



Update: Development of the Library and Information Science Qualification Standard

18th Annual Library and Information Association of South Africa
Conference
2 - 6 October 2017
Birchwood Conference Centre
Johannesburg

Background

- LIS Heads of Schools Briefing 4 August 2016
- 17th LISASA Conference in October- Durban 2016
- Stakeholder Consultation Meeting at the National Library – 14th June 2017
- LIS Qualification Standards Working Group Workshop 7-8 September
- Call for nominations
- 12 member Working Group appointed

Resolutions

- The initial phase provides an avenue for wider consultation with the sector in the field on matters pertaining to the need, purpose and nature of the envisaged benchmark standard
- From the above engagements it become apparent to the CHE that LIS qualifications would benefit from a national benchmark standard.
- The resolutions of the stakeholder consultative meeting in June 2017 confirmed the need and urgency to develop a standard

Resolutions cont'

- There was a general recognition that the LIS landscape in which professionals operate has changed,
- Acknowledgement that ways in which Librarians are educated and developed continue to evolve
- The meeting expressed an urgent need for the development of a national qualification benchmark
- The need alignment existing programmes to the requirements of the profession.
- The CHE was tasked to constitute a group of LIS experts who will form the core of a standards development working group

Composition of the Working Group

- Academic community (majority)
- LIS Forum
- Profession Council/Body???
- The Department of Sports and Culture
- National Library
- LIS Policy Technical Team

Process of standard development

Standards development process is underpinned by the fundamental principles of inclusivity, transparency of process and consensus

- Peer-driven (Standards Development Working Groups)
- Standard Reference Group drafts the standard.
- Once consensus is reached, the draft standard is disseminated for comment.
 - Narrow consultation
 - Broad consultation
 - Public comment
- Reference Group receives and considers all comments and recommendations.
- Once Group consensus is reached, the Standard is submitted to Council for formal approval.
- The approved Standard is published.

Preamble/Context of LIS

- Alignment with Legislative and policy environment in the LIS sector
- Contextual factors (political, social and economic environment) that inform LIS sector including issues of redress and equity
- History of the profession and its professional demarcations (librarianship, information, knowledge, records and archives management)
- Impact of innovations and modern technology on LIS profession
- Current status and future prospects of the qualification, profession and LIS sector (integration of librarianship with information sciences)
- Environments in which these professionals practice
- Professional Practice requirements : Codes and Scope of practice relevant LIS profession????

Professional Practice

- Development of qualification standards in consultation with communities of practice implies that representation from professional bodies will be essential
- This should help to ensure compatibility between the qualification leading to a professional designation and the requirements of the professional body
- Standards developed by the CHE and professional body criteria should be informed by one another and are, ideally, aligned
- Registration by SAQA of a professional designation must be done separately from registration of a qualification

Professional Practice cont'

- Criteria for designation/registration as a professional are the prerogative of the relevant professional body
- Professional body criteria may go beyond HEQSF requirements for accreditation,
 - may include requirements specific to the occupational contexts
 - may also include: **values** and **attitudes**, **on-going professional development**, **ethical** issues, awareness of client needs and environment, and **knowledge of the relevant regulatory framework**
- Work-place competence may be demonstrated within the qualification (WIL); in other cases, beyond the qualification.
- Professional registration usually affirms proven competence to perform in a specific work context

What Next?

- Very rough draft of the Bachelor of LIS qualification (480 credits)– from the 2 day workshop
- Continue work electronically
- Next workshop early November
- Iteration!
- Consultations and more iterations!!
- Approval and publication
- Alignment of existing programmes
- May be a **National Review**

Thank you!