



# DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES

*Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021*

**Dr. Paulette Stewart** · **Head of Department**

## MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT

“To provide the highest standard of teaching and research to produce library and information professionals, well equipped to face the challenges of the dynamic information environment, and to provide leadership in managing the information needs of the Caribbean for the twenty-first century and beyond.” 2011 Revision

## WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The DLIS continues to be the regional leader in the education of students in Information-Studies, who will become skilled, effective, responsible information users and providers and managers for various kinds of information units. The UWI Strategic Plan 2017-2022 that rests upon the three primary pillars: Access, Alignment, and Agility (Triple A) has been used as the guiding framework to plan and execute our activities. The continued online delivery of our programmes has provided access to students beyond the Caribbean borders. Our recent discussions with information professionals at the Go School of Information in The Netherlands, and Bound International which offers Collaborative Online Learning as well as our continued partnership activities with UNESCO, are alignments capable of achieving greater activism and public advocacy as well as fostering agility that will bring some level of financial health to the Department. The year was not without its challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the DLIS responded well, as it was able to meet the academic and information needs of the students. Staff members were willing to make changes to accommodate students’ needs and they also extended themselves to make the students’ learning experience enriching and positive.

## **THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**

### **Academic Accreditation**

The Department's application to the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) for academic accreditation should be completed by December 2021 in keeping with the time set out in our 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. This type of accreditation is needed because it will allow our graduates to obtain appropriate professional licensure outside of the Caribbean as well as permit students to transfer credits to another library schools outside the region. We have completed the processes but Ms. Helen Berry, Chair and Development Officer of CILIP thought it best to wait until the newly developed Graduate Diploma Programmes are approved and added to the suite of programmes, as this would be more cost effective.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING: UNDERGRADUATE MATTERS**

### **Computer Science Major**

The BA in Computer Science previously described as a Cross Faculty Major and previously administered through the FHE Office, was reassigned to the DLIS. Thirty-one students were registered up to 2020/2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teaching remained fully online for all undergraduate students. There were no major setbacks as the majority of students had access to the necessary devices to join the classes. Two students received loans of laptops from the UWI Main Library. The first year students were exposed to online learning for the first time and were coached into the use of Zoom for their classes. There were no complaints from students regarding this mode of delivery.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING: GRADUATE & RESEARCH MATTERS**

### **MPhil/PhD in Information Studies**

The Board of Graduate Studies and Research approved the change in nomenclature of the former MPhil/PhD Library and Information Studies to MPhil/PhD Information Studies. This revision has allowed the Department to welcome other possible scholarships in the various disciplines of Information Studies as well as Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies. With a new programme name (Information Studies) and philosophical definition, the MPhil/PhD programme will introduce a new stream of students to the Department and develop its research interests, capacity and output. The programme has since then seen an increase in the number of students and interests.

### **Appointment: Honorary Fellow, Information Studies**

The Vice Chancellor approved the appointment of Professor Emerita Jeannette Bastian, Simmons University, Boston, Massachusetts, as Honorary Fellow, Information Studies, to the Department for the period of September 1, 2020 to August 30, 2022. Prof. Bastian has been supervising the first cohort of candidates accepted for the MPhil/PhD in Information Studies, assisting the Department in building its research capacity and developing the departmental infrastructure for the research degree programmes.

## **Museum Studies**

The Department participated in a University-wide discussion on the development of Museology/Museum Studies in the University. The Department already had visions for developing programmes in this disciplinary area, and has courses and subject-matter content already on offer in the BA Information Studies programme. Since the purview of the Department is to teach disciplinary competencies and professional skills, steps are already afoot to offer postgraduate diploma and Master's degree programmes in Museum Informatics and Management, in keeping with the Department's strategic vision. It is anticipated that these programmes will be ready for offering in 2022-2023.

