Adaptation of LIS degrees and curriculum to the Bologna process in Europe

EBLIDA Seminar on Libraries, Archives and Information Sectors Facing the European Higher Education Area
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Summary

1 European agreements.
2 LIS education in Europe.
3 LIS education in Spain.
4 Forums and documents for curriculum development in LIS.
1 European agreements

- Sorbonne Declaration (May, 1998).
- Bologna Declaration (June 1999).
  - Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees, also through the implementation of the Diploma Supplement – already developed.
  - Adoption of a system based on two cycles – undergraduate and graduate.
  - Establishment of a common credit system – such as the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).
  - Promotion of the mobility of students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff.
1 European agreements

• Bologna Declaration (June 1999).
  – Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance: development of comparable criteria and methodologies.
  – Promotion of the European dimension in higher education: curricular development, interinstitutional co-operation, mobility schema and integrated programmes of study, training and research.
• Prague Communiqué (May 2001).
• Berlin Communiqué (September 2003).
• Bergen, Norway (May 2005): new meeting of European ministers of higher education.
1 European agreements

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1 European agreements

The role of the European Commission and the universities:

– Salamanca convention (March 2001).
– Graz Convention (May 2003).
– Tuning Project: Tuning educational structures in Europe (http://odur.let.rug.nl/TuningProject/index.htm).
– Erasmus World.
– Documents on strengthening European research, mobility, quality indicators for lifelong learning, analysis of joint master programmes …, and several follow-up documents of the Bologna Declaration.
2 LIS education in Europe

- Diversity of traditions, approaches and models.
- Development:
  - Mainly during the 1960s.
  - Leipzig (1914), Barcelona (1915), Geneva (1918).
  - University College London (1919).
  - Some countries formalised university LIS education very recently: Spain in 1982, Switzerland in the early 1990s, Austria in 1997.
  - Some countries do not have specific programmes of university LIS education, but courses in other programmes (mostly in the Humanities) or postgraduates courses.
2 LIS education in Europe

• Approaches:
  – Academic.
  – Professional.

• Contents:
  – Library and Information Science (Documentation).
  – Library Science, Information Science and Archives (Records Management).
  – Information Science and Business.
2 LIS education in Europe

- Models for articulating graduate and postgraduate LIS education (Boekhorst, Mackenzie Owen):
  - To enrol in a Master programme, a Bachelor in the same field is required (Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain).
  - To enrol in a Master programme, a Bachelor in another field is required. Students with a Bachelor in the same field are not allowed to enrol (United Kingdom, where both degrees are professionally recognised by CILIP).
  - A Master in LIS is open to students with any academic Bachelor (Denmark and Italy, but restricted to specific Bachelors; Belgium, in the Flemish part, since there is not a Bachelor degree in LIS.

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2 LIS education in Europe

• Models for articulating graduate and postgraduate LIS education (Boekhorst, Mackenzie Owen):
  – A Master in LIS is open to students with any academic Bachelor after completing a proficiency programme (Italy, the Netherlands, Spain).
  – A Master in LIS is open to students with a vocational Bachelor in the same field after completing a proficiency programme (the Netherlands).
  – A Master in LIS is open to students with any vocational Bachelor after completing a proficiency programme.
2 LIS education in Europe

• Germany:
  – Bachelor: 180-240 credits (3-4 yr.).
  – LIS: Fachhochschule der Medien (Stuttgart):
    • Bibliotheks- und Medienmanagement, Bachelor (Bachelor in library and resource management).
    • Bibliotheks- und Medienmanagement, Master (Master in library and resource management).
    • Informationsdesign, Bachelor (Bachelor in information design).
    • Informationswirtschaft, Master (Master in information management).
2 LIS education in Europe

- **Austria:**
  - 2003-2004: Bachelor programmes started at the universities of applied sciences. In 2004-2005, master programmes will be implemented.
  - 2006: 50% of the programmes adapted to Europe.
  - LIS: Formalised in 1997, with a four year undergraduate programme (Fachhochschule Informationsberufe, Eisenstadt). Future developments could be very close to the German model.
2 LIS education in Europe

