

Consultation paper submission template

Name: Tjaart Steyn

Organisation or group: None. It is a personal response.

Are you responding on behalf of your organisation? N

Do you give permission to make this submission public? Y

The Professional Pathways [Consultation Paper](#) invites you to respond to a number of questions about the draft framework and future career pathways in the LIS sector. To aid your response to the Paper, the questions are reproduced below. You do not have to answer every question. If you prefer to write a submission in a different format that is also fine but please include the information above in your submission.

Submissions should be emailed with the word “submission” in the subject line. Submissions are due by 31 October 2022.

SUBMISSION PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Further information is available from the Professional Pathways website or by emailing professionalpathways@alia.org.au

1. INTRODUCTION.
2. This submission is focused on a number of proposals. Although no responses to the questionnaire are included, the impact on the Professional Knowledge domains, Active Professionalism and Foundation domains is the addition of Information and Communication Policy knowledge and professional skills as a category and entry on the graphs in its own right. As such it should fall within the spaces for Information governance, or right next to it in its own space. The submission is based in the first instance on the premise that the outcome of the professional pathways consultations should be future oriented, fit-for-purpose and state-of-the-art professional academic training programs for librarians and for information sector professionals. So far it is already clear that this consultation is leading the way in bringing forth outcomes and recommendations that could herald a new era in academic and professional training for librarians and information sector professionals in Australia. Current existing undergraduate and postgraduate university courses should be preserved, expanded and continued, but changed and adapted according to the outcomes and conclusions of this consultation. A limited number of new undergraduate and postgraduate LIS Schools/Schools of Information and Communication Studies/iSchools should be established right across Australia. They will obviously have the advantage of not having to change and adapt but being able to establish new undergraduate and

postgraduate degree courses.

3. THE PROPOSALS AND APPROACH OF THIS SUBMISSION.

4. It is proposed that:

5. 2.1 Information and Communication Policy be introduced as a core subject from the second academic year in all undergraduate Library and Information degrees and from beginning to end in all postgraduate coursework degrees. Information and Communication Policy should be elevated to this level of emphasis mostly as a result of the present increase in fake news and fake information, as well as the increased and widespread growth of misinformation and disinformation. During the first academic year of undergraduate degrees students should take two compulsory first year courses to prepare for the Information and Communication Policy courses. An introductory course in Public Policy and a course in Information and Communication Ethics appear to be relevant. Effectively this means the creation of teaching and research departments of Information and Communication Policy in every LIS School/ School of Information and Communication Studies/ iSchool. In addition, Information and Communication Policy would have to be presented as a specialisation degree in itself on both undergraduate and postgraduate level, with appropriate core and elective subjects that would fit in and lead to a specialised degree in Information and Communication Policy. Given the cost involved in the establishment of new teaching and research departments the existence of a School of Public Policy at a university who already has a LIS school/ School of Information and Communication Policy/ iSchool or intends to establish one there is room for sharing, cooperation and synergies. Over a wider area within other more general, as well as specialised degrees in Library and Information Studies it should still be a core subject in all undergraduate and postgraduate degrees as well. Further consideration should also be given to the establishment of an Institute for the study of Information and Communication Policy. that would have a wider scope than the research components at teaching departments. This could be a stand-alone body, or accommodated within a university structure and closely linked to a teaching department in that university, but with no teaching functions in itself. The factors necessitating courses in Information and Communication Policy also give more emphasis to Information Literacy. The Policy courses as proposed and a course or courses in Information Literacy are all courses in their own right, but some synergies and linkages could be developed.

