

## **Library and Information Science (LIS) Education in Taiwan**

### **The Development, Current Situation, and Future Perspectives**

#### **1. Overview of LIS education history in Taiwan**

The first library science program in Taiwan was initiated in 1955 by Department of Adult & Continuing Education, National Taiwan Normal University, with other two sections, Journalism, and Social Work, the three sections were established under Department of Adult & Continuing Education as to fulfill society's needs in lifelong learning purpose. Through decades of efforts and development, the library and information profession in Taiwan now has ten institutes officially provide library and information science (studies or its kind) programs that ranges from bachelor degree to doctorate, plus one distance education program, a specialized program, and a credit-grant certificate program.

The 11 institutes includes: 1) National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), 2) National Taiwan University (NTU), 3) Shih-Hsin University (SHU), 4) Fu Jen Catholic University (FJU), 5) Tungkang University, 6) National Chengchi University (NCCU), 7) Hsuan-Chuang University (HSU), 8) National Chung Hsing University (NCHU), 9) National Open University (NOU), 10) National Chiao-Tong University Library (NCTU-Lib.), and 11) National Sun-Yet-Sen University Library (NSYSU-Lib.) Among these 11 institutes, seven (above mentioned Number 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11) are public schools and other four (Number 3, 4, 5, and 7) are private schools. With some exceptions, such as some minor percentage of quota numbers are permitted via interviewing or special permission to be admitted.

Most students with high school diploma or equivalent need to take and pass the National Joint University/College Entrance Examination, through scores sorting and Students' optional list to be admitted to the undergraduate level. For graduate level, most schools follow a path that students submit application, going through a written text, and interview for admission. Chengchi University and Chung Hsing University (Number 6 and 8) are the two institutes that provide only graduate level programs.

As Table1. "The year of LIS programs of various academic levels established in Taiwan" shown that National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) established the library science undergraduate program in 1955, changed name to Library & Information Science (LIS) in 1998, and established graduate program in 2002. National Taiwan University (NTU) developed library science undergraduate program in

1961, and gradually to graduate level in 1980 and 1989 to doctorate respectively, and changed name to LIS in 1987, in 2001, it added continuing education program.

Shih-Hsin University's (SHU) library science was established in 1964, with non-degree offered as the school was a junior college, and was interrupted during 1993-1994 while the school was undergoing its transmission to university. The library and information studies program was successfully resumed in 1995, and it changed the name to information and communications in year of 2000. Fu Jen Catholic University established its library science program in 1970, and its continuing education the next year, changed the name to LIS in 1992, and established master's program both full-time and continued program at the same year in 1994. Tamkung University's library science program was established in 1971, and called "Education Information" until 2000, it changed the name to Information and Library Science (ILS), and also provide master's program since 1991. National Chengchi University established its LIS graduate program in 1996, and changed its name to Library, Information and Archival Studies 2004. Hsuan-Chuang University established the LIS undergraduate program in 1998. National Chung Hsin University established the graduate LIS program in 1999. National Open University started a support LIS program in 1986 was intentionally to cross the distance to teach librarians who needs professional development with its unique educational methods. National Chiao-Tong University's Library cooperates with University's Computer Center to establish this technology-oriented program at graduate level as to train for digital library staffs, the program is considered a new comer of the profession. And another program worth mentioning is that National Sun-Yet-Sen University's Library – which was entrusted by Ministry of Education to provide credit-grant program to train school teachers to become school librarians. In addition to above, the National Library, and the Library Association of China (LAC) also provide on-the-job training programs which usually entrusted LIS institutes to conduct the program, and or organize workshops from time to time.

From the description above, one understands that the LIS education in Taiwan was expanded from North to South gradually, and the level of academic status gradually from bachelor to doctorate during the past 50 years. The professionals effectively coordinating the change of LIS global-wise and following the steps of development of information technology.

