Library and Information Science, MLIS: Information Organization

MLIS: Information Organization Concentration
Preparation for careers in cataloging, indexing, metadata work, or archival organization in a wide variety of settings, including libraries, archives, museums, private corporations, government agencies, and other organizations, the Information Organization (IO) Concentration provides a way for you to formally focus your studies on information organization within the context of your MLIS degree program and its requirements. The Concentration includes a mixture of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, and will be posted on your transcript upon degree conferral.

Related Certificates
- Certificate of Advanced Study in Archives and Records Administration (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/archives-records-administration-certificate/)
- Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/digital-libraries-certificate/)

The School of Information Studies prepares students for careers in libraries and the information professions. The School’s array of graduate programs provides students with the opportunity to develop attitudes associated with progressive information services, and to develop an understanding of the value, role, and application of modern technology as it relates to library operations and the transfer of information.

In harmony with the mission of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a major urban research institute, the School of Information Studies strives to make significant contributions toward extending and enhancing the quality of information services and the promotion of information and technological literacy to a diverse society. The School of Information Studies is committed to excellence in instruction, research, and service.

Goals of the school are:

1. To prepare professionals who are able to provide leadership and adapt to change in a technological and knowledge-based environment for careers in libraries, school media centers, information systems, and related areas, according to accepted professional standards.
2. To enrich the library and information science profession through recruitment of students with strong academic skills from diverse cultural, geographic, and subject backgrounds.
3. To enable undergraduate students to achieve qualifications to pursue careers in the information professions through the provision of degree and certificate programs.
4. To enable students to develop specializations in the information professions at the graduate level through the provision of single and dual degree programs.
5. To promote a research orientation through participation in the Doctor of Philosophy degree program.
6. To contribute to the international knowledge base of library and information science through research and publication.
7. To facilitate the development, provision, and evaluation of library and information services through consultation services to individual organizations and leadership in professional associations locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.
8. To offer opportunities for professionals and the wider community to update their skills and knowledge through advanced and continuing education courses, workshops, and programs offered nationally and internationally.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/).

Application
An applicant must apply to both the Graduate School and the School of Information Studies.

Admission
An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/) plus the following additional requirements of the School of Information Studies to be considered for admission to the program:

- Applicants from foreign institutions are required to submit the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. The minimum acceptable score is 550 PBT or 79 iBT. A score of 6.5 or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be submitted in lieu of the TOEFL.

No prior coursework in library/information science is required. A student whose undergraduate grade point average is below 2.75 (4.0 basis) may be considered for admission on probation. See the Admission on Probation (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/) Web site.

Credits and Courses

The minimum degree requirement is 36 graduate credits, 30 of which must be in library and information science and up to 6 of which may be in related areas. Students who have already completed a master’s or doctoral degree in a field other than library science may have the library and information science master’s program reduced to 30 credits. Under special circumstances, up to 6 of these credits may be from another field in a closely allied area with advisor consent. Students who have completed library science courses at the undergraduate level may, upon request, have their coursework reviewed to determine whether the content was the equivalent of that in required courses in the School of Information Studies Program. However, the establishment of such equivalencies will not reduce the total number of credits required for the master’s degree in library and information science, but merely enable the student to avoid unnecessary repetition.

The number of credits needed for each of the coordinated degree programs is 12 credits less than the sum of credits of the two programs if taken separately. All degree requirements of each component program, however, must be satisfied. This includes makeup courses for deficiencies, required courses, and graduation proficiency requirements. The MLIS component of each coordinated program includes 30 credits of SOIS courses including the 12 credits of required courses.

The following are basic required courses:
The faculty advisor assigned to each student upon admission may serve as the student’s thesis advisor, but is not required to do so. It is the student’s responsibility to enter into a mutually agreed upon advising relationship with a thesis advisor in SOIS, who then serves as chair of the thesis committee.

Students must pass an oral examination in defense of the thesis. The thesis defense may be repeated once. A student may withdraw from the thesis option; however, the student would need to meet all course requirements for the MLIS degree.

Information Organization Concentration

Students pursuing the Information Organization Concentration must take 15 credits of coursework from the list of qualifying courses as electives within the overall MLIS program.

The Information Organization Concentration requires a minimum of 15 credits of coursework taken from the list of qualifying courses below. The student’s concentration program must be approved by the SOIS Information Organization Curriculum Coordinator. A fieldwork experience of 1-3 credits with a focus on information organization is required of students without practical experience.

Courses that qualify for the concentration are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 582</td>
<td>Introduction to Data Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 611</td>
<td>Cataloging for Small Libraries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 619</td>
<td>Topics in Information Organization: (with an IO related topic)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 712</td>
<td>Resource Description for Library Catalogs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 714</td>
<td>Metadata</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 716</td>
<td>Thesaurus Construction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 717</td>
<td>Information Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOST 719</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Information Organization (with an IO related topic. May be repeated with change in topic to 9 credits max.)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 750</td>
<td>Arrangement and Description in Archives (prereq: INFOST 650)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 780</td>
<td>XML for Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 785</td>
<td>Database Management Systems for Information Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 898</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis (with an IO topic, directed by an IO faculty member)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFOST 990</td>
<td>Fieldwork in Library and Information Sciences (with a focus on IO. Prereqs: all INFOST core courses and relevant IO elective courses.)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>or INFOST 759 Fieldwork in Archives and Manuscripts</td>
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1 Effective 11/11/2016, this course was replaced by INFOST 712 and INFOST 713. Students who have already completed INFOST 711 may continue to use it for the information organization concentration.

Additional Requirements

Time Limit

Students in the 36-credit program must complete all degree requirements within seven years of initial enrollment. Students in the 30-credit program
must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment.