



DECEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 1

DODGE FAMILY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

THE STATE OF THE STACKS



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Letter From The Director

This message is a hello and a goodbye. After 6 ½ year as Director of SLIS, I will be going on sabbatical at the end of this semester and expecting to return to the faculty next year. I am proud of the transformation that SLIS has undergone in the past several years. The changes we have made reflect steps we have taken to align the School with the evolution of the LIS field and also to grow with the institutional changes at the University of Oklahoma. Our internal processes have been guided by an actively engaged strategic plan, new vision and mission statements, and an outcomes-based continuous assessment cycle.

We could not have achieved our goals for the School without our wonderful, hard-working faculty. Although we have sadly bid farewell to some of our beloved colleagues who have retired or left OU for positions elsewhere, we have also welcomed several new faculty with exciting specializations and ideas. Change is, of course, the nature of life whether in one's personal life or the life of an institution such as SLIS.

In addition to our faculty, we could not continue to succeed without the enthusiastic support of our students, alumni, and professional community. YOU make all the difference in our success at many levels, including with the recent American Library Association accreditation review which restored our MLIS accreditation from conditional to continuing.

Students are increasingly coming to the MLIS program with an interest in the intersection of libraries, archives and museums, reflecting the larger conversation in professional circles about the natural overlap of these cultural heritage institutions. We have responded by expanding our archives curriculum and starting an archival studies graduate certificate. In the past few years, we have started working heavily with the OU Master of Arts in Museum Studies (MAMS) both by allowing MLIS students to count some museum studies classes as electives and by supporting the quickly growing number of students pursuing a dual master's degree with the MLIS and the MAMS.

Letter From The Director Continued

The LIS field has long embraced the application of technological advances to information organization, retrieval, and provision. Over the past decade SLIS has invested heavily in building the technology and data science aspects in our curriculum by hiring faculty experts in these areas and launching new academic programs focused on applied technology and data science. Our new Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Technology (BSIST) soared to 134 majors in just four years (93 current majors, others have graduated). We are now building the BSIST on the Tulsa campus and expect the new Tulsa Polytechnic Institute, with which the BSIST will be affiliated, to boost our growth in Tulsa.

We are currently conducting an international search for a new SLIS Director who can continue to dynamically move the School forward. Change means opportunity and we are poised on the brink of this next big opportunity for the School. As I prepare to step down as the Director, I would like to thank all of you for your support of OU SLIS. I am so excited by the possibilities the future holds.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Burke

After much preparation and anticipation by the faculty and staff, our ALA Accreditation has been renewed yet again! The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies has the ONLY program in the state of Oklahoma with ALA Accreditation.



The Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Oklahoma is accredited by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, with the status of Continued accreditation. The next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for Spring 2029.

Office Remodel

2018 was a BIG year for the SLIS office. It was the start of an extensive remodel of our entire facility.

Removed old mastic and new carpet was placed in:

- Conference Room
- Main Office
- Director's Office
- Staff Office 120D

New lounge furniture and end tables were purchased for the Main Office



A few snags along the way:

- Bizzell library remained locked for months due to COVID restrictions.
- Moisture build-up caused mold and deterioration.
- Bizzell experienced multiple flooding events from HVAC system failure and a fire.



Summary of Improvements in the Faculty/GA Offices:

- Replacing old carpeting with LVT flooring
- Removal of asbestos tile and mastic
- Resealing and cleaning ground guttering
- Repairs to outdoor brickwork
- Replacing old furniture
- Repainting and repairs to office walls and ceilings

Improvements in Room 118 A-D:

- Paneling installed to create new research space
- GA workspace created
- New lounge area created
- New carpeting in both rooms and adjoining Faculty Offices
- New blinds in Computer lab

Meet Our New Faculty!



Dale Monobe with President Lincoln at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference Springfield, Illinois.

