

EI News 23 (4) December 2005

1. Conferences

1.1. *Asia-Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education and Practice* (A-LIEP): “Preparing Information Professionals for Leadership in the New Age”, Singapore, 3–6 April, 2006

(URL: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sci/a-liep>)

Organized by Division of Information Studies, School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in collaboration with the Department of Information Science, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya, and Nanyang Technological University Library.

The conference will take place on the garden campus of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on 3–6 April 2006.

About the conference

- Is there a uniquely Asia-Pacific perspective of library and information science?
- What are the challenges facing librarians and information professionals in the Asia-Pacific region?
- How are library schools preparing LIS professionals for leadership roles?
- What research is needed to support the LIS profession?
- How can practice, research and education be integrated to deliver high-quality information services?

These and other questions will be addressed at the Conference, with an emphasis on issues relevant to Asia-Pacific countries. The conference will survey, accumulate and synthesize the experiences and insights of LIS educators, researchers and practitioners, and provide opportunities for scholarly exchanges and knowledge-sharing between academics and practitioners through paper presentations, panel discussions and workshops.

The Conference has three themes:

LIS education

- Challenges in LIS education in the Asia-Pacific context
- Preparing LIS graduates for leadership and management roles to support national and economic development in Asia
- Quality assurance and accreditation of LIS programs in Asia
- Collaboration and resource sharing among LIS schools
- E-learning in LIS education

- Research-based teaching
- Survey of LIS graduates: impact of LIS education on the work and career of graduates, competencies found useful
- The job market for LIS professionals. Careers in traditional and non-traditional environments.
- Continuing education needs of LIS professionals

LIS practice

- Evidence-based librarianship. Grounding library and information practice on research. Integrating LIS research and practice
- LIS professionals as teachers and trainers. User education and information literacy for life-long learning
- Role of LIS professionals in non-traditional contexts. Changing roles in traditional contexts
- Competency standards for library and information services
- Knowledge management and librarians
- Strategic marketing of information services
- Roles and challenges for school media specialists in Asia-Pacific

LIS research

- LIS research issues in the Asia-Pacific context
- Valuation of library/information services. Measurement of the impact and value of information services and products to an organization
- Models and theories of user information needs and behaviour, and application in the design of information services & systems
- Design, development and evaluation of digital information repositories
- Issues in digital reference services, and comparisons with traditional reference services

Tracks: English, Chinese & Malay/Indonesian Tracks, & Doctoral Seminar

The main language of the conference is English.

In addition to English, the conference will accept papers in two other languages – Chinese (Mandarin) and Malay/Indonesian. All papers and paper proposals must include an English abstract.

Publication:

- Papers accepted for presentation will be published in a printed conference proceedings.
- Selected research papers on LIS education will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science.
- Selected papers in the LIS research track will be published in a special issue of the LIBRES electronic journal.
- Selected papers on LIS practice will be published in a special issue of the Singapore Journal of Library & Information Management.

Please submit paper proposals by email to both Dr Chris Khoo (assgkhoo@ntu.edu.sg) and Dr Diljit Singh (diljit@um.edu.my).

Fellowship at nanyang technological university, school of communication & information

Researchers and scholars are also invited to apply for the Asian Communication Resource Centre (ACRC) Fellowship, which involves a 3-month stay at the Nanyang Technological University. More information can be found at: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sci/research/acrc.html>.

Conference committees

General chair

Abdus Sattar Chaudhry (Head, Division of Information Studies, School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Advisory committee

Abdus Sattar Chaudhry, Chair (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Schubert Foo (Vice Dean, School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Choy Fatt Cheong (University Librarian, Nanyang Technological University)

Diljit Singh (Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology, University of Malaya, Malaysia)

Ngian Lek Choh (Director, National Library)

Sylvia Yap (President, Library Association of Singapore; Director, National University of Singapore Libraries)

Program committee

Christopher Khoo, Co-chair (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Diljit Singh, Co-chair (Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology, University of Malaya, Malaysia)

Anita Sundaram Coleman (School of Information Resources & Library Science, University of Arizona, USA)

Brendan Luyt (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Chern Li Liew (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Chihfeng P. Lin (Graduate School of Information & Communications, Shih Hsin University, Taiwan)

