

THE INSTITUTE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE IN WARSAW. PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

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The Institute of Library and Information Science of the University of Warsaw is the oldest university department in Poland to educate librarians and information specialists. While its traditions of promoting knowledge about books go back to the lectures of Joachim Lelewel (1820-1821) and Karol Estreicher (1865-1868), the Institute itself dates back to October 1951, when the Chair of Librarianship was established at Warsaw University, headed by Professor Aleksander Birkenmajer.

The main aim of the Institute is to educate graduates for professional positions in libraries, information centres, bookstores, publishing houses and other institutions dealing with books and information. Besides its educational activity, the Institute is a research institution, and its staff is engaged in research projects connected with their individual interests and external demands. Currently, the Institute has a staff of 36, among whom 11 are full-time highest rank professors. The students body exceeds 600: more than 200 are full-time students, 300 are in the part-time (so-called "zaoczny" in Polish) programme, and almost 100 in the post-graduate (post-masters) programme. These numbers place the Institute as the largest in the country. The Institute is one of six organizational units of the Historical Faculty. The organizational structure of the Institute itself is built of four divisions (so-called "zakłady" in Polish): Division of Information Systems; Division of Library Science; Division of Rare and Old Books and the Division of Theory and History of Bibliography. The Historical Faculty has the right to award doctor degrees in library and information science.

In this article I am going to concentrate readers' attention on full-time and part-time studies issues. Post-graduate programmes change relatively often in a way suitable to potential participants' de-

mands and they worthy of being a topic of a separate publication together with problems of permanent and distance education.

General Information

Right from the start, the Institute's activity has been focused on modern librarianship and information science. Information science is practiced here as a branch of contemporary information technology and social communication.

The Institute of Library and Information Science offers the following programmes of study:

- full-time studies;
- part-time studies;
- post-graduate studies, currently in the areas of information systems and research libraries.

Full-time and part-time studies follow 5-year programmes leading up to the MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science) degree and allowing students to obtain full qualifications in library and information science. Candidates for these programmes must have a "matura" (certificate of secondary education or high school diploma).

The curriculum adopted at the Institute of Library and Information Science is intended to combine general arts education with social and information sciences, and thus differs from the curricula at other institutions of this type in Poland, which tend to have a humanities bias. Our graduates are humanists who feel at home with computers.

Full-time studies

The curriculum of full-time programme is composed of two stages. The first stage consists of basic courses mandatory for all students during the first two and a half years of the programme (semester 1-5). The second stage, starting with semester 6, is devoted to a specialization chosen by a student.

The basic courses, both general and professional, mandatory for all students irrespective of their future specialization, are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECTS

Description	Number of hours	Year of study
Logic	45	I
Sociology	60	I
Economics	45	II
History of Polish literature	30	III
History of Poland, selected issues	30	III
History of learning and science	60	II
Science of science	30	I
Elements of mathematics	30	I
Theory of culture	30	II
History of culture	30	III
Statistics	30	II
Foreign language, beginner's level	120	I, II, III
Foreign language, advanced level	150	I, II, III
Physical education	150	I, II, III

SPECIALIZED COURSES

Description	Number of hours	Year of study
Introduction to library and information science	90	I
Elements of computer science in information science	75	I
Computer tools in information services	60	II
Bibliography and other sources of information	45	I
Library collections	30	I
Document and information collections	30	II
Principles of document cataloguing	45	I

Subject cataloguing and classification	120	II, III
Publishing and book trade issues	30	II
Reading studies	45	III
History of book, libraries and information science	90	II
Proseminar in methods	15	II
Proseminar in methods	15	III
Writing workshop	30	I

In addition to the subjects listed above, students are also obliged to obtain credits for at least three optional courses (90 hrs) of which at least one should end in an exam. The choice of those supplementary courses is left to an individual student's decision, as well as their timing, within the first two and a half years of studies. The Institute announces its offering of optional courses at the beginning of each academic year. Students are also free to choose from courses offered by other departments within the University.

After completing 5 semesters and passing the prescribed exams students choose a specialization for the remaining five semesters. In choosing a specialization the students follow their interests. The offering of specializations generally depends on the labor market's demands and the current possibilities of the Institute.

Currently, the Institute runs three specializations:

- Information science;
- Libraries within the system of education;
- Knowledge about books, publishing and the book market.

Specialization in information science

The goal of this specialization is to educate graduates who will engage in practical information activity in information work. It is assumed that graduates of this specialization will be prepared to work with automated information retrieval systems, and will be capable of collaborating with computer specialists on designing such systems and maintaining them.

The curriculum of the specialization is made up of four groups of subjects:

- theoretical issues of information science;
- methodological and organizational aspects of information/reference activity;
- technical aspects of information system implementation;
- MLIS thesis seminars and accompanying monographic lectures.

COURSES WITHIN INFORMATION SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION

Description	Number of hours	Year of study
Elements of information retrieval system analysis	60	III, IV
Information retrieval languages	105	II, IV
Linguistic foundations of information systems	60	III, IV
Information services in libraries	60	III, IV
Information heuristic	60	IV
Conversatorium on library automation	30	IV
Databases	60	IV
Users needs	15	IV
Organization and management of libraries and information centers	30	V
Foreign language course	120	III, IV
Monographic lectures	120	III, IV, V
M.A. thesis seminar	150	III, IV, V

Specialization in knowledge about books, publishing and book distribution

This specialization was introduced into the curriculum as recently as the year 1992/1993. It also combines a study of fundamental issues of the arts and culture with specialized courses. The specialization contains four blocks of subjects:

- courses focusing on the workshop and methodology;

- courses in the area of broadly understood humanities;
- specialized courses catering for the needs of librarians, publishers and book traders;
- MLIS thesis seminars and accompanying monographic lectures.

