School of Information Studies
Annual Report

2020-2021

Faculté des arts
École des sciences de l’information

Faculty of Arts
School of Information Studies
Dr. Mary Cavanagh began the first year of a three-year appointment as Director of ÉSIS on July 1, 2020.

Dr. Stefanie Haustein was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure as of May 1, 2021.

Dr. Kerry Badgley began a one-year term in the school as Public Servant in Residence on September 1, 2020.

Dr. Stefanie Haustein received the University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Early Researcher of the Year Award in April 2021.

Cross-appointed Professor Dr. Lynne Bowker was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in September 2020.

Adjunct Professor Dr. Alexandre Fortier received the CAIS/ACSI Best Practitioner Paper Award in September 2020.

New funding in 2020-2021 for research projects in which ÉSIS full-time, cross-appointed, and adjunct professors are engaged as principal investigators, co-investigators, and collaborators totalled more than $3.7 million.

Students in our MIS program were awarded scholarships and bursaries totalling more than $43,000 in 2020-2021.

All six of our 2020 CO-OP students received ratings of either excellent or exceptional from the employers supervising their placements.

MIS student Carley Meredith received the 2020 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies CO-OP Student of the Year Award.

Despite all the constraints and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the students who completed the final year of their program in the spring of 2021 have been impressively successful in gaining professional employment and launching their professional careers.
Our Team

Faculty and administration

During 2020-2021, the teaching faculty comprised the director, four regular ÉSIS professors, two adjunct professors, and seven sessional lecturers. In addition to those teaching in 2020-2021, the full faculty includes five cross-appointed professors and five other adjunct professors.

Top row, left to right: Director Mary Cavanagh, Associate Professor Inge Alberts, Associate Professor Stefanie Haustein, Associate Professor Heather Morrison, Associate Professor André Vellino, Adjunct Professor Pierre Desrochers. Second row, left to right: Adjunct Professor Alexandre Fortier, Lecturer Mish Boutet, Lecturer Lorie Kloda, Lecturer Catherine Lachaine, Lecturer Yoo Young Lee, Lecturer Andrew More. Bottom row, left to right: Lecturer Sarah Polkinghorne, Lecturer Sarah Simpkin.

Associate Professor Dr. Mary Cavanagh began the first year of a three-year appointment as Director of ÉSIS on July 1, 2020.

Dr. Stefanie Haustein was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure as of May 1, 2021.

Dr. Kerry Badgley, Manager, Research, Litigation Management and Oversight Directorate, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, began a one-year term in the school as Public Servant in Residence on September 1, 2020.

Élisa Ferrarin Burgess was appointed as ÉSIS Administrative Officer beginning September 1, 2020.
Student body

Twenty-seven new students enrolled in the Master of Information Studies (MIS) program in 2020-2021 and one in the Graduate Diploma in Information Management (GDIM) program, joining another twenty-four continuing MIS students and one continuing GDIM student, for a total enrolment of fifty-three in the school’s programs.

Some of the students participating in the AÉSIISSA Digital Meet and Greet, September 11, 2020

Our Priorities

In 2020-2021 our planning and review focus was to have been on research, but that was overtaken by the need to focus our energy on pivoting the program’s course offerings for the year entirely to online delivery and dealing with all the other constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Towards the end of the 2019-2020 academic year the university and the Faculty of Arts made the decision to move all spring and summer instruction fully online. Instructors and students responded quickly, and by April 2020 everything was in place for the transition. By late June, decisions had been made to continue all instruction online for the fall semester as well. And in December it was decided that all instruction would be delivered online through the entire winter 2021 semester.

With the lockdown of the campus in March 2020, all full-time and part-time faculty members were required to shift quickly to delivering all courses online, drawing on prior experience with and skills in using a suite of online instructional tools such as Google Docs, Slack, Brightspace, and YouTube. Brightspace, the learning management system, has been in use university-wide for several years, so many professors had the expertise necessary to complete the 2020 winter semester online. In preparing for the fall and winter terms, individual professors revised their approaches to instruction, many offering limited synchronous class time, and some offering entirely asynchronous instruction though always with options
for individual meetings. Professor Lynne Bowker, a cross-appointed member of our faculty and former director of the school, prepared a fifteen-page manual on teaching and evaluation strategies via various online platforms. The manual was widely circulated in early September 2020 and again in January 2021 to assist both full-time and part-time faculty members in adapting their courses to an online teaching and learning environment.

As a result of the lockdown, our students faced new challenges in both the academic and collegial aspects of the program. Beginning in the fall semester a number of processes were put in place to support students in online learning. The director established weekly informal meetings with the full-time faculty members to review issues and share concerns raised by students as well as their professors. A weekly news bulletin replacing the school’s previous Digest was sent from the director each Monday morning, containing information about school business, changes, and updates. The director also established a dedicated Brightspace community information portal for the school where documents could be shared, notices regarding upcoming professional and school events could be advertised, and job postings could be flagged.