Kanwal Ameen (Department of Library & Information Science, University of Punjab, Pakistan)

Kerry Smith (Curtin University, Australia)

Koti S. Raghavan (Documentation Research & Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, India)

L. Sulistyo-Basuki (Faculty of Humanities, University of Indonesia, Indonesia)

Laili Hj. Hashim (Faculty of Information Management, University Technology MARA)

Lee-Wang Cheng Yeng (Library Association of Singapore, Singapore)
Makiko Miwa (National Institute of Multimedia Education, Japan)
Mark Hepworth (Loughborough University, UK)
Paul W.T. Poon (University of Macau Library, Macau, China)
Ross Harvey (School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Australia)
Sajjad ur Rehman (Department of Library & Information Science, Kuwait University, Kuwait)
Sam Oh (Sungkyunkwan University, Korea)
Shigeo Sugimoto (University of Tsukuba, Japan)
Sujin Butdisuwan (Faculty of Informatics, Mahasarakham University, Thailand)
Susan Higgins (School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi, USA)
Wang Yuguang (Department of Library and Information Management, Peking University, Beijing, China)

Local organization chair
M. Shaheen Majid, Chair (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)
Publicity & sponsorship chair
Margaret Tan (School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

1.2. 4th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education, Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu Hawaii, USA, January 6–9, 2006

Sponsored by:

East West Council for Education
Asia-Pacific Research Institute of Peking University University of Louisville – Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods
Web address: <http://www.hiceducation.org> Email address: education@hiceducation.org

The 4th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education will be held from January 6 (Friday) to January 9 (Monday), 2006 at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from education related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

Topic Areas (All Areas of Education are Invited):

- Academic Advising and Counseling
- Art Education
- Adult Education
- Business Education
- Counselor Education

- Curriculum, Research and Development
- Distance Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Educational Administration
- Educational Foundations
- Educational Psychology
- Educational Technology
- Education Policy and Leadership
- Elementary Education
- ESL/TESL
- Health Education
- Higher Education
- Human Resource Development
- Kinesiology & Leisure Science
- Language Education
- Mathematics Education
- Music Education
- Reading Education
- Rural Education
- Science Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education
- Teacher Education
- Cross-disciplinary areas of Education with other areas are also encouraged
- Other Areas of Education

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2. Library schools

2.1. Florida State University, US

The College of Information at Florida State University has been awarded a \$159,526 grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). "School Library Media Specialists for the 21st Century: Leaders Educated to Make a Difference" (Project LEAD) is a project to develop graduate education opportunities and a research agenda focused on leadership for school library media specialists. Dr. Nancy Everhart, Associate Professor, and Dr. Eliza T.

Dresang, Eliza Atkins Gleason Professor, of the FSU College of Information will serve as co-principal investigators on the grant project. Leaders from Florida A&M University, the FSU College of Education, the FSU Learning Systems Institute, the Florida Department of Education, and the Leon County (FL) School District will join them as collaborators.

As part of Project LEAD an online curriculum will be developed to prepare school library media specialists for leadership roles. The curriculum will integrate the tenets of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Research has established that educators with National Board certification are more likely to be leaders. A four course (12 credit) leadership certificate that integrates the National Board tenets will be developed and offered within the master's degree, as a post-master's certificate, and as part of a 30 credit specialist degree on organizational leadership.

Project LEAD will develop course content and support mechanisms to increase the probability that candidates will qualify for National Board certification in library media. Currently, no ongoing or formal courses or support mechanisms exist for school media specialists seeking this certification.

A recruitment plan to increase the number of school media specialist candidates who want to become organizational leaders, particularly from underrepresented groups within the profession, will be developed in Project LEAD. Norish Adams, Director of one of the five official National Board Teacher Resource Centers located at Florida A & M University, will serve as a project consultant as will Pat Dietrich, a national board certified teacher and media specialist in the Leon County (FL) School District.

Project directors will initiate a research agenda during the grant period and the results will be disseminated through the Project LEAD web site, presentations, and publications.

For more information about Project LEAD contact Dr. Nancy Everhart at everhart@ci.fsu.edu or 850-644-8122.

