SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS, COMPUTING, AND ENGINEERING

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Department of Information and Library Science
Bloomington

Strategic Plan 2017
Vision of the Department—The Department of Information and Library Science (ILS) has a special role in the Information Age. The department focuses on the creation and management of, and access to, documents, data, and other types of information, and the study of such in overlapping information, communication, and media ecologies. We study the socio-technical means through which people, information, and technologies are joined in social, cultural, and organizational contexts.

Mission of the Department—The Department of Information and Library Science prepares socially responsible graduates for fulfilling careers characterized by ethical practice, professional values, analytical skill, critical thinking, leadership, and lifelong learning. The Department is committed to excellence and innovation in the education of librarians and other information professionals, the creation of knowledge, and service and understanding in a diverse and changing global information environment. To accomplish this mission, the Department’s goals are:

• To contribute knowledge and advance theory by working from cognitive, social, behavioral, cultural, philosophical, and technological perspectives; fostering interdisciplinary collaboration; and cultivating an appreciation for the role of information in society;
• To serve our students, our state and local constituencies, society, and the library and information science profession; and
• To model a climate of intellectual engagement, openness, integrity, diversity, and respect within the department

The Value of Information & Library Science—The document and data (‘information’) professions that the department educates, trains, and supports reach back thousands of years across the world. Faithful record management and transmission for cultural and scientific means and stable political governance are required for civilization; without these, no civilization continues to exist or prosper, and scientific and engineering advancement comes to an end. Therefore, the ILS department represents the foundational cornerstone and trains the professionals upon which all the other units of the school depend.

Without true and reliable information and its cultural transmission, new knowledge is unreliable, the technologies of computation and engineering are premised on weak or unworkable grounds, and trust in government and civilization as a whole falters, along with faith in the progress of technological research and the values of civilized knowledge and its institutions. Knowledge is not information; knowledge is the product of true and reliable information, as established by the mediating processes of cultural and scientific institutions, their reliable, organized, and accessible documents and data, and the institutionally mediated social and cultural methods and traditions of analysis of information and knowledge.

Libraries and other document and data institutions and their professionals are the bedrock upon which cultural and scientific knowledge is possible. Such professionals have a strong public service orientation (across many types of ‘publics’), which means that they must be impervious to corrupting their records, critical in collecting them, knowledgeable in their organization, and dedicated to their being accessible. The core value of the department and its faculty members, alumni, and support units in the school and the university is a dedication to serving these professionals in their education and their professions, to educating doctoral students, and to engaging in research in information and contingent ecologies, such as communication and media.
1. **Successful re-accreditation bid**
   - Engender support of all members of the SICE community by promoting collaboration, mutual co-existence, and school-wide goals
   - Gain access to reasonable resources as necessary and grow the faculty by working with the SICE administration and department faculty

2. **Employers who value our students**
   - Conduct outreach to employers to establish good relationships with potential job sites
   - Develop a robust internship program
   - Update the curriculum to ensure students graduate with up-to-date skills and core values

3. **Students who value their education**
   - Market the Department’s hiring statistics; discover new markets; focus core messages and include clear visions and core values for ILS programs
   - Ensure quality instructors in all classes and specializations; hire new faculty (tenure track, instructors, and adjuncts); properly assign instructors to courses; reorganize curriculum; establish good advising practices
   - Focus the Ph.D. program in the department and also expand its support across the school
   - Start new ILS colloquium for MLS/MIS students: “professionals in practice”
   - Develop a MIS alumni base and reinvigorate the MLS alumni base; refocus alumni magazine and ILS newsletters to bring them back into ILS oversight

4. **Dedicated and successful faculty**
   - Hire tenure track MLS faculty for 2018-19 with anticipated MLS/MIS hire in 2019-20; hire new Lecturer
   - Reexamine individual faculty workloads in relation to one another and department needs; readjust faculty teaching and service loads where appropriate
   - Focus the faculty on common research areas, goals, and values for the department and its programs by encouraging grants and publication, stressing both quality and quantity in research, and facilitating cross-unit research and work with doctoral students

5. **Cross-departmental and school collaborations**
   - Work with other SICE units so that students can take courses that fit their interests as well as their programs; increase staffing by adjuncts or instructors for needed classes when possible and, when not possible, make available courses in other units, departments, and schools on campus
   - Establish clear communication among SICE departments about characteristics of courses taught and work with SICE units, administration, and school curriculum committee to resolve issues
   - Maintain relationships with other units and SICE administration to foster willingness for research collaborations, creating memorandums of understanding (MOUs) as necessary

6. **High quality students**
   - Create clearer and accurate branding of the department’s strengths by updating webpages and other marketing and communication tools
   - Increase the number of applicants and overall scores of students applying; explore new markets to find larger pools of applicants; improve overall recruiting as well as outreach at IUB
   - Keep tuition reasonable; grant more scholarships; improve alumni development
   - Increase the amount of Ph.D. applicants through improving the focus of, and recruitment for, the Ph.D. program; alter the Ph.D. application cycle to align with the School’s
   - Ensure sufficient and quality faculty for doctoral students to partner with, sufficient quantity of students for cohorts and doctoral level classes, and sufficient support from SICE

7. **Dedicated staff in both the department and school**
   - Give staff ownership of department development initiatives; increase inter-departmental and unit communication
   - Promote and advance staff who show proactive initiatives for the betterment of the department and the school
8. **Dedicated professional partners in the school, campus, and the community**

- Establish professional partners willing to advise and speak to students via greater administrative, faculty, and student involvement on campus and with outside professional institutions
- Continue holding the ILS colloquium and other sponsored conferences and speakers and start new ILS colloquium for MLS/MIS students “professionals in practice”
- Motivate adjunct faculty from professional partners by increasing ownership of courses and select specializations, including adjuncts more in faculty meetings, developing adjunct handbooks, and increasing the adjunct salary

9. **Improvement in ILS rankings—the result of all of the above**

- Emphasize ILS values and brands in all internal and external communications
- Engender outstanding faculty with international reputations and high quality publications and grants
- Secure a reputation for having specific and respected research and teaching foci