biennial Narrative Report of 2013, GSLIS has especially advanced in the areas of Curriculum, Faculty, and Students. Reflective of the changing needs of the LIS profession, GSLIS had a new Curriculum approved with three Optional Tracks for implementation effective January, 2015. Additionally, URI conducted an Internal Search for a Director which resulted in the hiring of Dr. Valerie Karno, J.D., Ph.D., as Director. GSLIS Student admission numbers have seen over a 10% increase in enrollment between 2014-2015. Faculty have been productive in research, and GSLIS was awarded a $475,000.00 IMLS Grant, “Media Smart Libraries,” which we are now implementing with a Cohort of 24 Public and School Librarians from throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Standard I: Systematic Planning

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Mission and Vision Statement, approved by the Faculty and the GSLIS Advisory Committee, in 2010, and available on our website at http://harrington.uri.edu/graduate/library-information-studies/about/mission-statement/ is supported by our 4 Learning Outcomes: “Foundations, Lifelong Learning, Digital Media, and Leadership and Ethics” (described in detail on our website at Harrington.uri.edu/graduate/library-information-studies/graduate-program/learning-outcomes/). Our courses are designed to deliver
these learning outcomes so that we can measure and assess program success as aligned with our mission and vision statements. For the 2013-2015 period we have measured the successful delivery of these learning outcomes via our Comprehensive Exam. That Exam, which every student must take and pass prior to graduation, links each question with the demonstration of a particular learning outcome.

Looking forward to our next 7 years, we have convened a Strategic Planning Committee facilitated by former ALA President, and Advisory Board member, Maureen Sullivan. Created from a subset of our current and past Advisory Boards, this Committee is working with the faculty on creating a new Vision and Mission Statement, followed by Goals and Objectives. That committee met December 1, 2015, in the first of a series of meetings to work on the next iteration of our Strategic Plan. We created a timeline and work plan for drafting the mission and vision statements. We will share them with the Advisory Board and Adjunct Faculty between January-April, 2016.

**Standard II: Curriculum**

Since our last Biennial Narrative Report, our New Curriculum was approved by URI and became effective in Spring, 2015. In this new Curriculum students take 5 required courses for the General Program: LSC 502—“Lead, Manage, and Connect”, LSC 504—“Searching for Answers”, LSC 505--Organization of Information, LSC 557—“Document, Assess, Evaluate”, and LSC 595—“Apply and Reflect”, our mandatory Experiential Learning course. In the General Track they also take 7 electives. Students in the School Library Media Track take LSC 502, 504, 557, a 9-credit practicum LSC596, and 6 electives. Students
create a Program of Study customized to their individual interests within their first year with the assistance of their Advisor (to whom they are assigned upon admission into the program), so that they have a coherent map of what courses they will likely take while in GSLIS.

The New Curriculum was created out of a series of many faculty meetings with faculty deciding what courses were outdated and should be eliminated, which should be revised and updated, and which new courses should be created. In the New Curriculum, two more optional tracks were created, in addition to updating the School Library Media track. In this Review period the School Library Media Program received National Recognition from AASL for its NCATE Accredited Program.

In response to both increased demands for courses on information technologies and courses teaching Leadership Skills, both the “Organization of Digital Media” and the “Libraries, Leadership, & Transforming Communities” optional tracks were created. Track requirements and electives can be found at: http://harrington.uri.edu/graduate/library-information-studies/graduate-program/tracks/

GSLIS affords student the abundant possibility of interdisciplinary coursework. In this last Review period the GSLIS faculty approved creating a Dual Masters Program with the Communications Department within the Harrington School of Media and Communication. Additionally, upper division Undergraduate students are now able to take GSLIS courses towards the new Integrated Media Undergraduate Major within the
Harrington School. Additionally, GSLIS courses are integral to a Social Media Certificate being developed by the Harrington School.