2.2. University of South Florida, US

The University of South Florida School of Library and Information Science has obtained \$758,736 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to fund students in a special cohort to obtain a master's in library science designed to prepare them for work in academic libraries. Applications are invited for ALSTARS scholarships to be funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services grant. The University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science, in partnership with the University of Central Florida Libraries, Florida Atlantic University Library and the University of South Florida Tampa Campus Library will offer the AL-STARS grant that provides funding for 24 full-time students to pursue a curriculum designed to educate future professionals for positions in academic libraries. Partner libraries will provide employment/internship opportunities, chart student progress,

and coordinate their advising, mentoring, and curriculum needs. This information will be analyzed to aid in the development of a model academic library curriculum.

To qualify for an ALSTARS scholarship students will have either an advanced subject degree or special language skills or be willing to enter into a dual-degree program to earn both the library science and a subject specialty degree. Application deadline for the scholarships is October 1, 2005. Complete information may be found at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/lis/alstars/grant.html>

The project directors are Vicki L. Gregory and Anna H. Perrault.

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2.3. University of Tennessee, US

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded the University of Tennessee a \$632,249 grant as part of their Librarians for the 21st Century initiative, created to help recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. Bill Robinson, Professor in UT's School of Information Sciences, and Jill Keally, Assistant Dean of the University Libraries, are co-principal investigators for the project.

The grant funds UT's Science Links program, where qualified students will receive full scholarships to earn a master's degree through the UT School of Information Sciences. Special emphasis will be placed on recruiting candidates from traditionally black colleges and universities. Students will take courses specifically designed to train librarians to assist in scientific and technological research. Students will also gain practical job experience by working at the UT Libraries, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), and Information International Associates.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities.

Further details about the project are available at: http://www.lib.utk.edu/news/archives/good_news/000925.html

2.4. Simmons College, US

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) a \$780,465 grant as a part of the 2005 Librarians for the 21st Century program.

The funding will establish a doctoral program at GSLIS that specializes in managerial leadership in the information professions, focusing on the knowledge, skills, and personal traits applicable to leadership in libraries and other information-based enterprises. The grant will support the preparation of 15 individuals (5 per year) for leadership roles in library and information organizations. The program will cater to those who may not be able to interrupt their employment to gain a degree, and will be offered with non-traditional scheduling to a small, highly selective student body.

Faculty will include a Professor of Practice who will bring practical experience and a national or international reputation. Among the benefits will be a pool of well screened and qualified individuals to lead libraries and information organizations into the future, a body of scholarly and practice-based research of advantage to professional organizations, and continual updating and examination of leadership issues in information-related organizations.

The principal investigators are Peter Heron, Professor, and Candy Schwartz, Professor and Coordinator of Doctoral Studies. For more information, contact Candy at candy.schwartz@simmons.edu.

2.5. University of Texas at Austin, US

With a generous grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the UT Austin School of Information will launch an initiative to educate doctoral students in the fields of preservation administration and policy and digital preservation. The new program for doctoral preservation students will be a significant moment in preservation education and in the production of LIS faculty and library leaders. The proposed project will produce PhD students in preservation prepared to meet the preservation education, research, and leadership challenges of the 21st century, and who will serve as faculty members in preservation, as preservation researchers, and in leading administrative positions in research libraries.

2.6. McGill University, Canada

Professor France Bouthillier has received a grant of \$119,498 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to conduct a comparative study of the use of competitive intelligence technology by competitive intelligence practitioners in the private and public sectors. The purpose of this program of research is to investigate to what extent competitive intelligence (CI) and collaborative technology is used in both sectors, and to identify how such technology can better address the needs of CI practitioners and organizations.