Academic Level  LISE Institutes	Graduate			Undergraduate		Remarks
	Doctoral	Master's Full-time	Master's CE	Bachelor Full-time	Bachelor CE	
1. NTNU-a Normal Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a>				1955		Changed name to LIS in 1998
1. NTNU-b Normal Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">????</a>	*	2002				* under application Established and named LIS in 2002
2. NTU Taiwan Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">????</a>	1989	1980	2001	1961		Changed name to LIS in 1987
3. SHU Shih-Hsin Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">???? (? ? ? ? ? ? ?)</a>		2000	2002	1964 (1995)	1998	1964 junior college/non-degree, 1993-1994 interrupted, resumed and name LIS in 1995 Changed name to IC in 2000
4. FJCU Fu Jen Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">????</a>		1994	1994	1970	1971	Changed name to LIS in 1992
5. TKU Tamkung Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">???? ? ? ? (? ? ? ? ? ? ?)</a>		1991		1971		Established and named Educational Information in 1971. Changed name to ILS in 2000
6. NCCU Chengchi Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a>		1996				Established and named LIS in 1996 Changed name to LIA in 2004
7. HCU Hsuan-Chuang Univ. <a href="#">???? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">????</a>				1998		Established and named LIS in 1998

8. NCHU Chung Hsing Univ. <a href="#">. ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a>	1999				Established and named LIS in 1999
9. NOU Open Univ. <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">? ? ? ?</a>				1986	Distance Education program established in 1986
10. NCTU-Lib Chiao-Tong Univ. Library <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a> <a href="#">? ? ? ?</a>			2002		Digital Library Program
11. NSYSU-Lib Sun-Yet-Sen Univ. Library <a href="#">? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?</a>				2000	School Librarian 20-Credits Training Project
12. Others	-National Central Library (NCL)		Learning passport		
	-Library Association of China (LAC)				

Table 1. The year of LIS programs of various academic levels established in Taiwan

1. Department of Adult & Continuing Education, National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU-a)
2. Graduate Institute of Library & Information Studies, National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU-b)
3. Department/Graduate School of Library & Information Science, National Taiwan University (NTU)
4. Department/Graduate Program of Information & Communications, Shih-Hsin University (SHU)
5. Department/Graduate School of Library & Information Sciences, Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU)
6. Department/Graduate School of Information & Library Sciences, Tumkang University (TKU)
7. Graduate Institute of Library, Information, and Archival studies, National Chengchi University (NCCU)
8. Department of Library & Information Sciences, Hsuan-Chuang University (HCU)
9. Graduate Institute of Library & Information Science, National Chung Hsing University (NCHU)
10. Department of Humanity and Liberal Arts, Division of Communication, Library and Information, National Open University (NOU)
11. Program of Digital Library, National Chiao Tong University (NCTU)
12. National Central Library (NCL), Library Association of China (LAC)

## 2. Accreditation body and system of librarians in Taiwan

Each school has its own accreditation system for graduating conditions. As following the rules of Ministry of Education, each school can authorize its program and credit numbers for graduations. Shown as Table 2. "LISE Accreditation system in Taiwan", the requirement for degree credits ranges from 128 credits to 140 credits for undergraduate level. Most graduate programs require 30 credits for master degree program. NOU offers 7 courses of 18 credits for supportive professional development. Chiao-Tong University 's Digital Library Program is a specialized graduate level program for digital librarians. The National Sun-yet-Sen University's Library offers the School Librarian 20-Credits Training Project for school teachers who are not able to attend the LIS schools in Northern Taiwan. .

Academic Level	Graduate			Undergraduate		Remarks
	Doctoral	Master's Full-time	Master's CE	Bachelors Full-time	Bachelors CE	
LISE Institutes						
1. NTNU-a Normal Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">?????</a>				128		
1 NTNU-b Normal Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">??</a>		30				
2. NTU Taiwan Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">??</a>	18	30	30	148		
3. SHU Shih-Hsin Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">??(?????)</a>		30	30	136	72	
4. FJCU Fu Jen Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">??</a>		30		134		
5. TKU Tamkung Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">????(?????)</a> <a href="#">???)</a>		30		139		
6. NCCU Chengchi Univ. <a href="#">????????</a> <a href="#">???</a>		28				Thesis not included
7. HCU Hsuan-Chuang Univ. <a href="#">????????</a>				135		