## **Postgraduate Diplomas in Information Studies**

In an effort to increase access to our programmes, in keeping with international (Commonwealth) programmatic expectations, and in response to the changing demands in professionalism and workplaces (around the Caribbean region), the Department is now proposing to offer a suite of Postgraduate Diplomas in Information Studies. Programmes are designed to be offered over three (3) semesters, using courses already on offer as part of the Master's degrees in Library and Information Studies and Archives and Records Management. In response to an online survey conducted in April 2021, over 120 respondents supported the Department's move to reintroduce the postgraduate diploma. Eight (8) postgraduate diploma programmes, divided into two (2) categories, were proposed:

**Disciplinary Postgraduate Diploma Programmes:** Media & Information Literacy, Library Management, Archives Administration, Information Governance, Museum Informatics and Management.

**Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Diploma Programmes:** Information Organization, Information Preservation, Digital Informatics. According to survey responses, the more popular choices were the Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Diploma Programmes and this hints at the possibility of the Department offering two new Masters' degrees: A Master of Information (which is built on the three (3) interdisciplinary graduate diplomas) and a Master of Museum Informatics and Management (name to be decided, which builds on the postgraduate equivalent). These new Master's degree programmes will be developed in coming months. The Department is currently reviewing all its graduate courses to ensure currency, relevance and the expected tripartite balance of Caribbean focus, disciplinary theory and professional competencies. It is anticipated that the Graduate Diplomas in Information Studies Programmes will be approved for offering in 2022-2023.

## **GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINARS (MPHIL & PHD INFORMATION STUDIES STUDENTS)**

As part of the revamped MPhil and PhD programmes, candidates are now required to present their research proposals at the end of their first year of registration. Each candidate presented his/her project virtually to regional audiences, and fielded questions from

Supervisory Committees and general audiences. These Graduate Research Seminars introduced the professional community and student body to the expected rigor of the MPhil and PhD level of study. In so doing, these seminars promoted greater interest in the offerings of the Department and the information professions generally. Additionally, the Research Students are already contributing to the Department's academic outlook by providing insights into new discourses and programmes, particularly in Internet and Digital Studies as well as Information Governance. During the year under review, some of the candidates conducted sessions and workshops on content areas that emerged out of their professional experience and academic interests.

## **INNOVATION AND RESEARCH**

### **DLIS Seminar Series (InfoTalks)**

The Department re-launched its weekly Departmental Seminar Series, "INFOTalks" in October 2020. The series is geared towards academics, students and information professionals "exploring how practices - past and present- from Librarianship and Archival Studies converge in the process of making Caribbean archives accessible. It also discusses how the information needs of communities and users and the availability of managerial resources (human, financial, and IT) shape everyday practice. The seminar series is an integral part of the Department's drive to create an active and robust environment for research and research output in the Department, cutting across all courses and programmes. It is also for the benefit of all our students and our professional communities who were encouraged to 'Zoom In' during their lunch breaks and participate accordingly. The Department received emails and calls stating that "INFOTalks" seminars were included in staff development activities, with entire staff complements sitting and watching the sessions and engaging in discussions thereafter. Already, the seminar series has become a major outreach activity for the Department. Where possible, lecturers were encouraged to include the issues raised in the seminar series in their subsequent class sessions, so that students could connect seamlessly between their various courses and this departmental activity. DLIS INFOTalks was held weekly on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm (Jamaica time) via Zoom.

## **INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESSES**

### **Financial Contribution**

The Department received the sum of J\$798,141.90 (Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-One Dollars and Ninety Cents) from the estate of Dr. Pippa Fray, late Librarian of the Library and Information Association. The funds were deposited to the account of the UWI Development and Endowment Fund, the entity that has been managing all the financial donations received by the Department. The funds are to be used for "training grants for needy students or academic prizes in the fields of Library and Information Studies at the Bachelors or Masters level."

## **EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Academic Staff**

Resumption of Duties – Dr. Paulette Stewart

Dr. Paulette Stewart returned from Sabbatical Leave and resumed duties as Head of Department on August 1, 2020. The Department thanked Dr. Rosemarie Heath, who served as Acting HOD for academic year 2019-2020.

Dr. Paulette Stewart proceeded on retirement on August 1, 2021.

Drs. Rosemarie Heath and Stanley Griffin received tenure in Semester 1 of 2020/2021.

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

The Department's Annual newsletter "the DLIS Connect" Issue 1 vol. 4 was published in March, 2021 and highlighted a number of activities that have kept the Department on the cutting-edge in the information environment. Additionally, an updated DLIS Undergraduate flyer to include the BA in Computer Science, was posted on the Department's Website, Facebook and Instagram page.