With repeated province-wide lockdowns over the course of the academic year, there were fewer employers than usual who were in a position to offer CO-OP work assignments, especially among those in the library sector. Opportunities for students and faculty to engage with the professional community were limited largely to participation in formally organized virtual conferences. In February 2021, to compensate in part for the limitations on networking opportunities and placement assistance, an ÉSIS alumna gave a virtual presentation on job interviews and preparing professional résumés.

Throughout 2020-2021, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic lockdowns, the AÉSISSA student leaders proved to be an effective and strong team. They organized several virtual social events during each term, and facilitated consultation or requests for feedback by the director. Because the student leadership team was made up of all second-year students, they were already an effective group with existing personal, and learning relationships.

In the winter semester of 2021, a work study undergraduate student was hired to work with the director to create and distribute a survey to obtain student feedback on online learning and the overall student experience during the pandemic lockdown. This survey was distributed in April with a 28% response rate. A focus group of five students was also conducted to probe further on the student experience. The feedback from the survey and focus group was compiled and reported to the departmental assembly to inform future consideration of any planned move to expand modes and options for online instruction.

Despite all the constraints and challenges imposed as a result of the pandemic, the students who completed the final year of their program in the spring of 2021 have been impressively successful in gaining professional employment and launching their professional careers.
Teaching and Learning

**CO-OP assignments**

Six students were accepted into the competitive co-operative education option, which includes two four-month full-time work placements in the field. Employers for the May-December 2020 CO-OP placements included:

- Library of Parliament
- Global Affairs Canada
- National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces
- Supreme Court of Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- University of Ottawa

The employers gave top ratings—exceptional or excellent—to the students’ performance in all of the placements.

**Student research assistants**

ÉSIS student **Dalie Brisson** was a research assistant for Professor Mary Cavanagh’s project on accessing small press fiction and poetry through Canada’s National Union Catalogue.

ÉSIS student **Alyssa Jeffrey** was a research assistant for Professor Stefanie Haustein’s project on metric literacy.

ÉSIS student **Katie Pelland** was a research assistant for Professor Heather Morrison’s project on sustaining the knowledge commons.
Graduates

Eleven students received the Master of Information Studies degree in 2020-2021:

Évelyne Asselin  Rosa Leal  Tomas O’Shaughnessy
David Bynoe  Élyse Lemay  Kathryn Pelland
Alyssa Jeffrey  Andrea Lobel  Élisabeth Roy
Audrey Kemzang Zedong  Carley Meredith

There was also one student who received the Graduate Diploma in Information Management: Cassandra Schopf.

Some of the participants in the final grad virtual meetup, June 18, 2021
Research

Funding

In 2020-2021, ÉSIS full-time, cross-appointed, and adjunct professors were engaged as principal investigators, co-investigators, and collaborators in twenty research projects, with total funding of over $4.3 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Agency / Program</th>
<th>Research Project</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Amount (Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</td>
<td>Meaningful Data Counts</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>US$199,977 (2020-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada</td>
<td>Smart Voice Technology with Custom AI to Help Persons with Cognitive and Mental Health-Related Disabilities Participate in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
<td>$48,000 (2020-2021)</td>
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<td>Mitacs Accelerate Program</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence for Information Governance: A Semantic Model to Automate the Appraisal and Description of Data, Information &amp; Knowledge</td>
<td>Dr. I. Alberts, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$45,000 (2021-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ontario Library Association</td>
<td>Ontario School Library Impact Study</td>
<td>Dr. M. Cavanagh, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$2,500 (2018-2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Understanding the Societal Impact of Research Through Social Media</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Co-investigator</td>
<td>$54,350 (2016-2019)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Sustaining the Knowledge Commons: Open Access Scholarship</td>
<td>Dr. H. Morrison, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$182,445 (2016-2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Librarian Involvement in Academic Program Reviews: Investigating the Faculty Perspective Using Corpus-based Methods</td>
<td>Dr. L. Bowker, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$75,186 (2017-2020)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grants</td>
<td>Gender Representation in the Country Music Industry, 1944-2017</td>
<td>Dr. J. Watson, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$58,870 (2018-2020)</td>
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<td>Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>A Data-Driven History of Country Music's Geo-Cultural Origin</td>
<td>Dr. J. Watson, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$78,475 (2018-2021)</td>
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<td>Dr. A. Vellino, Collaborator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Canadian Smart Cities: Smart for All or Only Some?</td>
<td>Dr. T. Scassa, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$45,000 (2018-2022)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Developing a Public-interest-based Approach to Ownership: Users' Rights and Privacy Interests in Publicly Accessible Platform Data</td>
<td>Dr. T. Scassa, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$50,000 (2018-2022)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Digital Literacy and Global Research: Can Machine Translation Help to Level the Linguistic Playing Field for International Research?</td>
<td>Dr. L. Bowker, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$72,229 (2020-2024)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Sharing Health Research: The Circulation of Reliable Health Science in a Changing Media Landscape</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Collaborator</td>
<td>$276,482 (2020 – 2023)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grants</td>
<td>Metrics Literacies: Improving the Understanding and Appropriate Use of Scholarly Metrics in Academia</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$93,932 (2021-2024)</td>
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<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative</td>
<td>Coalition Publica: Partnerships Towards a Sustainable Scholarly Communication Ecosystem in Canada</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Co-investigator</td>
<td>$3,000,000 (2020-2023)</td>
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<td>University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Development Grant</td>
<td>Distinguished Teaching Award for Part-time Professors</td>
<td>Dr. J. Watson, Recipient</td>
<td>$5,000 (2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Special Initiative</td>
<td>Eureka! Increasing Research Discoverability with Machine Translation</td>
<td>Dr. L. Bowker, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$20,000 (2021-2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Ottawa Program Chair Grants</td>
<td>Accessing Published Heritage Through Canada’s NUC</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Cavanagh, Program Director</td>
<td>$5,000 (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Ottawa Seed Funding</td>
<td>Development of a Metrics Literacy Research Program</td>
<td>Dr. S. Haustein, Principal Investigator</td>
<td>$19,842 (2018-2020)</td>
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**Publications**

