

Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area:

Discipline: Library and Information Studies

Sub-Discipline:

Centre:

Discipline Overview

Typically, Library and Information Studies (LIS) academics start their career in industry, and then earn a PhD after a few years. The wide range of methodologies and approaches employed across LIS research mean that many LIS academics publish in a range of outlet types, both as single and co-authors. In some cases, they will work in teams, in other cases on their own. Grants are relatively hard to come by in the discipline and are more likely through collaboration with researchers in cognate fields. PhD students in LIS tend to work on their own projects, and most early- and mid-career LIS academics would not be afforded opportunities to supervise large numbers of doctoral students. Teaching practices do not vary all that much across LIS curricula, particularly if delivery is exclusively online, as it is at CSU.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	10% male / 90% female
Higher Education Sector (defined as educators in university, TAFE, etc.)	50% male / 50% female
University	50% male / 50% female

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the main course accrediting body in Australia; the Australian Society of Archivists and the Records and Information Management Professionals Australasia Global also accredit CSU courses.
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	There are no discipline specific pedagogies as such, though pedagogies for online delivery are important in the discipline, given the preponderance of students studying online (100% at CSU).
STUDENT PROFILE	CSU has about 1700 Library and Information Studies students (including Teacher Librarianship students), all of whom study online and mostly part-time. They tend to be mature age, and female. Many are

	<p>already working as paraprofessionals in libraries and related institutions; those in the undergraduate program may not have studied formally for a long while, whereas those in the postgraduate program include some with recent educational qualifications of a high level (even PhDs in other disciplines in a few cases). A few students go on and study for a PhD; there are usually between 10 and 20 LIS PhD students at CSU.</p>
STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE	<p>Student feedback broadly aligns with sector norms for online courses.</p>
RESEARCH APPROACH	<p>LIS research ranges from humanities type topics to computer science. Typically, though, it would be classified as social science and focuses on how people interact with information in a particular setting (e.g., in libraries). Many studies adopt a qualitative paradigm, but mixed methods approaches are also common. Research is often conducted in small groups, but 'solo research', particularly on the humanities wing of the discipline, is equally possible.</p>
PUBLICATION	<p>Outputs range from conference papers to books and book chapters, though most common are journal articles. There is a fair range of Q1 and Q2 journals for LIS academics to publish in, and one would expect most to publish in mid-tier journals as a matter of course. On the other hand, most of the Q1 journals favour those who research in broader, or more 'populated', areas of the discipline. Standard authorship conventions are followed.</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>There are no very notable scholarly conferences regularly hosted in Australia, though there are several sizable professional conferences. There are also several international conferences that many LIS academics participate in, such as that of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) and iConference.</p>
GRANTS	<p>Grants are hard to come by, with most of the professional sector reliant on public funding. Some of the major libraries and related institutions have some funds to put toward research, but rarely does this translate into a very major grant. So outside of the ARC, LIS research grants tend to be for a few thousand dollars, up to perhaps twenty or thirty thousand. The ARC does award grants in the LIS discipline from time to time, though the field's position within computer science in the ANZSRC does not help in this regard.</p>
HDR SUPERVISION	<p>Honours in LIS are rare; most graduates of LIS go on to the Masters for further study, and then onto the PhD. For a while we did not have a formal pathway within CSU for Masters graduates into the PhD, as the Masters did not include a research component during that period, but this has now been addressed. PhD students are supervised by two or three academics, mostly from within SICS (and the LIS discipline).</p>
RECOGNITION	<p>There are a few awards and honours for outstanding service established by the professional associations, and by a few scholarly bodies at an international level. In sum, they are hard to come by.</p>
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	<p>LIS has the External Advisory Committee and we are now a member of iSchools who represent an international organisation of over 120 universities.</p>



PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	LIS academics would be expected to at least be eligible for professional membership of one or other of the professional associations. Some academics are members of multiple associations, including associations of different countries.
----------------------------------	---

Prepared by	Prof Tina Du	
Authorisation	Name	Approval Date
Discipline Adviser		
Head of School	Tina Du	01/03/2024