Experiential learning exists throughout the Curriculum. Our core requirements include LSC 595 (“Apply and Reflect”) for the General Track, which places students at a range of sorts of Libraries and Information settings to gain hands-on experience, and LSC 596 “School Library Media Practicum and Seminar” in which students complete 12 weeks under the supervision of a professional school librarian. Students can repeat LSC 595 for up to 6 credits to help them decide which information setting may be best for them for a career choice. This field experience must be supervised by an MLIS certified Professional, and the Instructor for LSC 595 oversees the creation of a Learning Contract with the site Supervisor prior to the course starting so that the work proposed to be performed aligns with the GSLIS Learning Outcomes. We use an e-portfolio at the end of LSC 595 and 596 to assess student success in meeting the stated Learning Outcomes of the placement. We have used Taskstream in several courses for this assessment, and our goal is to move over to Taskstream for more consistent and thorough assessment of achieving Learning Outcomes. We need to measure and assess the delivery of our Learning Outcomes in the new Curriculum, and this will be a key focus for the next few years.

GSLIS has also been offering a series of Continuing Education Workshops since the last Biennial Report, as the Department was awarded a $475,000.00 IMLS Grant, “Media Smart Libraries.” PI Dr. Valerie Karno, and Co-PI Dr. Lauren Mandel, have been administering this Grant. We have created an Educational Cohort of 24 Public and School
Librarians from throughout Rhode Island (with 1 from Massachusetts), and with Program Director Mary Moen have created (and will continue to create) a series of 15 Continuing Education Workshops and 6 Public Programs on how to integrate Digital Media (including Filmmaking) into Libraries. Our official partners on the IMLS Grant include the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) and the Providence Children’s Film Festival (PCFF). We have a National and Local Advisory Board for the grant, and we have hired External Evaluator Susan Gracia who is assessing the Grant outcomes in a wide range of ways. All Grant information can be found at our website: www.mediasmartlibraries.org

**Standard III: Faculty**

GSLIS has 4 tenure-track faculty members in Fall, 2015, (including Director Karno whose tenure home is English but who is working full time in GSLIS). Since the last Biennial Report, Dr. Donna Gilton retired. GSLIS has been granted a Search by the Provost’s Office for a Continuing Lecturer to replace her, with possibility of that position being converted to a Tenure Track line depending on Performance and Budget. That Search is ongoing now, and Search Committee members will be at ALISE in January, 2016 to meet with candidates.

In the last 2 years, the University successfully conducted and completed an Internal Search for a Director (rather than an Interim Director), and Valerie Karno, J.D., Ph.D. was picked as the Director of GSLIS for the University-standard 3-year term. Dr. Karno had already served as Interim Director for 1.5 years, and so continues her work on recruitment, retention, and renewal. Dr. Karno has a Joint Appointment with English and GSLIS, but is working and teaching full time in GSLIS. With her background in law, she teaches LSC 515
“Information Ethics and Policy,” and with her Humanities background she has also taught “The Digital Humanities” and “Information and its Discontents.” Having been at URI 15 years, she has Chaired and Directed programs and committees, including running a state-wide program called “Changing Lives through Literature”—which was a joint agreement between 3 Universities throughout RI, and the District Court. She has served previously as Chair of the Faculty Senate Library Committee, and she is also the Principal Investigator on the “Media Smart Libraries” IMLS Grant, focusing on integrating digital media and filmmaking into a range of libraries.

Additionally, GSLIS has had 1 year-long, Full Time Lecturer Position granted to us for each of the last 2 years. In 2014-15, Stefanie Metko was our Full Time Lecturer; In 2015-16, Dr. Nicole Alemanne is our Full Time Lecturer. Dr. Alemanne has a background in Management and Business Information. She is teaching LSC 539, “Business Information,” in addition to core required course LSC 502 and a new required course in our Leadership Track, LSC 570, “Leadership in Information Professions.” GSLIS has additionally hired Assistant Professor, Research Faculty, Mary Moen, in the 2015-16 year. Mary Moen is conducting research on digital media as she fulfills the role of Program Director on the IMLS Grant GSLIS received. (CVs are included in the Appendix of this report.)