Professors Jamshid Beheshti and Andrew Large, in collaboration with Professor Kevin Kee (Brock University, Canada) and Virtuel Age International (a Montreal-based software development company), have received funding of \$638,404 to design, develop and evaluate a non-immersive, virtual reality environment for use by secondary school students. Major funding is from Heritage Canada (\$403,053), with

additional support from Virtuel Age International and McGill University. The environment will allow students to "enter" and explore two paintings, to converse with the characters in them and to pick up and examine depicted objects. Both paintings are by the late-nineteenth-century Quebec artist, Ozias Leduc. The immediate objective is to create a new and exciting way for students to explore cultural artifacts and learn more about the social and cultural history of Quebec. The broader objective is to explore an innovative approach to engaging students in learning activities

2.7. Kent State University, US

Kent State University School of Library & Information Science is pleased to announce receipt of an IMLS National Library Leadership Grant for a research project led by Mary Stansbury, Associate Professor, SLIS and Ruth Ludwick, Professor of Nursing. IMLS has granted \$327,016 for a three-year project that will investigate the contextual factors that explain the health information seeking decisions of older adults in northeastern and Appalachian Ohio.

An interdisciplinary team from library and information science, nursing, adult literacy, and communication studies will use the factorial survey method and focus groups to address individual health information seeking behaviors and information providers' understanding of the processes of health information seeking. The title of the project is: Health Information Seeking Behaviors of Older Adults: Research to Guide Development of Health Literacy Skills, Library Programming, and Community Networks.

For questions, please contact Mary Stansbury at mstansbu@kent.edu.

2.8. University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, US

The School of Information Studies of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee announces Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant support of \$541,574 to support three research projects involving five faculty. The areas of investigation range from designing interactive help mechanisms for new digital library users and designing an iVR (interactive virtual reference) system to creating information discovery models that incorporate algorithms for conceptual matching, which would affect the design of new search interactions for digital libraries and Web search engines.

Summaries of the research awards:

1. *Designing Interactive Help Mechanisms for Novice Users of Digital Libraries* (2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries – Research and Demonstration, \$189,540 for two years). Principal investigator Hong (Iris) Xie, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies and Co-PI, Colleen Cool, Queens College of the City University of New York, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, will investigate the use of automated Help

systems provided by digital libraries. Digital library users do not have the same level of support as do users of physical libraries, especially in the help seeking process. The great promise of digital libraries – universal access – will go unrealized if people cannot learn to use them effectively. The project will compare automated Help systems with human help interactions to develop effective automated interaction strategies.

The objectives of the project are to: 1) identify the variety of help- seeking situations that arise while novice users use digital libraries; 2) identify types of interactions that best respond to these situations; and to 3) identify principles for the design of effective, responsive, interactive Help mechanisms which can resolve the variety of people's help-seeking situations by functioning as appropriate interaction partners in this process.

2. *Interactive Virtual Reference: Model, System, and Pilot User Study* (2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries – Research and Demonstration, \$152,039 for three years). Principal investigator, *Xiangming Mu*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies and Co-PI, *Alexandra Dimitroff*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies, will develop a novel interactive virtual reference (iVR) model. In contrast to the traditional passive one-way model of reference service, the iVR will encourage active VR service by dynamically watching patrons' online information-seeking behaviors using the VR assistant. A prototype iVR system will be designed and developed based on the new iVR model. Two experimental studies and one field user study will be conducted to evaluate the prototype iVR system and achieve a better understanding of interactive virtual reference.

The project findings will benefit the library community in two ways: 1) those libraries that currently use or will use virtual reference service will be able to increase patron usage of VR service and 2) library patrons could, with an expanded iVR system, receive point- and time-of-use assistance that will improve their search strategy formulation.

3. *Modeling Web Searching Behaviors and Designing New Effective Interactions for Digital Libraries* (2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries – Research and Demonstration, \$199,995 for two years). Principal investigator: *Peiling Wang*, University of Tennessee, School of Information Sciences and Co-PI's, *Dietmar Wolfram* and *Jin Zhang*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies will analyze the needs and query behaviors of users who search for information on the Web. The aim of the project is to create new models for information discovery that incorporate algorithms for conceptual matching, allowing users to search for concepts as an alternative to entering search terms. The research will affect the design of new search interactions for digital libraries and Web search engines.

For more information about the projects please contact the investigators: Dr. Mu (mux@sois.uwm.edu), Dr. Dimitroff (dimitrof@uwm.edu), Dr. Xie (hiris@uwm.edu), Dr. Wolfram (dwolfram@uwm.edu), or Dr. Zhang (zhang@sois.uwm.edu).