6. 2.2 Obviously this points to the need to consider the investigation of a review and restructuring of existing LIS degree courses. Neither the present core courses, nor the electives in Current degree courses, may need to be changed substantially. However it is clear not only from the growth in misinformation and disinformation, but from technological advances, from the industry and from the Professional Pathways consultations so far that many degrees have been closed down and that the remaining current degrees and specialisations are facing challenges. This is further

exacerbated by the current unstable global situation, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. New Initiatives to be launched as an outcome of Professional Pathways could catalyse the establishment of a number of new degrees that would be suitable for work in the library and information sectors, and that would both be more resilient and better suited for a wider range of opportunities within the library and information sector, as well as being better adapted for many work opportunities outside the library and information sector. In addition to the suite of general and specialisation degrees, it could soon lead to the development of a number of new mixed, hybrid and dual-degrees as well. Similarly the entry of people from outside the library and information sector into the sector should encourage the development of micro-, mini and midi-courses covering the areas covered by existing and possible future LIS degrees. This would benefit new entrants now and in the future, as well as those who have already entered the library and information professions without library or information qualifications, and ease the entry from other professions into the library and information sector. Improved reciprocity in the recognition of qualifications between the library and information sector and other sectors, as well as the creation of basic qualifications for entry into the library and information professions from other professions are imperative. Where there is a problem with the recognition of previous work experience of new and recent or long past early or mid-career entrants into the library and information professions, it should be expedited.

7. An inevitable outcome of the higher level of priority and importance of Information and Communication Policy is the inclusion of Information and Communication Policy in the basic entry requirements to the profession, as well as to the Core Values, Foundation Knowledge and other domains.
8. 3. EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE FUTURE DEGREES.
9. In conclusion a few examples of proposed future degrees within a new tertiary teaching model for LIS education. Bachelor of Information Studies (Librarianship). Typical LIS/ librarianship degree courses plus Information and Communication Policy and the required related additional courses. Bachelor of Information Studies (Library and Information Management). Typical librarian degree courses, with emphasis on cataloguing, library policy, collections policy, acquisitions, library financial management, EDRM and similar, plus Information and Communication Policy. Possibly indexing as well. Bachelor of Information Studies (Information and Communication Policy) and Masters degree in Information Studies. (Information and Communication Policy). A more limited number of LIS courses, as well as other courses related to Public Policy. Without LIS courses these degrees may in fact be Bachelor of Public Policy or Master of Public Policy degrees. Within the Information and Communication Policy specialisation, as well as in all other LIS degrees (where it will be a core subject), it should eventually be possible to continue with Information and Communication Policy more broadly in the fourth and final year of academic

study, or to deepen specialisation in a specific area of Information and Communication Policy. Some of these areas are: Copyright, Intellectual Property, Robotics and Library Automation or Cyberpolicy. As an offshoot of the Cyberpolicy option it would also be possible to do a Cybersecurity degree. Those with Cybersecurity degrees and experience would be able to enter the LIS profession and the LIS courses would have to be available to them in easily manageable. Bachelor of Business Science (Library and Information Sector Financial Management). A selection of typical LIS courses (probably a reduced number), Information and Communication Policy and during the first two academic years typical Business Science courses aimed at eventual Chartered Accountancy or CPA qualifications. Third and fourth year accountancy and numeracy courses aimed specifically at financial management and related functions in the LIS sector. The following comes to mind: LIS sector accounts and Financial management in a library or information sector organisation, Acquisitions, EDRM, Collections policy, Library Information Management systems and other similar subject areas. This qualification should be geared towards the possibility of having sufficient Business courses to do a CA or CPA thereafter, and be employed as a CA or CPA in the LIS sector or anywhere outside the LIS sector. CA or CPA qualified entrants into the LIS sector should be able to do the required typical LIS courses. Coursework Masters degrees would have to be available as well.

Tjaart.L.Steyn.

Canberra.

BA (Communication Studies) (NWU) (South Africa)
(1977).

BA (Honours) (International Politics) (NWU) (South Africa)
(1983).

Master of information Studies (Librarianship) (University of Canberra)
(2010).

Volunteer Librarian Australian Institute for International Affairs (2016-2019) (Interrupted due to COVID).