

Title: Education for the Information Professions

Organizers:

Heidi Julien, Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo (current ALISE President)
Sam Oh, Ph.D., Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea (current iCaucus Chair)
Clara Chu, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (President-Elect, ASIS&T)

Key Participants:

Heidi Julien, Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo (current ALISE President)
Sam Oh, Ph.D., Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea (current iCaucus Chair)
Clara Chu, Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (President-Elect, ASIS&T)

Abstract: This session is organized by ALISE as the first inter-association (ALISE, ASIS&T, iSchools) session at the iConference. This follows on similar panels (different topics) presented at the 2017 ASIS&T conference, the 2018 ALISE conference, and scheduled for the 2018 ASIS&T conference, as well as earlier discussions on the topic of education for the information professions at various conferences. This session is intended to be one of several avenues for cooperation among these three disciplinary associations. This SIE session will consist of a focused discussion on education for the information professions, to identify areas of agreement, common challenges and issues, and to generate ideas and creative approaches to teaching and learning in the information fields. The purpose is to focus on high-level questions and issues, rather than specific pedagogical techniques or concerns.

Purpose and intended audience: This session is organized by ALISE as the first inter-association (ALISE, ASIS&T, iSchools) session at the iConference. This follows on similar panels (different topics) presented at the 2017 ASIS&T conference, the 2018 ALISE conference, and scheduled for the 2018 ASIS&T conference, as well as earlier discussions on the topic of education for the information professions at various conferences. This session is intended to be one of several avenues for cooperation among these three disciplinary associations. This SIE session will consist of a focused discussion on education for the information professions, to identify areas of agreement, common challenges and issues, and to generate ideas and creative approaches to teaching and learning in the information fields. The purpose is to focus on high-level questions and issues, rather than specific pedagogical techniques or concerns. The session will be led by representatives from each association: Dr. Sam Oh for the iSchools, Dr. Clara M. Chu for ASIS&T, and Dr. Heidi Julien for ALISE. The intended audience is for all who are engaged in teaching and learning, including faculty members, students administrators and other stakeholders.

Proposed activities: The session will start with brief (5 minute) presentations from each of the three organizers outlining some of the key issues and questions in education for the information professions, as they see these. This will be followed by small group discussions for 15 minutes to give session participants an opportunity to identify other issues/questions and articulate a ranked list of issues or questions. Each group will record these issues/questions in a Google document (to facilitate live editing by all participants) which will be shared with the organizers, so that it can be projected as the small groups report out to the room. Issues/questions will be quickly categorized by the organizers, and new small discussion groups will be formed around specific

questions/issues (or sets of questions/issues). Participants will have the opportunity to join a group according to their interests. Each of those groups will discuss possible responses to the questions/issues (including creative approaches and resolutions) for 30 minutes, and then report out to the room. The three organizers will circulate around the room to facilitate small group discussions where needed, they will facilitate the whole group discussions, and they will record main points in a Google document projected to the room. The organizers will summarize the discussion verbally, and share the documents created with all participants. The session will end with a discussion of “next steps” or “actions” which will be recorded and shared with participants. The organizers will also encourage groups with similar concerns/questions/issues to maintain contact beyond the session to continue their discussions. In addition, the documents created during the session will be forwarded to the boards of all three associations, for discussion and possible action.

Relevance to the conference/significance to the field: This topic is relevant to all who are engaged in teaching and learning for a wide array of information professions. The multiplicity of programs in the field, and the myriad approaches to constructing and delivering these programs brings richness to the field, but also raises questions about desired levels of convergence and divergence, as well as questions about how best to prepare information professionals for a rapidly changing information landscape.

Duration: a single 90-minute session

Special requirements: flexible seating, to allow for small group discussion; projector/screen

Recommended Reading

Abels, E. G., Howarth, L. C., & Smith, L. C. (2017). *Envisioning our information future and how to educate for it*.

http://slis.simmons.edu/blogs/ourinformationfuture/files/2017/08/WhitePaper_Abels_Howarth_Smith_Final_Aug28.pdf.

Bertot, J.D., & Percell, J. (2014). *ReEnvisioning the MLS: Issues, considerations, and framing*. http://hackmls.umd.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/WhitePaper_9.30.14.pdf.

Percell, J., Sarin, L.C., Jaeger, P.T., & Bertot, J.C., eds. (2018). *Re-envisioning the MLS: Perspectives on the future of Library and Information Science education*. (Advances in Librarianship: Volume 44A). Emerald.

<https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/book/10.1108/s0065-2830201844a>

Percell, J., Sarin, L.C., Jaeger, P.T., & Bertot, J.C., eds. (2018). *Re-envisioning the MLS: Perspectives on the future of Library and Information Science education*. (Advances in Librarianship: Volume 44B). Emerald.

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