

**Library and Information Science Program
University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

Program Presentation

**To the Committee on Accreditation
American Library Association**

August 1999

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Preface

This Program Presentation provides an overview of the focus and progress of the University of Hawai'i's Library and Information Science Program, and its goals for the future. The four years since the last COA accreditation in 1995 have been challenging and eventful. In a Universitywide restructuring strategy, the School of Library and Information Studies was reorganized as a Master's Degree Program in the Department of Information and Computer Sciences, within the College of Natural Sciences, under the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Details of this unique merger are supplied in Chapters 1 and 2.

The ICS/LIS partnership is known on campus as the most successful union of the many mergers that have been completed or are underway. We believe the current and future success of our alliance is due to common interests in converging subject matter and mission, joint planning from the beginning of the reorganization talks, and the high value LIS and CS faculty place on collegiality. The official merger in 1997 marked the LIS and CS faculty's commitment to carry out the University's mission and goals by offering programs that educate students in the State of Hawai'i for careers in high tech, information-intensive environments. The University has targeted the ICS Department for expansion and enhancement, and has recently allocated three new faculty positions designed to strengthen the integration and integrity of LIS and CS programs. The status of the integration of the LIS Program into the ICS department is evident throughout this presentation.

The Program's overall planning strategy targets four strategic goals, outlined in Chapter 3, that address diversity of students, curriculum development, faculty excellence, and efficiency and enhancement of physical resources and facilities. A new challenge that will take the LIS Program into the future is a fifth departmental strategic goal to explore possibilities for LIS partnerships in the growth of Hawai'i-based high technology entrepreneurial efforts. This goal may serve an integrating function by creating positions for LIS graduates in budding software engineering firms.

The Accreditation Preparation Process

The Program, through its standing committees and other activities, maintains a continuous process of evaluation. The accreditation review is a natural part of this evaluation activity. The process began in the Spring of 1998, when the Program Chair and the LIS faculty invited students and CS faculty, along with Advisory Committee members to participate in preparing this Presentation. A COA Task Force of 15 participants worked together in monthly planning meetings, gathering data, preparing and sharing drafts through the spring 1999 semester. Minutes of accreditation planning meetings are available on site. This collaborative strategy required that everyone make significant contributions to this Presentation. The final draft was approved by and submitted to the Office for Accreditation of the American Library Association August 20, 1999. The following abridged timeline summarizes steps in the process.

March 1998:	Convened COA Task Force consisting of LIS faculty and representatives from CS faculty, adjuncts, LIS students, and alumni. Held monthly and additional planning meetings on focussed topics during March 1998-May 1999 (see minutes of meetings on site).
April 1998:	Sent UH President Mortimer's letter requesting external review by COA.
June 1998:	Met with COA Director, Ann O'Neill at ALA.
September 1998:	COA Task Force finalized draft of Program Presentation Plan.
October 1998:	Submitted Program Presentation Plan.
November 1998:	Received approval for Program Presentation Plan in conference call. Notified that Ann Prentice appointed Panel Chair.

December 1998:	Delivered preliminary draft of Program Presentation to COA Task Force, COA Director, and Panel Chair.
January 1999:	Received feedback from COA Director and Panel Chair at ALISE on drafts of the Table of Contents, Chapter 1 Organizational Context, Chapter 3 Planning, and Chapter 6 Faculty. Notified about appointed Panel members.
February 1999:	Received further feedback on drafts from COA Director and Panel Chair by email.
March 1999:	Delivered draft of Program Presentation to COA Task Force, LIS Advisory Committee members, and outside readers for feedback.
April 1999:	Received feedback on Program Presentation draft from LIS Advisory Committee.
May 1999:	Received final feedback on Program Presentation draft from LIS COA Task Force members.
June 1999:	Sent complete revised draft to COA Director and Panel Chair.

The planning and implementation process followed to create this Program Presentation required an enormous investment of time and effort of LIS and CS full-time and part-time faculty, students, alumni, employers, and advisory committee members. This exercise provided many useful opportunities to consult with members of our constituencies, formally and informally, and to integrate their needs into our strategic plan. As such it proved to be a valuable experience that has forged closer ties with our user groups. In addition, the assessment process revealed particular strengths and some areas targeted for improvement and development.

This presentation will serve as a planning document into the next century. It will not remain a static report, but will facilitate our progress and evolution as the field itself evolves and new convergences emerge. At this point in our history, we have realized the vision of Dean Emeritus Miles M. Jackson, to enlarge the scope of the Program by bringing together LIS and ICS in conceptual and physical alignment to address the needs of the information society. The LIS Program is focused on delivering the core foundation, dealing with the latest knowledge frontiers in library and information science, and providing an Asia-Pacific perspective.

Organization of the Document

This document is arranged to focus on the Program's compliance with the six accreditation Standards. Chapters 1 and 2 focus on institutional, departmental, and program missions and goals and their alignment. Chapter 3 presents the evolution of the University, College, Department, and LIS Program planning processes, and articulates our strategic goals. Chapters 4 through 8 cover the students, curriculum, faculty, administration, and facilities, with a focus on how our activities meet the objectives of the strategic goals relevant to each standard. All of the Standards have been addressed in the document, and are keyed to the Standards text presented in Appendix 1. Chapter 9 summarizes future plans in terms of the strategic goals, and presents the entire strategic plan in tabular form.

Each of the Standards chapters follows a consistent pattern, including: an overview; a brief discussion of pertinent strategic goals, objectives, activities and outcomes; evidence of compliance with COA standards; and a concluding section that outlines actions and outcomes for the future in the strategic plan. Appendixes provide summaries of on site documents and other materials useful to readers. For the reader's convenience, the many Web sites referred to throughout the document may be conveniently accessed in chapter order at: www2.hawaii.edu/slis/coa/coa.html