?					
8. NCHU Chung Hsing Univ. <a href="#">???? ???? ???? ???? ?</a>		36			
9. NOU Open Univ. <a href="#">???? ???? ???? ?</a>					Offering 7 courses, 18 credits
10. NCTU-Lib Chiao-Tong Univ. Library <a href="#">???? ???? ?</a> <a href="#">???? ???? ?</a>			24		Digital Library Program thesis not included
11. NSYSU-Lib Sun-Yet-Sen Univ. Library <a href="#">???? ?</a>				20-credit	School Librarian 20-Credits Training Project
12. Others	-National Central Library (NCL)  -Library Association of China (LAC)		Learning passport		

Table 2. LISE Accreditation system in Taiwan

### 3. Curriculum and recent trends of LIS education contents in Taiwan

During 1990's, library schools changed names into Library and Information Science to coordinate the changes of information technology and global-wise library school trends. However, the term of "information" was commonly misunderstood and sometimes was marked equal to computers, the LIS curriculum often face challenges. Following by the digital era after Internet, the LIS professional institutes emphasis on knowledge integration and applications. This is especially true that when the "Library Law of Taiwan" announced officially, more and more librarians were found not qualified not only the job description but also the job competency as well. The LIS education institutes began to design courses for students who are seeking upgraded knowledge and skills in order to retain the job and professional competency. Library Association of China also leads the profession to the era of digitalization. LIS education institutes organized conferences such as "Planning an Practice of Digitizing Archives", "Digitized Information Services and Marketing", "Knowledge Management", "Stores and Management of

Electronic Forms”, “XML Techniques and Applications in Library”, “Digital Contents and Services” to attract and gathering expertise, and then planning for designing curriculum accordingly.

The e-learning via Internet is a new trend for LIS education and it is a hot topic while considering the theory and practice, or the teaching and development of distance education, the application of e-learning in LIS curriculum planning. Take an example of the Department/Graduate Program of Information and Communications of Shih-Hsin University, the courses design and practice has been revised many times as to coop with the daily changes of information technology. Take a few, such as “The Design of Webpages”, “Introduction to Digital Media”, “Media Literacy”, “Visual Arts”, “Interactive Programming”, “Digital Media and Value-Added Information Services”, “Digital Archives”, and so on, are new courses designed for our students, and also to keep up with the new trends of library and information services, course such as “Internet and Networking”, “User Study” “Electronic Publishing”, “Information Behavior” are also provided. The recent trends of LIS education contents in Taiwan can be summarized as “digital”, “Internet” “Multi-media”, or its related topics.

#### **4. Market trends of librarians or information specialists in Taiwan**

One of the reasons to keep up with the new trends of information society is to provide our students wider chance of employment and job opportunity. We sensed that the job market is in need of information services staffs, but it also needs staff with new information technology competency. We also sensed that the up to cutting edge technology may bring good opportunity, but, the basic foundation of humanity and liberal arts and/or managerial skills will be needed after the entry level.

Market trends of librarian or information specialists pointing at the “Information Contents” and its related knowledge and skills. Most librarians have to pass the civil examination to get into libraries which is true that about 90% libraries are state-run, librarians are considered government employees, the rank and the salary is fixed. With up to date information skills, the libraries may not be able to utilize their intelligence learned from schools, thus, recent graduates now turn their directions to private firms, and working as information specialist which pays better than libraries of different kind.

## **5. Credit transfer systems among LIS education institutions in Taiwan**

The credit transfer system among LIS education institutions is not active. One LIS school may not recognize the other school's credits even when students transfer. The difference of course credits and different systems of school courses contents make it difficult to consider transformation. Even the same title of course, the outline of the course differs, the requirement of assignments differs. However, we have formed a committee to meet and make decisions when situation approaches.

