

School of Information Management (SIM)

Directors Report

May 2019

Submitted by SIM Director, Dr. Sandra Toze

This past year was a year of successful events, milestones and change within SIM. The School has been busy implementing our Strategic Priorities, preparing our self-study for our ALA External Review panel who will be visiting Dalhousie this Fall (September 30th – October 1st), and connecting with our communities. Below are the highlights from our past year, focusing on our activities related to our Strategic Priorities, Program Updates, Research Highlights, Faculty Updates, Administrative Updates, our Students, our Alumni, and SIM 50.

Strategic Priorities

1. Grow Programs and Advance Information Management Education

| Priority | Measurement | Progress to Date |
|---|---|--|
| 1.1. Achieve enrolment targets in all programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-40 new MLIS students per year • 20 MIM new students per year • Grow the number of students declaring revised Bachelor of Management IM major by 10% per year • 3-4 IDPhD candidates supervised by SIM in any given year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Achieved ⊗ Still working on √ We have some KM majors, and some BMangement students who are now MI students. √ Achieved. |
| 1.2. Explore options for new IM credit offerings (majors, minors, graduate/undergraduate certificates) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Complete a market analysis (first year) ⊗ Based on the analysis, pursue academic partnerships, combined degrees, certificate programs ⊗ Explore international opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Still in progress – update in the Winter |
| 1.3. Create and deliver non-credit revenue generating programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a business plan (first year) • Based on the plan, develop workshops and certificates (year 2 to 5) • Increase revenues by 10% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Working on RDM course for professionals ≡ Opportunity for our Community Led Course √ Survey to Alumni – next year to assist |

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| <p>1.4. Advance Information Management education</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion experiential learning initiatives within the Faculty and University • Participate in teaching communities of practice • Increase blended learning opportunities • Increase the use of digital technologies • Engage in scholarship relating to education in Information Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Session at Teaching Conference in the Fall - S. Toze part of Grant to look at EL in IWB √ SIM Faculty participation ≡ Consider for RDA and Community Led for Professionals ≡ Under discussion for next year √ Indigenous Knowledge |
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2. Strengthen Research Impact

| Priority | Measurement | Progress to Date |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1.5. Increase research capacity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract strong candidates for all open positions • Attract strong post-doctoral candidates • Increase our grants/contracts • Increase opportunities for student research | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Strong pool for our Tenure Track position √ Attempt for a Killam Post Doc – not successful √ SIM’s grants have increased significantly √ Increase in student RA’s |
| <p>1.6. Increase scholarly output and impact</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of publications by SIM faculty by 10% per year • Increase the % of publications in highly ranked journals • Demonstrate impact through bibliometrics and altmetrics • Develop additional measures of impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Still finalizing – impacted by admin positions, and short 1 TT √ Increase since 2012 – from 50% to 75% ⊗ Plan to consider next year ⊗ Plan to consider next year |

3. Engage with Community

| Priority | Measurement | Progress to Date |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1.7. Broaden work experience opportunities for students</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the breadth of 100-hour placements • Identify and develop internships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ More breadth √ New ADP internship developed |
| <p>1.8. Increase our community engagement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and engage in community events • Create opportunities for engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Continued strong presence in multiple communities √ Increase in connections with CNSA |

4. Increase Diversity and Inclusion

| Priority | Measurement | Progress to Date |
|---|--|---|
| 1.9. Increase the diversity of prospective students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine enrolment trends and statistics Expand our marketing and recruiting strategies Increase international enrolment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ We are now receiving reports from Dal Analytics, √ Creating a plan to target African Nova Scotians and Mi'kmaq √ Slight increase last year – building more support into Orientation and throughout the year |
| 1.10. Increase diversity of faculty and staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding opportunities such as the Dalhousie Diversity Faculty Award Explore designated hires for staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ In planning stages ⊗ In planning stages |
| 1.11. Embed diversity and inclusion across the curricula | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with educational developer for diversity and inclusion at CLT Implement recommended changes in curriculum Encourage faculty and staff to take IDI workshops Create a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Findings and Call for Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≡ Planning stages ⊗ To follow √ 4 faculty completed the workshops ≡ In progress. Working with other Schools across Canada. |

Program Updates

Master of Information (MI)

After considering the topic for the past decade, SIM moved forward with a name change for or Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree – to a Master of Information (MI). The purpose of the name change is to: 1) Reflect more accurately the content of the program, and our program goals; 2. To be more inclusive of all the career options possible through the degree; 3. To enhance our ability to recruit students to the emerging areas of the profession including but not limited to: information governance, big data, open data, digital transformation, human centred design. This change reflects the transitions within the profession, the new emerging workplace opportunities centered around digital transformation, big data, open data, community engagement and human centred design, and mirrors changes in similar programs across North American. The MI will provide a broad umbrella under which

the program can grow in multiple directions, continuing to support diverse professional communities including librarians, archivists, information managers, information architects, data managers and user design experts.

