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Library and information science

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Library and information science (LIS) (sometimes given as the plural library and information sciences) or “Library and information studies” is a merging of Library science (abbreviated to SLIS”), In the last part of the 1960s, schools of Librarianship, which generally developed from professional training programs (not academic disciplines) to university institutions during the second half of the 20th century begun to add the term “information science” to their names, The first school to do this was at the university of Pittsburg in 1964. More schools followed during the 1970s and 1980s, and by the 1990s almost all library schools in the USA has added information science to their names, weaver press : Although there are exceptions, similar developments have taken place in other parts of the world. In Denmark, for example , the “royal school of Librarianship’ changed its English name to The Royal schools of Library and information Science in 1997. Exceptions include Tromsø, Norway. Where the term documentation science is the preferred name of the field, France, where information science and communication studies from the inter discipline, and Sweden, where the fields of Archival science, Library and Museum studies.

In spite of various trends to merge the two fields, some consider the two original disciplines, Library science and information science, to be separate, However, the tendency today is to use the terms as synonyms or to drop the term “Library” and to speak about information department or I-schools. There have also been attempts to revive the concept of documentation and speak of Library, information and documentation studies (or science).

Library and information science is, as the name implies, a combination of two fields (i) library science ;and (ii) information science. The first use of this combined term was in the School to its name in 1964(cf. Galvin 1977). Thereafter followed other American Library schools, and by the 1990s almost all former Library schools had added information science to their names.

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A similar development has taken place in many other parts of the world, although not all institutions have made the same choice. This shift in naming has generally been motivated by a growing emphasis on the application of new electronic and computer technologies.

Something the plural term Library and information sciences is used to underline the fact that more research areas are involved. This is, for example, the case in the Dewey Decimal Classification and in Bates and Mack, eds, (2010) Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences. These authors list (xiii) the following disciplines as being covered by the LIS disciplines and by their encyclopedia:

Archival Science

Bibliography

Document and Genre Theory

Informatics

Information systems

Knowledge Management

Library and Information Science

Museum Studies

Records Management

Social Studies of Information

Social Studies of Information

Another variation is to speak of library study, in order to emphasize that the field is not necessarily scientific in its strictest sense. A new tendency in the twenty-first century is to drop the word library and to use only the terms information school, I – school or iSchool. This is not, however, solely a new name for LIS, but represents a new interdisciplinary merging of various fields including LIS. Whether such a merging is considered fruitful or not depends among other things on the theoretical perspective (cf. Section 5) for those who primarily consider LIS to be related to the knowledge field (such as philosophy, social epistemology (SE) and sociology of science) it may perhaps seem less successful. For more details on iSchools, see Lopatovska and Ransom (2016) and Section 4.2 of this work.

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In practice, the term LIS is sometimes used for an area that is not Science (or research, a scholarship or an academic line); by implication, the term Library and information science research may be used to make the research focus explicit (e.g. Stielow 1994). Some studies of the field distinguish between professional publication and research articles, such as that of Tuomaala et al. (2014, 1451) :

In total, the study sample for 2005 comprises 1,024 articles, of which 70 % were research articles and 30% professional articles, In the following subsections, only research articles are analyzed.

Even if studies are limited to research articles, it has been questioned whether the literature qualifies as research articles et al. (2014), for example, found that only 16 % of the literature published in LIS research journals qualified as research.

The status of LIS as a science has been discussed for many years. Librarian and researcher Carl S. Pettersen (1915) wrote:

Library technique is a common term for the methods used for organizing cataloging, use, and administration etc. of a Library. Particularly in Germany the term 'Library science' is often used for both Library technique as for other related disciplines (book history, bibliography, Library history and library statistics); however, this term is not well chosen, because Library management is not a science, even though scientific knowledge and qualification are necessary (translated BH ; italics added).

Despite various trends towards merging the two fields, some consider Library science and information science to be separate fields or disciplines, for example Miksa (1992) and Saracevic (1992). Moreover Proquest Dissertations and Theses Global (2017) still uses two different classifications : 0399 Library Science and 0723 Information Science. Huang and Chang (2012, 790) wrote :

Although the discipline of LIS has been incorporated into LIS, numerous recent studies still focused on IS issues but not LIS ones [...]. This implies that some researchers regard IS as an independent discipline . In addition, some subfields, including Library service activities, cataloging. And publishing are traditionally regarded as belonging to LS (Jarvelin and Vakkari

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1993,) while some other have closer ties with IS, such as bibliometrics, information retrieval, scientific communication, web metrics, and patent analysis.

In general, however, the tendency today is to use the terms information science Library and information science as synonyms.

Information science is an interdisciplinary field primarily concerned with the analysis, collation, classification, manipulation, storage, retrieval, movement, dissemination and protection of information. Practitioners within the field study the application and usage of knowledge in organization, along with the interaction between people, organization and any existing information systems, with the aim of creating, replacing, improving, or computer science; however, it predates computer science and is actually a broad, interdisciplinary field, incorporating not only aspects of computer science, but often diverse fields such as archival science, cognitive science, commerce, communication, law, library science, musicology, management, mathematics, philosophy, public policy and the social sciences.

Information science should not be confused with information theory or Library science.

Information theory is the study of a particular mathematical concept of information science as an academic discipline is often thought in combination with library science as Library and information Science. Library science as such is a field related to the dissemination of information through Libraries making use of the principles of information science.

Information sciences deal with all the processes and techniques pertaining to the information life cycle, including capture, generation, packaging, dissemination, transformation, refining, repackaging, usage, storage, communication, protection, presentation etc. in any possible manner.

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