

Graduate program in Library Science and History (MLS/MA)

Proposal

Description

The MLS/MA is offered jointly by the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences (GSLIS) and the History Department. It is coordinated by [GSLIS title and current faculty member] and the Director of Graduate Studies in History, currently Prof. Julia Sneeringer.

The joint degree program offers students the opportunity to develop skills in the methodologies of both library science, including archival management, and historical research. Graduates will be well suited for professional careers in academic libraries, museums, oral history, document conservation, and public or private archives, and for admission into Ph.D. programs in either History or Library Science.

The 54-credit program can be completed in three years of full-time study. The first several semesters should focus on the coursework requirements for both GSLIS and History. Students should consult advisors in either department in selecting courses that are relevant for their research and career goals. As part of their elective coursework, they are strongly encouraged to consider internships at local archives, museums, or academic institutions, for which either GSLIS or History credit will be awarded. Toward the end of the program, students will undertake a six-credit final thesis or project, constituted by LBSCI 709 and HIST 792, under the advisement of faculty members from both GSLIS and History.

Requirements

Students will complete the following components, totaling 54 credits:

GSLIS, required (12 credits):

- LBSCI 700: The Technology of Information
- LBSCI 701: Fundamentals of Library and Information Science
- LBSCI 702: Information Sources and Service: General
- LBSCI 703: Introduction to Technical Services

GSLIS, electives (12 credits):

- any other four LBSCI graduate courses

History, required (3 credits):

- Hist 791: Introduction to Historical Research

History, electives (21 credits):

- any other seven HIST graduate courses

Thesis/project (6 credits):

- LBSCI 709: Research in Library and Information Studies
- HIST 792: Research and Writing

Justification (required by the GCC procedures; not part of the Bulletin)

Comparable programs exist elsewhere in the U.S., such as at the Universities of Indiana, Rhode Island, and Maryland, and at Wayne State University and Pratt. Our 54-credit requirement is in keeping with these (51, 60, 54, 57, and 60, respectively, in the institutions mentioned above). The joint degree emphasizes hands-on skills and intellectual development that will place students in competitive positions on the job market and in admission to doctoral programs. The program also addresses student demand, and should help enhance QC's graduate enrollments.

Some lingering questions (for meeting on 13 Feb and beyond)

- Do I have the distribution and description of credit requirements correct? In general, any (any!) suggestions or edits for the language above?

More specifically:

- Should we stipulate in this document (which is written with an eye toward the Graduate Bulletin) the procedure by which admissions decisions will be made? A joint committee of faculty from both departments?
- Should we, in this document, talk about potential certificate programs that could be a part of the degree?
- Should we *require* internships? Or, just "encourage" them, as it says above, with the understanding that institutional internships may not always be available?
- Should we say more in this document about what could constitute a thesis or project; should we give examples?
- Should there be a formal defense of the thesis/project, whether in the prospective stage or in its final form?
- Should we shorthand it as *melisma* ("MLS/MA") or *mammals* ("MA/MLS")??