## **6. The IFLA experience**

The IFLA2004 in Buenos Aires, the discussion of regional cooperation of LIS education institutions in East Asia had several common viewpoints, that is the cross-recognition of LIS education institutions, however, the gap between concepts and application is large. There is a need to form up a discussion group and talk about the issue in detailed and in-depth. The common issues among LIS education institutions various in different countries. The section of education and training, SET, agreed that each school has different requirements. If the selection of "core courses" will become a "uniform" like, the contents and the number of credit-grant to be regulated and agreeable to the institutions of the region, then, there is a possible to write a guideline, set up the standard and then put the ideas into actions. We look forward to the possibility.

## **7. Concerns and Expectations**

- The gap between undergraduate level students and graduate level studies in connecting to curriculum design, this is especially true when the undergraduate major was not LIS. And, the Graduate schools receive students from different disciplinary, the basic foundation of LIS technical services, public services and specialized particular library management concept are missing.
- The Civil Examination & Professional certificate related to LIS program is still a controversial issue in Taiwan. The graduates of LIS program do not gain privilege to be hired by libraries of various kind; and people who take civil examination on Library subject may not necessary LIS



education graduates – who may win and take the position. The employment situation is not reasonable.

- Segregation of LIS education institutions and the Library , it is common that the university library do not get along well with LIS education program. Therefore the practice and theory do not match and both do not learn from each other.
- I hope to remain the quality of LIS education and also enhance the competition of Information & Communication in our profession. LIS education institutions need to strengthen the ability of communication skills.
- The emphasis of information technology caused students lack of sense of humanity and liberal arts that will make our profession more too-oriented instead of education oriented.
- LIS Education without “L”, IC education without “C”? This is especially worry of our department/graduate program. I wonder our program is a “Frankstein” or a Socrates?

## References:

National Library, Taipei. (2004) 2003 Yearbook of Librarianship in Taiwan. National Library, Taipei.  
pp. 375-482

Pan Yentao & Cheng Huanwen (2004) SHIJI TUSHUGUAN XUE JIAO JINZHAN. Beijing Library Press, Beijing, China. pp. 220-255.

Lin Chihfeng, ed. “Current development of LISE in Taiwan, 2002” special issue in CALISE News Letter.  
Pp10-53.

## Useful Web Sights for further exploration

- Library and Information Professions and Education Renewal, LIPER  
<http://www.ai-gakkai.or.jp/jslis/liper/gaiyo.html>
- Chinese Association of Library and Information Science Education (CALISE)  
<http://www.calise.org.tw/education/domestic.htm>  
[2002 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?](#)
- Department of Library and Information Science, National Taiwan University

- <http://www.lis.ntu.edu.tw>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Graduate Institute of Library, Information, and Archival Studies, National Chengchi University  
<http://www2.nccu.edu.tw/%7EElis/>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department of Adult & Continuing Education, National Taiwan Normal University  
<http://www.ntnu.edu.tw/ace/index.htm>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Graduate Institute of Library & Information Studies, National Taiwan Normal University  
<http://www.ntnu.edu.tw/ace/01.htm>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Graduate Institute of Library & Information Science, National Chung Hsing University  
<http://www.nchu.edu.tw/%7Egilis/9/9.htm>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Program of Digital Library, National Chiao Tung University  
<http://vic.lib.nctu.edu.tw/liborg/org05b6-1.htm> ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department of Information and Library Sciences, Tamkung University  
<http://www.dils.tku.edu.tw>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department of Library & Information Science School of Continuing Education  
Fu Jen Catholic University  
<http://www.lis.ntcc.fju.edu.tw/>    輔仁大學圖資系夜間部
- Department of Library and Information Science, Fu Jen Catholic University  
<http://www.lins.fju.edu.tw/>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department/Graduate Program of Information & Communications, Shih-Hsin University  
<http://ic.shu.edu.tw/>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department of Library & Information Sciences, Hsuan-Chuang University  
<http://www.hcu.edu.tw/>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
- Department of Humanity and Liberal Arts, Division of Communication, Library and Information  
National Open University  
<http://www.nou.edu.tw>    ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