• Denmark:
  – 1993: bachelor (3 yr.), master (2 yr.), Ph.D. (3 yr.).
  – Complex degree structure. Some master programmes require two years of professional experience.
  – LIS: Royal School of Library and Information Science:
    • 1998: implementation of the bachelor/master/Ph.D. model.
    • Bachelor (BLISc): 3 yr. + 1 semester (final project)
    • Master: 1 year (for BLISc graduates)
    • Master: 2 years (for graduates from other areas).
2 LIS education in Europe

• France:
  – 2003: Legislation on the new model Licence (180 cr.) / Master (120 cr.) / Doctorate.
  – At present LIS education is taught at all university levels:
    • Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT) and Diplôme d’Études Universitaires Scientifiques et Techniques (DEUST) – 2 yr. professional degrees.
    • Licence and Maîtrisse – 2 yr.
    • Diplôme d’études supérieures spécialisées (DESS) (professional), and Diplôme d’études approfondies (DEA) (research) – Conversion to European master.
2 LIS education in Europe

• Italy:
  – 2001-2002: Implementation of the new model bachelor (3 yr.) / master (2 yr.).
  – LIS education is taught at all university levels:
    • Scuola Speciale per Archivisti e Bibliotecari, La Sapienza, Università degli Studi, Roma.
      – 2003-2004: Corso di laurea triennale in Scienze archivistica e librarie (3 yr., 180 cr.).
      – 2004-2005: Corsi delle lauree specialistiche biennali in Archivistica e Biblioteconomia (2 yr., 120 cr.).
    • Postgraduate/master programmes in several universities.
2 LIS education in Europe

- Norway:
  - Bachelor (180 cr.) / Master (generally 120 cr.).
  - LIS education is taught at the University College Oslo, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science and at the University of Tromsø.
2 LIS education in Europe

• The Netherlands:
  – 2002-2003: Programmes of the academic universities were adapted to Bachelor (180 cr.) and Master (120 cr.) Those at the universities of applied sciences were adapted to Bachelor (240 cr.).
  – 2003-2004: The universities of applied sciences can organise master programmes (60 cr. minimum, professional orientation).
  – LIS education is taught at the University of Amsterdam and in several universities of applied sciences (Amsterdam, Gröningen, The Hague, Hogeschool Zuyd, etc.).
2 LIS education in Europe

- United Kingdom:
  - University education traditionally structured in bachelor and master degrees.
  - Different credit and grading systems in Scotland and England and Wales.
  - Duration of studies
    - England and Wales:
      - Bachelor: 3 yr.
      - Master: 2/3 semesters.
    - Scotland:
      - Bachelor: 4 yr.
      - Master: 2/3 semesters.
3 LIS education in Spain

• Present situation:
  – Diplomatura en Biblioteconomía y Documentación (3 yr.).
  – Licenciatura en Documentación (2 yr. for LIS graduates, 3 yr. for graduates from other areas).

• Government guidelines on the structure of university education:
  – First degree: 180-240 credits.
  – Second degree: 60-120 credits.

• Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Acreditación de la Cualidad (ANECA)
  – Promotion of new degrees and guidelines for curriculum development.
3 LIS education in Spain

- Proposal for a first degree on Information and Documentation:
  - Analysis of LIS studies in Europe.
  - Choice of a European model for the degree.
  - Evolution of student access to LIS programmes in Spanish centres.
  - Labour market for LIS graduates.
  - Definition of a single professional profile with several professional orientations for graduates: general and special libraries, archives, content management.
  - Definition of transversal and specific competencies:
3 LIS education in Spain

• Proposal for a first degree on Information and Documentation:
  – Validation of competencies by library associations and graduates.
  – Objectives of the degree.
  – Structure of the degree:
    • 240 credits: 156 compulsory (core curriculum) + 84 defined by the universities.
    • Definition of the subjects of the core curriculum.
  – Distribution of the core curriculum in ECTS.
  – Criteria to evaluate the programme.
4 Forums and documents for curriculum development in LIS


4 Forums and documents for curriculum development in LIS

- EUCLID (European Association for Library & Information Education and Research.
  - Forum for discussion of issues.
  - Seminar on curriculum development (Copenhagen, 2005) organised by the Royal School of Library and Information Science (Denmark).