This is a change of name, not of the program content. Educating future librarians remains central to SIM. The MI, as our current process indicates, will continue to go through the ALA accreditation process, which remains as the key designation within the library field. As such the MI degree continues to be the appropriate credential for those seeking employment in libraries.

As confirmed on the ALA website:

“(t)he master’s degree in library and information studies is frequently referred to as the MLS; however, ALA-accredited degrees have various names such as Master of Information Studies, Master of Information, Master of Arts, Master of Librarianship, Master of Library and Information Studies, or Master of Science. The degree name is determined by the program. The Committee for Accreditation evaluates programs based on their adherence to the Standards for Accreditation of Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies, not based on the name of the degree”

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council approved of the name change this spring. The new name will assist in recruiting students to the new emerging areas within the program, while satisfying the needs of students who are interested in an ALA accredited degree. Students who are currently in our program will be able to pick the degree name of their choice. This June will mark the time interested students will graduate with a Master of Information. We are currently working on a suite of certificates, including Archives, Librarianship, Data Management and Information Management and Policy to allow students to specialize within our general degree.

Master of Information Management (MIM)

We are continuing with our evaluation of our curriculum in our Master of Information Management (MIM) program, and will be making recommendations for change soon.

Bachelor of Management (BMgmt)

The Bachelor of Management Program has implemented program changes based on its review. This was the first year for the new 1st year Interdisciplinary class, with M. Smit as our SIM Faculty lead. The feedback has been positive. SIM’s has launched a new major and a certificate within the program. Our Managing Data and Information (MD&I) Certificate will provide students with a broader understanding of how data can be used to address diverse, real-world problems in multiple sectors and disciplines. It will prepare students to use data to inform evidence-based decision making, and provide a broader understanding of current trends of information production. Students will understand the importance of information management in supporting decision-making, and be prepared to effectively leverage information systems to meet business needs.

Bachelor of Applied Computer Science (BACS)

SIM continues to support the BACS students, giving them the same access as BMgmt into our courses.

Master of Digital Innovation

SIM is participating in this new degree, which is set to launch in September 2020.

Research Highlights

The work of SIM students was highlighted at our annual Research Day on April 5th, with the following presentations.

- Curtis Martin (MMM): “It Feels Like Engaging with a Friend”: Using Interpersonal Communication Strategies to Encourage Science Conversations on Social Media
- Robin Parker (IDPhD): Where Research Skills and Knowledge Meet: Qualitative Case Study of a Systematic Review Course
- Jillian Pulsifer (MLIS): Systematic Review: Literature on the Science-Policy Interface in Marine Contexts
- Amy Lemoine (MLIS): Information Literacy Instruction for Undergraduate Students in Arts & Social Sciences
- Tobbi Dyer (MLIS): How Do Communities Make Decisions? Community decision-making in the context of natural resource management
- Pat Crysedale (MEC): Rethinking How Researchers Share Their Data
- Merran Carr-Wiggan (MLIS University of Alberta): “They told us it would scare us if we went online”: Libraries’ roles in serving the information needs of parents of children with serious health concerns
- Yan Chen (IDPhD): Using Machine Learning and Social Media Data to Understand Landscape Perceptions
- Kate Newhook (MLIS): The Role of Music in Linguistic and Cultural Knowledge
- Adrienne Colborne (MLIS): Skills for Open Data: Reports from a Workshop

SIM faculty are actively involved in a broad range of research. Below are selected highlights of our collective output this past year.

Allam, H., Bliemel, M., **Spiteri, L. F.**, & Blustein, J. (2019). Applying a 3-D hedonic concept of intrinsic motivation on the acceptance of social tagging tools: A theoretical model and empirical validation. *International Journal of Information Management*, 45:211-222.

Black, Fiona, Jennifer Grek Martin, and Bertrum MacDonald. “Geographic Information Systems [GIS] as a Book-History Research Tool”. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*(forthcoming).