Dr. DH Monobe has joined SLIS on the Norman campus as a faculty member and as the MLIS Program Coordinator. Dr. Monobe, or Dr. M, has a Ph.D. in Human Rehabilitation, a Master of Library Science, an M.Ed. in Educational Psychology, and a B.A. in Psychology. This Fall Semester Dr. M is teaching Management of Information Organizations, Information and Society, and Collection Development in the MLIS program and will be teaching a doctoral seminar on pedagogy and information psychology. Moreover, he will be keeping our accreditation processes moving forward and will be building our outreach and engagement with Oklahoma libraries and librarians. As for research interests, Dr. M is interested in public libraries (which led him to be a reviewer for *Public Library Quarterly*), prison libraries, accessibility for people with disabilities, soft skills, and crisis management.

When Dr. M is not teaching or researching, he enjoys learning more about Oklahoma geography and its culture, listening to classical music, and eating plant-based meals. During this semester, his students shared with him and each other where to get the best onion burgers (he never heard of them before moving to Oklahoma and wonders if there is a plant-based version offered) and the best local chocolates. As for OU culture, he has heard OU tour guides tell groups that when the Bizzell Memorial Library was first built (dedicated in 1929), there was no electricity, and the librarians walked through the book stacks with candles. He doubts it's true since electricity existed then. If true, it'd certainly be a fire hazard!

Meet Our New Faculty!

Dr. Yasser Youssef has joined SLIS on the Tulsa campus as a faculty member. Dr. Youssef has a PhD in Biomedical Engineering and a master and bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering with research interests in explainable AI, bioinformatics, textmining and NLP. His background includes working for more than 15 years as a software developer before switching to academia 8 years ago.

Dr. Youssef will be teaching technology and data science courses including Data Visualization, Capstone Project, Object Oriented Programming, Database Systems, Data mining, Advanced AI, working on building our undergraduate technology program on the Tulsa campus, and working on outreach with industry in the Tulsa area.

When Yasser is not teaching or researching, he enjoys walking, talking with my family and old friends and helping people. Being new to SLIS, he is curious about building a good connection with his colleagues and students and how to be beneficial for them. Something unique about Youssef is extensive travel having visited more than 11 countries (USA, UK, France, Latvia, Egypt, Saudi, Jordan, Japan, Tunisia, China, Canada) which gives him a lot of experience about different cultures.



Dr. Yasser Youssef and son, Ammar

Meet Our New Staff!



Sarah Moran has been with OU since 2016 and became the Administration and Finance Coordinator for SLIS in 2020. She coordinates departmental budgets, hiring, purchasing, record keeping and other program administration. Sarah's background is in record keeping, but she originally studied Geology. When Sarah is not working, she enjoys birdwatching, astronomy, reading, hiking, and gardening. Being new to SLIS, Sarah was drawn to the position because she loves supporting local libraries and previously served on the City of Norman Public Library Advisory Board and saw this job as a continuation of that passion. She also loves working on-campus and being part of the community at OU and this year, volunteered to sit on and chair a committee within Staff Senate working to make campus a great place to work. Something unique about Sarah is she collects fountain pens with a current collection of 75 different writing instruments.

Stacy Smith is the newest addition to the SLIS family, but not to the University of Oklahoma. She bucked family tradition as a legacy Poke and officially became a Sooner in 2001. During her undergraduate years, she performed in clarinet choirs, served on the Online Advisory Board (when online learning at OU was in its infancy), and was elected Cate Center President where she and her cabinet received the President's Trophy from President David. L. Boren. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she made her way through to the Human Relations Department where she worked as a graduate assistant as she earned her Master of Arts in Human Relations. Immediately upon graduation, she became the department's Media Specialist and ferried the department through 3 website migrations and redesigns, spearheaded social media advancement, and aided in recruiting efforts. She gained valuable student services and advising experience as the creator of the Student Success Coaching position at USAO, but she knew she bled crimson, not green, so after COVID restrictions lessened, back to OU she went as she earned the Student Services Specialist position with SLIS in July 2022.



When she is not working, she enjoys being a mom, chauffeur, and referee to her two daughters, and travels as often as possible with her husband, Rob. She has an affinity for all things tie-dye or plaid, is a self-proclaimed Sci-fi and Disney aficionado, and will never turn down a unique rock or pencil for her collection.