Recently published and forthcoming journal articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters by ÉSIS faculty, students, and alumni:


## Community Engagement

### Conference presentations

Papers and posters by ÉSIS faculty, students, and alumni recently presented at conferences:


**Butler, L-A.** (2020, November). *The economics of open access publishing: research funding, article processing charges and the revenues of scholarly publishers*. Paper presented at the ESIS Student Research Day. [virtual event]

**Butler, L-A.** (2021, April). *Where the money flows, the revenue grows: Analyzing open access article processing charges*. Paper presented at the 13th Annual EBSI-SIS Student Symposium in Information Studies. [virtual event]


**Desrochers, P.** (2021, March). *Digital transformation and archival education: Are records managers and archivists up to the challenges?*. Paper presented at the iConference, Renmin University of Beijing, China. [virtual event]


Harper, L. M. (2021, March). *Faculty and students discuss open educational resources*. Panel presentation at the University of Ottawa Open Education Week. [virtual event]


Watson, J. (2020, July). *From public humanities to social remember: Big data and the digital redlining of women in country music culture*. Paper accepted for DH2020, the annual conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Ottawa, ON. [Conference cancelled due to COVID-19]


**Awards and honours**

**Scholarships**

Ariane Breton, David Bynoe, Savannah Gorbahn, Alyssa Jeffrey, Audrey Kemzang, and Ella Annelise Wright were awarded Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Scholarships.

Andrea Lobel was awarded the Barbara Clubb Scholarship in Information Studies.

Jennelle Doyle, Carley Meredith, and Kathryn Pelland were awarded University of Ottawa Library Bursaries.

Élisabeth Roy and Saskia van Walsum were awarded H. W. Wilson Foundation Scholarships in Information Studies.

David Bynoe was awarded the May Court Club of Ottawa Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship.

Leigh-Ann Butler and Lina Harper were awarded Coalition Publica Scholarships, providing funding for their theses work through the Pan-Canadian Knowledge Access Initiative.

**Awards and Honours**

Associate Professor Stefanie Haustein received the University of Ottawa Library Open Scholarship Award in November 2020. Professor Haustein also received the University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts Early Researcher of the Year Award in April 2021.

Cross-appointed Professor Lynne Bowker was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in September 2020.

Adjunct Professor Alexandre Fortier received the CAIS/ACSI Best Practitioner Paper Award in September 2020.

MIS student Carley Meredith received the 2020 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies CO-OP Student of the Year Award.

**Student volunteers**

David Bynoe served as president of AÉSISSA, the Information Studies Student Association. Carley Meredith served as Events Planning Officer, Alyssa Jeffrey served as Financial Officer, Katie Pelland served as Full-time Student Representative, Audrey Kemzang served as Alumni Representative, and Dancya Kakera Kapampa served as Webmaster.

Lina Harper serves as a volunteer on the National Training Expert Group, part of the Portage initiative sponsored by CARL/ABRC. Lina is also an “Ask a Librarian” volunteer on the Ontario Council of University Libraries’ Scholars Portal.