## Chihfeng Lin

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**Education** B.A., (1976) Fu-Jen University, Taipei (Major in Library Science)  
M.A. Ed., (1984) University of Montana, Montana, USA  
(Major in Educational Administration)  
D.A., (2000) Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
(Major in Library & Information Science)

### Employment History

September 1984-Present  
Associate Professor and Chair,  
Department/Graduate Program of Information & Communications  
Shih-Hsin University (August 2004 -  
present)

Associate Professor and Director,  
Shih-Hsin University Library (August 2002 - July  
2004)

Lecturer and Chair,  
Department of Library Science, The World College of Journalism  
(now Shih-Hsin University) (August 1984-July  
1993)

Participant and Lecturer  
Library Science Program, Department of Liberal Arts, National Open  
University (February 1986 – present)

**Professional Activities (National)** Member, Library Association of Chinese (LAC)  
Board of Directors of LAC 1987-1989  
Member, Chinese Association of Library & Information Science  
Education

(CALISE)  
Chair, Education Committee, CALISE 2002  
Member of Consulting Committee of High School Libraries,  
**Taiwan**  
Member of Consulting Committee of Public Libraries, Taiwan  
Member, Chinese Association of Information Society  
Member, Chinese Association of Communication Society

**Professional Activities (International)** Regional Editor, IFLA LISE WORLD GUIDE  
Member of the American Society of Information Science  
&Technology (ASIS&T)  
Treasurer, ASIS Taipei Chapter, 1985-1987  
Member, American Library Association (ALA)  
Member, the Association of Library and Information Science  
Education (ALISE)

## Teaching

**Experience** Specialized in 1) Management & Marketing; 2) Library & Information Science (LIS), Information & Communications (IC) Literature in English; 3) Library & Information Science; 4) Information & Communications

- Graduate Level Courses
  - Research Methodology and Thesis Composing
  - Studies in Information Industry
  - Management Issues of Information Provision Institutes
  - Knowledge Management
  - Evaluation of Information Systems
- Undergraduate Level Courses
  - Guide to Literature in Information & Communications in English
  - Methodology and Theory of Communication Studies
  - Information Literacy (Information Collection & Report Writing)
  - Management of Information Provision Institutes
  - Marketing Information Service
  - Collection Development
  - Management of Bookstore
  - Marketing and Public Relations

## Publications

- Books
  - 2003, *“Collection Development & Information Acquisition”*(co-author)
  - 2002, *“Using Libraries”*(co-author)
  - 2000, *“Changes in stated job requirements of director positions of academic libraries in the US: A content analysis of qualifications and job expectations as advertised in selected professional periodicals”*  
Dissertation, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
  - 1986, *“Introduction to Librarianship”* (co-author)
- Journal Articles and/or Conference Contributions
  - 2004, *“The Challenges and Opportunities of Regional Cooperation in LIS Education in East Asia.”* Section of Education and Training (SET), *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutes (IFLA) Annual Congress and Conference, 2004*, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
  - 2003, *“Marketing Information services and Library’s Sustainable strategies”* at *CAS Symposium on the Libraries’ Sustainable Development and Innovation*, Beijing, China.

- 2002, “Marketing Information Services and Professional Development of Public Library Librarians.” at 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Taipei Municipal Library Conference, Taipei, Taiwan**
- 2001, “Marketing Academic Library Services; from a Perspective of Knowledge Management.” *University Library Journal* (5) 2: 25-41**
- 2000, “System Librarian and Library Education” at 5<sup>th</sup> Cross-Strait LISE Conference, Chungching, China.**

### **Supervision of Graduate Level Thesis**

Relationship of Innovative Management and Efficiency of Business:  
Cases of Selected Semi-Conductor Industry in Taiwan

Specialized Collection Development of Public Library  
Cases of Hua-Lien Country Libraries

Possibilities of Fee-based Information Service in Public Libraries  
Examples from Northern Taiwan Area

Study of Information Behavior of Professional Women in Seeking of  
Childcare Assistance

Study of Electronic Learning and Educational Performance

Study of Knowledge Management of Commercial Bank During Transition  
of Corporate Merging