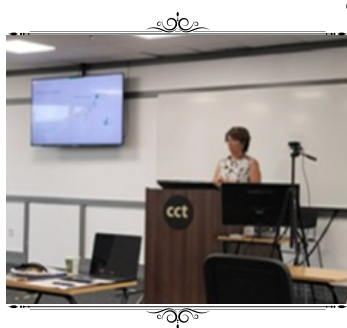
Faculty Achievements

Congratulations to our faculty for these outstanding accomplishments, recognitions, and professional contributions!

- Dr. Yong Ju Jung and Dr. Jiqun Liu received ASIS&T's Special Interest Group for Information Needs, Seeking, and Use (SIG USE) Best Information Behavior Conference Poster Award entitled Children's Interest, Search, and Knowledge: A Pilot Analysis of a STEM Maker Workshop.



- Dr. June Abbas, served as the Award of Merit Committee Jury Chair and on the 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee as Co-Chair and judge for Posters. Dr. Abbas is also serving on the 2023 AM Program Committee as Poster Chair. As Editor in Chief of the journal Library and Information Science Research, she also convened a meeting with the journal's Board of Editors during the conference.



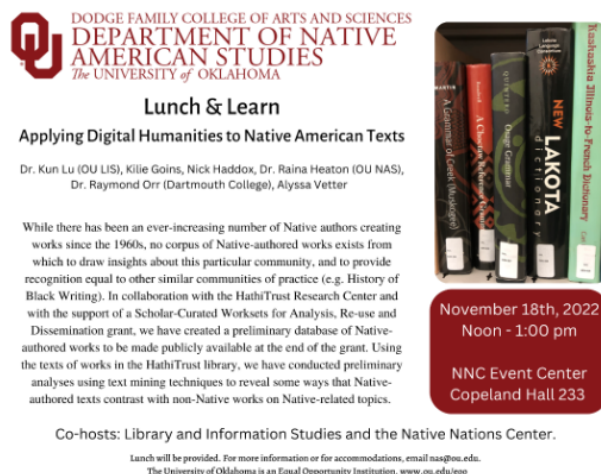
- Dr. Buffy Edwards presented at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions international conference. The full day workshop and presentation showcased a new professional resource Global Action for School Libraries: Models of Inquiry, where Dr. Edwards joined the book editors and other contributing information literacy model chapter authors. The book focuses on the instructional role of the school librarian, specifically on the ways in which members of our school library community worldwide have developed, revised, promoted, and implemented models of inquiry.

Faculty Achievements

- Dr. Kun Lu's project "Accelerated Optoelectronic Materials Design and Discovery Guided by Machine Learning and Advanced Computation" was one of the three funded by Data Institute for Societal Change seed funds. Read more here: http://www.oudaily.com/news/ous-data-institute-for-societal-change-funds-three-faculty-artificial-intelligence-projects/article_a2cbb832-64b4-11eb-994c-fb3f95913f4c.html
- A publication came out of the above grant: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/AJIM-03-2022-0141/full/html>
- Dr. Kun Lu is the Data Scholarship Interim Acting Director - Dr. Kun Lu became acting interim director of the Data Scholarship Program in the College of Arts and Sciences on August 15, for a one-year term.
- Dr. Yong-Mi Kim and colleagues (Sailatha Thomas, MD, Dr. Sunny Lee, Dr. Suchi Bhattacharjee, and Dr. June Abbas) received a DISC seed grant. This grant is to discover the reasons why Asians diabetes are paradoxical to the findings reported in existing studies. Asians are 40% more likely to have diabetes despite their low BMI and high socioeconomic status.
- Dr. Yong-Mi Kim presented a paper at the International Conference on Knowledge Management in Germany and published the article in the proceeding. The paper was about how opioid use differently impacted psychiatric disorders between male and female. Also, she had a poster at the conference regarding the Native American's health paradox from an ethnic density perspective.
- Dr. Jiqun Liu's authored research book titled "A Behavioral Economics Approach to Interactive Information Retrieval: Understanding and Supporting Boundedly Rational Users" is currently in production. This book brings together the insights from Information Seeking and Retrieval, Cognitive Psychology, and Behavioral Economics, and shows how this new interdisciplinary approach can advance our knowledge about users interacting with diverse search systems, especially their seemingly irrational decisions and anomalies that could not be predicted by most normative computational models. More information here <https://link.springer.com/book/9783031232282>.