Full time tenure-track or tenured faculty have been productive researchers since the last Review, and are evaluated per the AAUP contract, via an Annual Review dossier. Last year Dr. Yan Ma was Advanced to Full Professor III after a comprehensive evaluation of her Dossier by fellow faculty, the Director, Deans, and the Provost. Dr. Ma also served as a
Guest Editor for the Journal of Visual Literacy since the last Narrative Report. Dr. Cheryl McCarthy and Dr. Lauren Mandel also have published a range of articles and presented invited and refereed conference presentations. (Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations are included in the Appendix of this report.)

We have also hired 4 adjunct faculty members who are specialists in the field (and practicing librarians) to augment our full time faculty: Sally Gore, Embedded Health Sciences Librarian and University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Boston, MA, was hired to teach LSC 537, “Health Sciences Librarianship”; Darshell Silva, a member of the GSLIS Advisory Board and Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist at the Rocky Hill School, was hired to teach LSC 525, “Multiculturalism in Libraries”; Carina Cournoyer, Social Sciences Librarian at Brown University, was hired to teach LSC 541, “Social Science Information”; and Mark Caprio, Librarian at Providence College, and expert in Digital Preservation, was hired to teach our new course, LSC 562, “Digital Archives and Preservation.” GSLIS also has strong ties with the URI Library, and Amanda Izenstark, Reference Librarian, often teaches LSC 504 for GSLIS. Additionally, Library Liaison to GSLIS, Professor Mary MacDonald, Head of Instruction and Information Literacy Librarian, assists us in the New Student Orientation and Introduction to the Library.

**Standard IV: Students**

Since the last Biennial Report, GSLIS has seen over a 10% increase in student admissions. (We had 96 students enrolled in the MLIS program in October, 2013, and we have 108 students enrolled in October, 2015.) We have exerted considerable energy
towards recruitment and retention in the last two years, as we have participated in exhibiting and presenting at ALA Annual (through the shared ALISE booth), as well as Regional conferences like New England Library Association, and State Library Conferences like the Connecticut Library Association, and the New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Library Association Conferences. We will continue our regional presence with an exhibit booth at ALA Mid-Winter in Boston in January, 2016.

GSLIS has been able to offer 3 Graduate Assistantships (two with paid tuition), and 8 Partial Fellowships per year in the 2014-2016 period. 2 Assistantships are paid for by the IMLS Grant and as cost-share by GSLIS. GSLIS received an additional Graduate Administrative Assistantship for the 2014-16 Review Period paid in part by the Provost’s Office, and in part by the Graduate School of the University. This Assistant has worked primarily on Admissions as a student liaison. Of the 8 partial fellowships, 2 are designed to support ethnic minority and graduate students of color: the GSLIS Prism and Mattoon-Kline Scholarships.

Towards Retention, the University granted a Course Release to Dr. Mandel for the last two years to systematize the GSLIS Advising Process, and to advise numerous students. This has functioned to stabilize and enhance our advising processes for students in the General Track and improve retention.

Our Chapter of Student ALA (SALA) continues to foster an involved student community. SALA hosts numerous events and conferences each year. In February of 2015, SALA hosted the “Let’s Talk Tech Conference: A Technology Conference for Librarians” at
URI. Many informal gatherings are sponsored by SALA as well, such as the September 2015, SALA sponsored “Tea with the Director” and October 2015, “Library Crawl”.

Assistant Professor Dr. Mandel is the GSLIS Advisor/Mentor to SALA. There is also student representation on our National Advisory Board, with a student attending each Advisory Board Meeting.

We use our Student Listserv to regularly distribute fellowship and job opportunities. In this Review period we began distributing an Alumni survey gathering data on employment post-graduation. GSLIS intends to continue conducting this survey each year.

**Standard V: Administration, Finances, and Resources**

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies is an integral, yet distinctive unit within both the Harrington School of Communication and Media, and the College of Arts and Sciences (within which the Harrington School is housed.) Our admission decisions are independent, as are decisions about the use of our operating budget. Our Administrator, housed in Rodman Hall where our offices are, was paid for 75% by the Harrington School in the 2014-15 year, and 100% in the 2015-16 year. In 2014-2015 the GSLIS Administrator was shared with the Journalism and Film Departments of the Harrington School.