COURSES WITHIN THE SPECIALIZATION IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BOOKS, PUBLISHING AND BOOK DISTRIBUTION

Description	Number of hours	Year of study
Latin and the Roman culture	30	IV
German, French or Russian language and culture	30	IV
Latin translation	30	III
Auxiliary book sciences and methodology	60	III, IV
Role of writing in culture	60	III, IV
Manuscript books	30	IV
Research libraries	30	IV
Special collections	90	III, IV
History of science and knowledge	60	III, IV
The art of book	30	III
Organization and management of special collections	30	V
History of the printed book (selected topics)	60	IV, V
Field practice (special collections)	30	V
Problems of book editing	30	III
Book distribution and marketing	30	IV
Electronic workshop of author and editor	30	IV
Monographic lectures	60	III, IV, V
M.A. thesis seminar	150	III, IV, V

The goal of the specialization is to train book specialists to work in research libraries, historic and special collections, as well as in publishing houses, book stores and any institutions engaged in

documentation and bibliography. Its graduates will also be adequately prepared to work in scholarly institutions and societies, museums and archives, and cultural centers. They can specialize further by attending PhD seminars offered by the Division of Knowledge about Rare and Old Books.

Specialization in libraries in the system of education

This specialization trains professionals to work in libraries subordinate to the Ministry of National Education and other government departments: school libraries, libraries at child-care or corrective institutions, hospitals, prisons etc., and at other institutions promoting the culture of reading among children and adolescents.

Apart from subjects directly linked to the character of this specialization, educational courses such as pedagogics and psychology are also taught, so that graduates obtain teaching certification as well as specialization in librarianship, and can work as both teachers and librarians.

COURSES WITHIN LIBRARIES IN THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Description	Number of hours	Year of study
Psychology	90	III, IV
Pedagogic	75	III, IV
Biomedical foundations of child development and education	15	III
Literature for children and adolescents	90	III, IV
Child and adolescent reading	30	III
Methods of work with young readers	30	IV
Teaching methodology in school library	90	IV
Organization of school and pedagogical libraries	60	III
Reading therapy	60	III, IV
Educational bibliography	15	III

Educational information systems	15	IV
Computer lab	30	IV
Non-book materials in a school library	45	IV
Monographic lectures	60	IV, V
Foreign language course	90	III, IV
M.A. thesis seminar	150	III, IV, V

Part-time studies

As in the case of full-time studies, the curriculum of the part-time studies is divided into two stages. The "base" stage covers the first five semesters of the programme and embraces courses mandatory for all students. In the second stage, starting with the 6th semester, students follow a chosen specialization.

The second stage of the curriculum begins in the middle of the third year. Apart from specialized courses, the curriculum includes interspecialization courses attended by all students, namely Introduction to library and information science; Philosophy; Selected issues of Poland's history, etc.

The part-time programme offers the same specializations as the full-time programme:

- Information science;
- Knowledge about books, publishing and the book market;
- Libraries in the system of education.

Courses within the above specializations are identical to those in full-time studies, but they are taught in a reduced number of hours, approximately one third of lectures and class hours in full-time studies.

To keep with the rapid evolution of information technologies and management methods, the transformation of the socio-economic context and job market, and to follow international trends, we started a long-term plan of the Institute development in the beginning of 1995. This plan is the project of an extensive reform of an educational system and curriculum development in the field of LIS which has so far remained unchanged since 1975.

Among others, we are going to develop a model curriculum for library and information science on the basis of analysis of existing

curricula and needs assessment surveys. The model curriculum which we are working on, will consist of two main parts: a mandatory part for all schools of LIS in Poland, and a facultative, individualized part which will depend on factors like the traditions of a given school, the situation of its staff, technical equipment etc. The developing curriculum will serve to ensure compatibility and comparability of professional qualifications among the LIS schools in Poland. The new curriculum will also accommodate the study of foreign languages necessary for proper professional practice and for overcoming language barriers in using information. Professional associations connected with library science as well as individuals not connected with ILIS UW but with relevant professional and didactic experience have been invited to participate in the curriculum development.

One of the most important elements of the project is the working out of a model and of a university education place in the system of different forms of educating LIS professionals in Poland. In view of broader measures aimed at reforming the Polish educational system in general including the university system (for instance the introduction of a two-degree study system - bachelor's level and master's level - and the introduction of a credit hours system), an accreditation system comparable to the one in effect in Western countries where schools are being granted accreditation by professional associations becomes necessary. We are working on this very hard but the lack of relevant experiences and some objective barriers make a progress in this field slower than we wish to.

Įteikta 1995 m. gegužės mėn.

VARŠUVOS BIBLIOTEKININKYSTĖS IR INFORMACIJOS MOKSLO INSTITUTAS. DABARTIS IR PERSPEKTYVOS

Santrauka

Institutas yra seniausia Lenkijos aukštojo mokslo įstaiga, rengianti specialistus bibliotekoms, informacijos centrams, knygynams, leidykloms ir kitoms įstaigoms, susijusioms su knyga ir informacija. Institute atliekami ir šių krypčių moksliniai tyrimai.

Straipsnyje aptariamas stacionarinis ir neakivaizdinis mokymas bei doktorantūra, specializacijos, mokymo planai ir mokomieji dalykai. Institute, kaip ir visoje Lenkijos švietimo sistemoje, vyksta reforma, kuria siekiama įgyvendinti dviejų lygių specialistų rengimą (bakalaurų ir magistrų), kreditų sistemą, suderinamą su kitų šalių aukštosiomis mokyklomis.