### **Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans – MIL Week 2020**

As part of the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2020 the Department organized a Youth Forum on Friday, October 30, 2020, under the theme "Misinformation and Media Literacy in Jamaica: The COVID 19 Pandemic," as part of the Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2020 Celebration. This initiative by the Department was a conscious effort in combating the increased spread, consumption and influence of misinformation faced by students as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Deans organized and presented an excerpt from his book chapter "Fake News and Media Literacy in Jamaica: The Influence of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica as a Component of a Global MIL City".

## **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Dr. Karen McBride, President and Founder of Bound International, a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programme made contact with the DLIS regarding a potential collaboration between UWI-Mona and Bound International for COIL programming. She expressed that the Library School at the University of Missouri was willing to enter into partnership with the DLIS, as they are impressed with our programmes and think that a joint virtual project while connecting classrooms could work really well. The DLIS, however, would need to pay a fee in order to participate. The cost of the programme has delayed its implementation.

### **ACURIL Conference 2021**

The DLIS was engaged as partner with the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) Conference, 2021 which was hosted in Jamaica, by the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA).

## **MAJOR CONFERENCES/SEMINARS & PAPERS PRESENTED**

### **Dr. Paulette Stewart**

Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Commemoration of the World Press Freedom Day (WPDF), March 19, 2021.

### **Dr. Stanley Griffin**

"Dismantling The Last Bastion of Colonialism: Decolonizing Caribbean Archives Through Archival Education and Research", "20/20 Vision: Seeing Archives Differently" Association of Canadian Archivists, Annual Conference, 10-12 June, 2020.

### **Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans**

"Fake News and Media Literacy in Jamaica: The Influence of the Broadcasting Commission as a Component of a Global MIL City", Humanities in Action Virtual Seminar Series, 9 June, 2020.

### **Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner**

"The State of Academic Integrity in the Caribbean: Plagiarism Policies, Perception, Prevalence and Possible Solutions", DLIS Info Talks, November 4, 2020.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Dr. Paulette Stewart & Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans**

Paulette, S., & Deans, M. (2020). Practices and Barriers of Inter-Professional Collaboration with Teacher-Librarians and Teachers: A Content Analysis. *School Libraries Worldwide*, 26(1), 166-180.

### **Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans**

Journal Articles

Deans, M. O. The Impact of Media and Information Literacy Knowledge on Personal and Ethical Decisions of a Selected Group of College Graduates in Jamaica. *Caribbean Journal of Education*, 42(1), 7-53, 13 October, 2020.

Deans, M. O. "Reflecting on Critical Thinking in the Jamaican Education System: Embracing UNESCO's MIL City Concept". *Word and Science International Scientific Journal*, March 2021.

### **Dr. Stanley Griffin**

Rebecka Sheffield, Janet Ceja, Stanley H. Griffin (eds) Special Issue: "Diversity, Record-keeping, and Archivry", *International Journal of Information, Diversity and Inclusion*, Vol 5 No 1 (2021), 1-120M, February 2021.

Book Chapter

Stanley H. Griffin, "Noises in the Archives: Acknowledging the Present Yet Silenced Presence in Caribbean Archival Memory", Michael Moss and David Thomas, "Archival Silences: Missing, Lost and, Uncreated Archives" London: Routledge, 2021, 81-99

Journal Articles (Peer-reviewed)

Griffin, Stanley H. "Capturing Contexts, Documenting Details: Using Literature to Archive Caribbean Memory" *Journal of West Indian Literature* Vol. 21, No. 1. April 2021

**Jeannette Bastian, Honorary Fellow, Information Studies**

Books:

Bastian, Jeannette A. and Andrew Flinn, eds. *Community Archives, Community Spaces: Heritage, Memory and Identity* (London: Facet Publishing, Dec. 2020).

Bastian, Jeannette and Elizabeth Yakel, eds. *Defining a Discipline: Archival Research and Practice in the 21st Century – Essays in Honor of Richard J. Cox* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2020).

Peer-reviewed article:

Bastian, Jeannette A. "Mine, yours, ours: archival custody from transaction to narrative," *Archival Science*, 21 (2021): 25-42.