The Director of GSLIS represents the Department at both monthly Harrington School Chair’s Meetings, and also monthly College of Arts and Sciences Chair’s Meetings. There is a very interactive and collegial relationship between the academic units of the Harrington School.
Since the last Biennial Report, GSLIS has both lost and gained facilities. Part of Rodman Hall, where GSLIS is housed, has been given to the Journalism faculty so GSLIS no longer has the entire first floor of Rodman Hall to itself. However, GSLIS has also gained access to the HUB Technology and Media Center, with laptop carts and a variety of video and editing hardware and software. The Harrington School fully staffs The Hub in Swan Hall, and GSLIS students and faculty are able to use the equipment and resources there. Additionally, the Harrington School has just begun renovating Ranger Hall for a new technological center, with editing rooms and advising centers, which GSLIS students will be able to use. Director Karno is also researching the costs of updating the GSLIS Resource Room in Rodman Hall with Maker Space equipment to train our students in 3D printing.

Conclusion

In the past 2 years, GSLIS has had numerous achievements: The Department renewed its Curriculum to meet the demands of the changing LIS field; it improved its admission numbers through expanding its recruitment and retention strategies; it provided increased numbers of student Assistantships; it has been awarded and implemented a $475,000.00 IMLS Grant which creates Continuing Education workshops and engages librarians from throughout Rhode Island; It has begun its next Strategic Plan; It has Searched for and Appointed a Director (rather than an Interim Director); It has begun assessing its curriculum with Taskstream towards moving into a full assessment of the new Curriculum. These contribute to GSLIS at URI being at the forefront of LIS education.
Appendix A: Faculty Research Publications and Conference Presentations December 2013-December 2015:

Lauren Mandel Publications since Dec. 2013


Lauren Mandel Conference presentations/papers since Dec. 2013


Yan Ma Publications since Dec. 2013


**Yan Ma Conference Presentations since Dec. 2013:**


**Cheryl McCarthy Publications since 2014:**

**McCarthy, C. A. and MacDonald M. (2014) “We’re All In It Together: Professional Development Linking Multi-Type Libraries with Information Literacy Instruction Across One State.” In LOEX Conference Proceedings. LOEX, Grand Rapids, Michigan and Digital Commons @ URI [http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/lib_ps_pubs/14/](http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/lib_ps_pubs/14/)**

**Cheryl McCarthy Invited and Refereed Conference Presentations since Dec. 2013**

- **McCarthy, C. A. (August 11, 2015) “Teacher Librarians at the Helm: Who is Charting Your Course for Success?” Invited Keynote Presentation for RILINK Annual Summer Conference:** Navigating Student Learning: Charting K16 Digital and Information Fluencies. [Bristol, Rhode Island @ RILINK](http://guides.rilink.org/sc2015keynote)


- **McCarthy, C. A. (May 9, 2014) “We're All In It Together: Professional Development**
Linking Multi-Type Libraries with Information Literacy Instruction Across One State.” Paper presentation with Mary MacDonald. LOEX, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

• McCarthy, C. A. (April 15, 2014) “Dr. Seuss Read Aloud and Create Poetry,” Invited Reader to Veazie Street School, Providence, RI, for Reading Week, by Cynthia Alexandre, School Librarian @ https://twitter.com/hashtag/Veaziereadingweek2014?src=hash

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Education
PhD, Information Studies, Florida State University 2014
Dissertation Title: Mapping the Social World Boundaries of Interdisciplinary Teams: Processes for Working Across Disciplines. Committee: Paul F. Marty (Chair), Michelle M. Kazmer, Besiki Stvilia, Pat Villeneuve (University Representative)
MS, Library and Information Studies with Certificate in Museum Studies 2008
Florida State University
BA, English and Rhetoric 1984
Binghamton University (State University of New York)

