

2021-2022 Executive Summary for Library & Information Services Special Interest Group

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Library and Information Services Special Interest Group had a new chair appointed, acquired three new committee members, streamlined some communication processes, information storage and collaboration methods, collaborated on a new DEIJ statement for their SIG, and began looking ahead to their goals and vision for the future with their next professional development opportunities.

New Committee Members

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Library and Information Services Special Interest Group had one remaining committee member from the previous year. At the start of the new school year, the new chair, Rebecca Leonhard, sent out a request for applications for new committee members. After reviewing all the applications submitted, three candidates were selected and sent to the previous chair and committee members for their final review and approval. The three candidates were unanimously selected and informed about their acceptance onto the committee. Upon completion of the necessary paperwork and final approvals from their schools, all the committee members came together online for their first meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2022. The new committee members are Vivienne Blake, Clare Brumpton and Linda Hoiseth.

Communication

The committee created a new email address specific for their group in order to receive direct communications from the community that was not tied to a specific committee member's personal email address. The email address access can easily transfer between committee members. A Google account was created, and the new email address is ecislibrarysig@gmail.com. The email will also provide a communication history for the group and also comes with a Google Drive account. This also will then enable the group to have one shared place to store and share information and collaborate. The ECIS website has been updated with the new email address. Ownership to the Facebook page for the conference last spring was also transferred to the new chair. This Facebook page has been renamed and is now set up as a communication tool for the group to the wider international school library community.

DEIJ Statement

As requested by ECIS, the committee created a DEIJ (diversity, equity, inclusion and justice) statement about how the SIG has the potential for positively impacting student learning within a DEIJ lens. The final statement is:

The ECIS Library and Information Services Special Interest Group is devoted to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in all of its forms. We embrace and model this within the school library context in order to have a direct impact on the learning of the entire school community. We advocate for intellectual freedom and support learning through informed curation of resources and educational materials that promote acceptance and understanding of our diverse humanity and individual uniqueness. We encourage lifelong learning with a DEIJ perspective by promoting this thinking through our diverse library collections, instruction and communications with our community.

Library SIG Goals and Vision for the Future

With another triennial conference completed last spring in 2021, the committee began planning for the next professional development opportunity. With the changing landscape of international education and ongoing consequences of the worldwide pandemic, the committee decided to review the desires and needs of the international school library community to determine the type of professional development that will best meet their needs. The committee chose to send out a survey to poll the community and gather their information and feedback. The survey was shared on multiple social media platforms and with local international school library groups around the world. The committee plans to review the results at the start of the next academic year and make a final decision about what type of professional development opportunities to create for their community. The data and feedback will also guide the committee in planning other next steps to support the international school library community.