Faculty Achievements

- Dr. Kun Lu and colleagues gave a presentation on “Applying Digital Humanities to Native American Texts”



The poster features the logo of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Native American Studies, The University of Oklahoma. It includes a photograph of a bookshelf with several books, including one titled 'NEW LAKOTA'. The event details are as follows:

Lunch & Learn
Applying Digital Humanities to Native American Texts
Dr. Kun Lu (OU LIS), Kille Goins, Nick Haddock, Dr. Raina Heaton (OU NAS),
Dr. Raymond Orr (Dartmouth College), Alyssa Vetter

While there has been an ever-increasing number of Native authors creating works since the 1960s, no corpus of Native-authored works exists from which to draw insights about this particular community, and to provide recognition equal to other similar communities of practice (e.g. History of Black Writing). In collaboration with the HathiTrust Research Center and with the support of a Scholar-Curated Worksets for Analysis, Re-use and Dissemination grant, we have created a preliminary database of Native-authored works to be made publicly available at the end of the grant. Using the texts of works in the HathiTrust library, we have conducted preliminary analyses using text mining techniques to reveal some ways that Native-authored texts contrast with non-Native works on Native-related topics.

November 18th, 2022
Noon - 1:00 pm
NNC Event Center
Copeland Hall 233

Co-hosts: Library and Information Studies and the Native Nations Center.

Lunch will be provided. For more information or for accommodations, email nas@ou.edu.
The University of Oklahoma is an Equal Opportunity Institution. www.ou.edu/eoo

- Dr. Abbas received two IMLS grants! The Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grants for Libraries program has awarded Abbas, along with coinvestigators Chie Noyori-Corbett, Ph.D., associate director of research and associate professor in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, and Jiening Ruan, Ph.D., professor from the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, a two-year planning grant for \$149,994 that will help the team identify the library services most needed by refugee communities. The researchers hope to provide a deeper understanding of the status of refugee programs and services in public libraries, establish partnerships with libraries in refugee communities, and develop a nationally shared prototype of trauma-informed care programming for refugees at public libraries.



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Faculty Achievements

- Dr. June Abbas and Co-PI Dr. Yong Ju Jung received a three-year grant for \$296,685 to develop practical and applicable inclusive programming within the public library system for youth with disabilities and to develop training programs that will help library professionals create their own inclusive programs. Read more here: <https://ou.edu/research-norman/news-events/2022/ou-researchers-received-two-grants-from-the-institute-of-museum-and-library-services>.
- Dr. Abbas (with collaborators) also received an OU Institute for Community and Society Transformation grant entitled, "Understanding Equity and Opportunity for Myanmar Refugee Children and their Families" to support doctoral student Boo Young Lim from OU's Jennine Rainbolt College of Education research focusing on Myanmar refugee young children's early language development and literacy.
- Dr. Buffy Edwards is lead faculty for a study abroad class in summer 2023, a 3-credit hour course OU in Italy-Exploring Archives, Museums, and Libraries. Authentic learning experiences include tours in Rome and visits to the Coliseum, Forum, Pantheon, the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica, Florence's Cathedral Complex and Palazzo Vecchio Medici Chapel and other libraries, museums and archives in Arezzo and Siena. Italy provides a rich context where students can study the organization, storage, and access in each setting, working to further develop career skills as an information professional. Learners can strengthen their leadership potential in planning, implementing, and promoting the preservation, organization and effective use of society's recorded information and ideas while participating in this class. More information here: <https://oklahoma.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=10692>

Student Achievements

Congratulations to our students for these outstanding accomplishments, recognitions, and professional contributions!