**INCOME GENERATION**

The DLIS is exploring several entrepreneurial opportunities presented, that will provide additional streams for income generation. This includes joint workshops, training seminars, lecturer-exchanges, as well as consultancies. The income generating project with the Go School of Information, Netherlands will be finalized before the beginning of the academic year 2021/2022. This project includes conducting a programme of skill enhancing courses for information studies professionals with a world-wide English speaking target audience. These are mainly three-day workshops.

**FACULTY/DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS**

**Prizes awarded to Students in 2020/2021**

AWARDS	CRITERIA	STUDENT
Quida Rowe Prize	Best Grade in LIBS1003- Introduction to Information Studies	Yanniek Throwers-Swaby
Frances Salmon Prize for Outstanding Performance at Level II	Best overall performance at Level II	Tashina Parkes
Dorothy Collings Prize (Graduate)	Best overall graduate performance	Sparkle Ferreira
Records Management Prize (Graduate)	Best Grade in ARCM6004 – Records Management in a Digital Age	Sparkle Ferreira
CARBICA Prize	Best Grade in ARCM 6002 – Acquisition, Organisation & Use of Archival Materials	Sparkle Ferreira
CARBICA Prize	Best Grade in ARCM6003 – Preservation of Archival Materials in Tropical Environment	Sparkle Ferreira

Pippa Fray Prize	Best Grade in LIBS6001 - Foundations of Library & Information Studies	Petrice Lampkin-Bascombe
The Ideal Record Keeper Prize	Best Grade in ARCM6005 – Practicum in Archives & Records Management	Karris Marin-McLetchie
Preservation Management Prize	Best Grade in LIBS3702 – Preservation Management for Libraries & Information Units	Ishanay Millwood

## **PRACTICUM/INTERNSHIP 2019/2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our usual internship programme for all students. We took into consideration the fact that although some offices/libraries/information units would have remained open during the summer period, the managers took measures to limit the number of staff members and users in their workspaces. This made placement of students a difficult exercise. In light of this we decided to allow only students who were eligible for graduation to participate in the fieldwork programme. All other students will be facilitated next summer. The students who were employed in libraries were assigned to those libraries to conduct their fieldwork. The terms of the programme required students to undertake a major practical exercise based on the capacity and need of the Institution/Organization. Additionally, the exercise facilitated the achievement of the objectives of the fieldwork programme and reflected activities outside of the student’s regular working duties/responsibilities; as such, students who were facilitated in their places of employment were accommodated in a different department than the one in which they worked. Special projects were assigned for all field-work students to complete remotely. Project files were submitted and assessed. At the end of the exercise, a field-work report was submitted by each student for grading. The practicum hours were calculated against the estimated time put into producing the major projects, the physical attendance at work and the time given to other duties conducted remotely.

### **Placement of Students for Practicum**

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Students Placement</b>	<b>Placement Status</b>	<b>Countries of Placement</b>
<b>Undergraduate (4)</b> BA Library and Information Studies	1	(1) students <b>awaiting confirmation</b> dates from Institution	Jamaica
BA Librarianship	2	(1) scheduled <b>to start</b> on June 15 <sup>th</sup> (1) students <b>awaiting confirmation</b> dates from Institution	Jamaica Jamaica
BA Information Studies	1	(1) student <b>awaiting response</b> from Institution	Jamaica



<b>Graduate (10)</b> MLIS	9	(2) students <b>started</b> on June 1st	Trinidad: 1 Grenada: 1
MAARCM	1	(2) students started on June 15 <sup>th</sup>  (3) students <b>awaiting confirmation</b> dates from Institution  (3) students <b>awaiting response</b> from Institution	Trinidad: 2 Trinidad: 2 Tobago: 1 Suriname: 1 Jamaica: 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>		

### MEETING WITH COURSE REPRESENTATIVES

A meeting was held with course representatives on Thursday, December 3, 2020. The meeting was attended by representatives from 15 of the 21 courses taught in the Department for the semester. Students expressed satisfaction with the instructional activities – including both teaching and assessment. They indicated that lecturers were very supportive even as they battled to cope with the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, and this resulted in extensions for the submission of some assignments.