Brown, A., **Grek Martin, J.**, & **Howard V.** Shared reading for strengthened relationships among those experiencing maternal incarceration. *Library Quarterly*. (Forthcoming)

Colborne, Adrienne and **Michael Smit.** Disinformation risks to open data in the post-truth era: Perspectives on digital disinformation. *Journal of Data and Information Quality*, [In Revision]

MacDonald, Bertrum M., Suzuette S. Soomai, Peter G. Wells, James D. Ross, Lee Wilson, Rachael Cadman, Diana Castillo, Curtis Martin, and Simon Ryder-Burbidge. “The Science-Policy Interface

for Managing Marine Ecosystems: Scientific Information Use in Coastal and Ocean Decision-Making.” Poster presented at the Open Science Symposium of the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Working Group for the North Atlantic Regional Seas, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Halifax, 30 April 2019.

Martin, Curtis and **Bertrum H. MacDonald**. “Using Interpersonal Communication Strategies to Engage Lay Audiences in Science Conversations on Social Media.” Poster accepted for presentation at the 2019 International Conference on Social Media and Society(#SMSociety), Toronto, 19-21 July 2019.

Roy, J, Sharaput, M & **Toze, S.**(2019). Smart Technologies, Digital Competencies and Workforce Development: An Examination of the Government of Canada’s Current and Future Capacities, Public Administration Review, Special Issue–Transformation of Government in the Era of Smart Technology (forthcoming)

Tourangeau, Wesley, Kate Sherren, Carlisle Kent, and **Bertrum H. MacDonald**. “Of Climate and Weather: Examining Canadian Farm and Livestock Organization Discourses from 2010 to2015.” Weather, Climate, and Society, 11, no. 1 (2019): 95–111. Refereed. <https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-18-0028.1>

Faculty Member Updates

This is a time of change at SIM. Dr.’s Fiona Black, and Bertrum MacDonald are retiring from their roles as full-time faculty at SIM. Both Fiona and Bertrum, have had significant and long-lasting impact within the School, the Faculty and the University. We thank them for their expertise, their endless energy, support and mentoring, as well as their vision for the School, and commitment to our programs, students and alumni. We will not be losing them, both will remain as Adjunct professors with SIM, and Bertrum will be continuing for the next year, in a post-retirement position. We will be celebrating both of these exceptional academics at our SIM 50 celebrations this fall. Stay tuned.

The School congratulated Dr. Louise Spiteri, who was promoted to Professor. Dr. Vivian Howard has taken on the role of Interim Dean, for the Faculty of Management, and Dr. Mike Smit is the Associate Dean, Academic for the Faculty of Management. SIM will be announcing some additions to our SIM Faculty very soon.

Changes in our Administrative Team

SIM is also very sad to announce that JoAnn Watson, our Program Coordinator will be retiring from the school as of June 30th. JoAnn joined SIM in 2005 and has also had a tremendous impact within the School, the Faculty and our information communities. Her leadership with our Practicum program has been remarkable, and enabled all our students to have a customized experiential learning opportunity. Her strategic planning, and organizational skills will be greatly missed. We thank her for her outstanding work for the School. We are pleased to announce that Janet Music will be moving from the Dean’s Suite in the Faculty, to assume JoAnn’s position.

SIM Students

We were very pleased to welcome a strong and diverse class of 38 new students this fall. SIM's student also had a busy year, with over 6 lunch and learn sessions, tours, and a mentorship program planned by our School of Information Management Student Association (SIMAA). The Co-Chair for SIM this past year were Courtney Vienneau and Alison McLaughlin. They led a team that included Communications Chair: Emma Craig, Financial Chair: Brian Jenkins, Returning Academic Chair: Jen Hill, First Year Academic Chair: Dan Phillips, Returning Digital Publications Chair: Colleen Savage, First Year Digital Publications Chair: Robyn Nicholson, Returning Non-Academic Chair: Amy LeMoine, First Year Non-Academic Chair: Kira Chalupa, Special Projects Chair: Nicole Slipp.

SIM students, led by IWB Chair Cassandra Larose hosted their 13th annual Information Without Borders conference on February 12th, 2019. The theme chosen for this year was 'Access to Information', and included a keynote by Dr. Teresa Blankmeyer Burke who spoke on *Wood and Glass: Windows, Barriers, and Borders*. The urban geographer, Daniel Rotsztain gave the closing talk - *Distorted Cartographies*. Over 150 individuals attended the conference, an increase over the past year. Congratulations to all involved on an excellent conference.