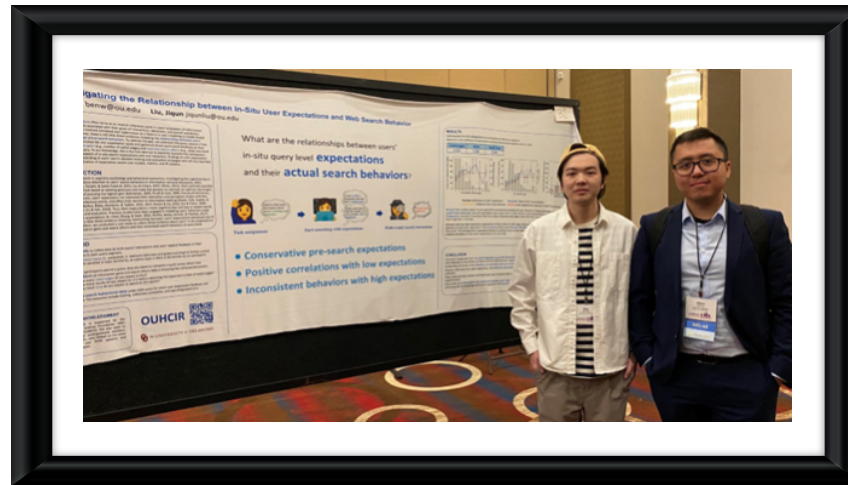
- Current graduate student Bethie Seay has a new professional position as an Assistant Technical Services Librarian at OU-Tulsa Schusterman Library. Previously, Bethie was working at OU-Tulsa Schusterman as a Senior Library Technician. Bethie is on track to graduate December, 2022.



Bethie Seay

- Evelyn Cox for receiving the Midwest Chapter ASIS&T Award. Evelyn is a doctoral candidate in Information Studies and the Native Nations Center Coordinator at the University of Oklahoma where she obtained her MLIS as well as her Graduate Certificate in Archival Studies in 2018. Evelyn is also a 2016-2018 SAA Mosaic Program Fellow, a 2018 AAPB Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellow, and an EASP Scholar. Evelyn's work centers around documenting and preserving history that is inclusive of the many voices and vantage points not formerly represented or acknowledged in the record. Her areas of interest are related to information access and representation, particularly around the use of technology for social and cultural preservation and transference.

Student Achievements



- Doctoral Student Ben Wang and Dr. Jiquan Liu presented a poster at ASIS&T about users' expectations and actual behaviors in Web searching. The expectations and behaviors include finding useful pages, clicks, and spending time. Based on the preliminary results, we found that users tended to have conservative expectations. To learn more about the users' expectation study visit <https://asistdl.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pa2.740>.

- Doctoral Student, Moses Munyao, presented a poster at ASIS&T about the perception of professional development among school librarians with an aim of understanding the current state of professional development and identifying innovative strategies for implementation both in practice and in policy for school librarians professional development.

To learn more about this, please scan this QR code:



Moses Munyao

Student Achievements



Diana Dawson

- Diana Dawson received the Spectrum Scholarship award, a one-time \$5,000 scholarship, from the American Library Association, which provides tuition support and leadership development to graduate library students who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students. One of their goals is to increase the number of librarians who are minorities by assisting the student with obtaining a Library Studies graduate degree. The award provides support to attend the Spectrum Leadership Institute at the ALA Conference. Dawson shared "The monetary funds from these scholarships removed a great financial burden on my family and me. Attending the Spectrum Leadership Institute at ALA allowed me to network and learn about issues affecting the library community. Diana is also a 2022 Oklahoma Library Association Scholarship Recipient. In addition, she has also been elected Vice-President to the newly formed incorporated regional REFORMA chapter. REFORMA is a 4-state chapter called, Corazón de la Nación (Heart of the Nation) that makes up Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri.