Teaching Experience
School of Information, Florida State University 2008 – 2015
Tallahassee, FL
Adjunct Professor
LIS 5474, Business Information Needs and Sources (Summer 2015)
Master’s-level course that introduces students to print and electronic sources of business information, covers effective methods of access to and evaluation of business information, and helps students acquire problem-solving skills and collection-development techniques suitable in business and related disciplines.
Lead Instructor
LIS 3021, Technical Communication for Information Professionals (Fall 2013)
Undergraduate-level course that focuses on principles and practices of technical and professional communication important to information technology professionals.
Graduate Teaching Assistant
Supported online and face-to-face Master’s level courses: revised syllabi, graded assignments, lectured, maintained course LMS and WordPress sites, and assisted students.
LIS 5487, Information Systems Management (Spring 2013)
LIS 5590, Museum Informatics (Spring 2013)
LIS 5271, Research Methods in Information Studies (Spring 2009)
LIS 5408, Management of Information Organizations (Spring 2009)
LIS 5442, Information Leadership (Fall 2008)
LIS 5411, Management of Information Collections (Fall 2008)

Publications
Articles Under Review
Kazmer, M. M., Alemanne, N. D., Mendenhall, A., Southerland, S. A., Sampson, V., Douglas, I., Clark, A., Schellinger, J., & Marty, P.F. “A good day to see a bobcat”: Elementary students’
online journal entries during a structured observation visit to a wildlife center.

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Mendenhall, A., Schellinger, J., Alemanne, N. D., Clark, A., Southerland, S., Sampson, V.,
technology to foster the development of elementary students’ understandings of scientific
inquiry.

Refereed Journal Articles

Marty, P. F., Alemanne, N. D., Mendenhall, A., Maurya, M., Douglas, I., Southerland, S. A.,
literacy, and mobile computing in informal learning environments. Learning, Media and

Marty, P. F., & Alemanne, N. D. (2013). Engaging the experts in museum computing: Seven
doi:10.1111/cura.12042

Marty, P. F., Mendenhall, A., Douglas, I., Southerland, S. A., Sampson, V., Kazmer, M.,
Alemanne, N., Clark, A., & Schellinger, J. (2013). The iterative design of a mobile learning

Refereed Conference Papers

(2015, March). Meeting the needs of IT stakeholders in a northwest Florida state college. Paper
presented at the 2015 iConference, Newport Beach, California.

Alemanne, N. D. (2014, January). LIS and the boundaries of knowledge: Theorizing the
process of interdisciplinary teamwork. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the
Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), Philadelphia, PA.

broadband connectivity: Enablers and barriers to adoption. In J.-E. Mai (Ed.), Proceedings of
the 2012 iConference (pp. 136-144). New York, NY: The Association for Computing Machinery.
doi:10.1145/2132176.2132194

deployment as technological innovation: Planning and evaluation issues and strategies. In J.
Unsworth (Ed.), Proceedings of the iConference 2010 (pp. 102-108). Urbana-Champaign, IL:
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Proceedings of the IADIS International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in
Digital Age (pp. 299-302), Algarve, Portugal.

Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Information Technology Based Higher
Education and Training (pp. 315-320), Kumamoto, Japan.

Non-Refereed Journal Articles

in community broadband services. Library Technology Reports, 47(6), 19-28.

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Technical Reports

Library evaluation activities, 2011-2012: Assess the Gale database portfolio, and market the
Florida Electronic Library. Tallahassee, FL: Information Use Management & Policy Institute,
Florida State University.

McClure, C. R., Mandel, L. H., Alemanne, N. D., Saunders, J., Spears, L. I., & Bishop, B. W.
(2011). Florida Rural Broadband Alliance, LLC (FRBA) Florida Rural Middle Mile
Networks—Northwest and South Central Regions Project: Broadband needs assessment, diagnostics, and benchmarking of selected anchor institutions: Fourth interim report. Tallahassee, FL: Information Use Management & Policy Institute, Florida State University.


Posters and Presentations

Refereed Conference Posters


Alemanne, N. D. (2014, November). “We didn't know what it was going to be until we built it”: Exploring processes of collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. Poster presented at the 77th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T 2014), Seattle, WA.