SIM Alumni

SIM is fortunate to have strong and engaged alumni across the country. Our SIM Associated Alumni work closely with the school to plan events, and to recruit volunteers. SIM Alumni are a key part of our governance structure, playing roles in our Admissions, Curriculum, and Appointments, Promotion and Tenure committee. In addition to their usual events, this year SIMAA launched its first networking event for students from SIM and NSCC to meet professionals in the information management field, with focused activities to ensure real interactions. The event was planned by SIMAA Chair David MacDonald, and was held in the Red Chamber in Province House on November 19, 2018. The event was very well attended by students and professionals.

It was exciting for SIM to honour one of our own, Dr. Fiona Black as the 2018 Dal SIM Outstanding Alumni Award winner at the Welcome Event hosted by SIMAA on September 27th.

SIM would like to both recognize and thank the following members of the SIMAA Executive:

Chair – David MacDonald, Vice Chair – Robyn Gray, Past Chair – Shelley McKibbon, Member at Large – Amy Lorencz, Program Convenor - Alicia Whidden, Nominations –Robyn Gray, Outstanding Alumni Award Selection – Fiona Black.

We would also like to thank our committee members for the past year, Marie DeYoung, who served on our Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee (APT), Joyce Thomson who served on our MLIS Admissions committee, and Hannah Steeves and Alison Black who were the alumni representatives on our Curriculum Committee.

SIM would also like to thank all of our Alumni for their continual support of our school and our programs. Many of you host our student for practicums, hire our students and are professional partners for our students. Your contributions are an essential part of our School and our programs.

Key Events and Lectures

Library and Archives Canada/Dalhousie Libraries/School of Information Management IM Symposium

The topic for this year's symposium was Indigenous Knowledge & Access. The event focused on the work and challenges of documenting and improving access to Indigenous knowledge. The day featured a keynote address by Elder Albert Marshall and Dr. Cheryl Bartlett, presentations from the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, as well as the Beaton Institute. The event was very well attended, and a follow up symposium is being planned for next year.

Horrocks Lecture and Award Ceremony

Continuing with our focus on Indigenous issue, Camille Callison was chosen as this year's Horrocks Leadership Lecturer. Camille provided an inspiring talk on *Furthering Reconciliation by Honouring Indigenous Voices and Embedding Indigenous Protocols into Cultural Memory Institution Praxis*. Rachel Fry was awarded the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund.

Open Data Contest

This was the third year that SIM worked with the Province of Nova Scotia to host an Open Data Contest. The event saw an increase in participation – we had twenty-eight teams competing using Nova Scotia open data to create apps, models, visualizations, dashboards and more to address key issues in Nova Scotia including health care and environmental issues. The event was sponsored by the Government of Nova Scotia, Dalhousie Faculty of Management, ESRI, IBM and Socrata. See our blog [Inform](#) for more details.

Information Management Public Lecture Series

Information Management Lecture allows SIM to highlight the breadth of Information research, and to stimulate discussion and debate. We are happy to work collaboratively with our partners to bring leading researchers to Halifax, and to showcase our regional talent. We are actively planning our lectures for next year and would love your input. Send us your thoughts to sim@dal.ca.

Here is a list of the lecturers from this past year.

2019-2019 Lectures

- 1994 Called – It Wants its FOI Law Back: Things Nova Scotians Should Know About Their Right to Know (Janet Burt-Gerrans)
- Science and Policy: Should Scientific Information Have Pre-Eminence in Public Decision-Making? (Daniel Cressey, Megan Leslie, Jeffrey Hutchings, Richard Isnor)
- Science and the Public Sphere: What is Science Literacy and What is its Public Value? (Daniel Cressey, Linda Pannozzo, Shelley Denny, Karen Traversy)
- Paywall: The Business of Scholarship (film)
- Cybervetting and the Public Life of Social Media Data (Anatoliy Gruzd, Philip Mai)
- Scientists Talking to the Public: A One-Way Conversation? Exploring Engagement Strategies in Science Communication (Alexander Desire-Tesar, Curtis Martin)
- Fonts of Knowledge: Transitions in the Design of Early Modern Books in the Netherlands – A Theory (Goran Proot)

SIM 50

SIM 50 is here. We will be finalizing plans with our planning committee – so stay tuned. Please save the date **October 26th, 2019** for a celebration of all things SIM here in Halifax, while we will be hosting regional events across the country.



Sandra Toze, PhD

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