- Doctoral students Evelyn Cox and Moses Munyao, along with Dr. June Abbas and Dr. Denise Agosto (Drexel University, not shown), presented a poster at ASIS&T about parents' views of screen media modeling and mentoring. The findings are from Abbas, Agosto, and Willett's (Un. Of Wisconsin) recently completed IMLS grant "Navigating Screens". To learn more about the Navigation Screens project visit the project website at: <https://navigatingscreens.wordpress.com/>



Dr. June Abbas, Evelyn Cox and Moses Muny

OLISSA Student Spotlight



Jillienne Kirkpatrick

Meet the Oklahoma Library and Information Studies Student Association (OLISSA) President, Jillienne Kirkpatrick. Jill is pursuing a MLIS and is interested in working in Academic Librarianship with a focus on Special Collections. Jill is about two-thirds through the program and is on track to graduate in spring 2024. Ms. Kirkpatrick became involved with OLISSA after answering an email about how to be more engaged in the organization. Jillienne shared, "Becoming president was unexpected but has led to amazing experiences". As an association, the students have developed a community of great friends and accomplished one of the root goals of the group. OLISSA is still working on outreach and hopes to achieve more of our objectives, to help MLIS students. When Jill is not studying or leading OLISSA, she enjoys sewing, traveling, and serving on other school committees.

Learn more about OLISSA here: <https://www.ou.edu/cas/sl原因slisconnections/oliss原因>
Visit their Facebook Page! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OLISSA>

Alumni Association

Alumni Association Update:

The OU SLIS Alumni Association supports the SLIS program and promotes the accomplishments of program alumni. Each year we operate the Francis Laverne Carol Student Paper Award contest in which current MLIS students can submit a research paper for the chance at a \$250 cash prize and registration for the annual Oklahoma Library Association conference. We also select one alumni as Alumni of the Year, announced and recognized at the annual Oklahoma Library Association Conference. Our goal this year is to increase the networking among alumni and to better celebrate their accomplishments. We encourage all alumni to join the alumni association and to renew their membership each year, and – more importantly, - let us know about their accomplishments so that we can promote successes and continue to invest in the professionals of tomorrow. If you know of any recent accomplishments by OU SLIS graduates, please contact Michael Hull at michael.hull@seolibraries.com.

Alumni Association Officers:

- Michael Hull, Southeastern Public Library System, President
- April Miller, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Past President
- Gail Oehler, Southern Oklahoma Library System, Vice President
- Kristen Burkholder, OCU Dulaney-Browne Library, Treasurer
- Alyssa Migdalski, Secretary

Alumni Accomplishments:

- Theri Ray, Director of the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County in Enid, Oklahoma will be speaking at the Library Journal Directors Summit in Baltimore this December. The theme of the summit is Supporting a Resilient Workplace. Theri is a 2019 SLIS graduate. Read more here: <https://www.libraryjournal.com/event/lj-directors-summit-2022#speakers>
- Courtney Mayall (SLIS graduate 2019) was named Director of The Anadarko Community Library! Congratulations! Courtney is a 2019 SLIS graduate.

Alumni Association

- Kristin Williamson (SLIS graduate 2012), Children's Services Manager for the Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK, has been appointed to the Odyssey Award Committee to select the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults. Kristin is in her second year serving as co-chair for the Managing Children's Services committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). Williamson is active in presentations having presented at the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy Conference on Community Partnerships Supporting Early Literacy, at ALSC Institute in Kansas City along with other members of the Managing Children's Services committee on Considering Reconsiderations: Being prepared for challenged materials.

Visit the OU SLIS Alumni website for continued updates:
<https://www.ou.edu/cas/slis/slisconnections/slisalumni>

Congrats
2022
SLIS Graduates!

Current SLIS Program Offerings And Keep In Touch!

The School of Library and Information Studies Program Offerings:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Information Studies
- Master of Library and Information Studies
- Dual Master's Degrees
- Bachelor's/Master's Accelerated Program
- Graduate Certificates
- Bachelor of Science in Information Science & Technology (BSIST)
- Bachelor of Arts in Information Studies (BAIS)
- Information Studies Minor

Thank you for reading the SLIS *State of the Stacks* newsletter! If you have news to share and want to be featured in the next newsletter or on social media, **click here** to let us know so we can share it.



Connect with us on Social Media!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ou.slis>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OUSLIS>