



**INFORMATION SCIENCE FOUNDATION
FOR EASTERN AFRICA**
P.O. Box 32060 Kampala
"Information and Knowledge for Development"
THE ISFEAs' MAGAZINE

**Featuring: THE 4th ISFEA FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS AT THE BATIVA HOTEL GARDENS,
THURSDAY April 19th 2007, 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Monday, May 14th, 2007

Vol. 6 No. 2

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"Waiting to begin"



"The Fellowship Venue"



"Tea while gaining Knowledge"

Activity Agenda

- . The Opening prayer
- . Opening Remarks
- . Any Apologies
- . Introductions
- . Speakers
- . Q&A Session
- . Vote of thanks
- . Announcements and Professional information
- . The Closing prayer
- . After Swaloship

END

The Four Pillars of a successful ISFEA:-

- 1.. Recruit and Retain committed, quality membership.
- 2.. Implement successful service project
- 3.. Develop Strong Leadership at Chapter levels
- 4.. Support ISFEA Financial activities.

Announcements and Professional Information

- Next ISFEA Foundation Fellowship will take place on Friday 18th May 2007.
- Membership forms to join ISFEA Kampala Chapter are available. Please call Juliet 0772522331 and Richard 0712817264.
- Members who have any form of Jobs, placements etc, please inform Hilda 0772-590414 Fellowship administrative Secretary.
- To join the LIS Competence database for the East African region, please write or call Mr. Yusuf Kiwala ykiwala@naads.or.ug +256-712-996466.
- If you want to share professional information in form of jovial talks to the LIS Community on a topic of your choice, please call Chris 0772-450989

Speaker for Next Fellowship will be;

Prof. Dr. I.M.N. Kigongo-Bukenya (EASLIS Makerere University).

Topic:

Education and Organisation of the information profession

THE VIEW FROM ONE ISFEA SPOT

Dear Fellow Information Science Professionals,

Hello ladies and gentlemen, I hope all is well. As I suggested earlier, I think it is very important that we come up with a strategy of members writing papers (alternative papers) such that if the main presenter does not turn-up, we can present our own papers! So that invited members do not get disappointed. I.e. lining up four papers including the one of a main presenter and if he turns up well and good. – Please comment members.

Mr. Christopher Ssebandeke
ISFEA Kampala Chapter Projects and Events Secretary

Information Officer, Civil Aviation Authority,
+256-772-450989.

Yes Comrades

I also would wish to refer to the subject, as reflected in the issues raised by Bwana Ssebandeke. I find the proposal of keeping papers on reserve an excellent idea. Here, we would seek to achieve a position of no knowledge shortages. I am aware that many of our colleagues have got some unpublished works/papers. These, in the interim can be forwarded, examined and considered. We can then take on the task of requesting those particular members to present them, so that for every fellowship we call, members do not return home without something learnt. I have some papers available. Some of these may not have direct relevance to our particular profession, but several could. I also believe that the author of a paper must not necessarily be held responsible for presenting it. The organizers in a particular month could spearhead the back-up presentation process, especially if the main presented fails to make it. I would suggest the same for other members who may have unpublished/presented works to share them. I will be grateful to provide the full texts of the ones in which our organizers of the May fellowship may have interest.

1. Software User Interface Design and Human Psychology, Sept. 2005
2. Information Technology and Globalization: Facing the Challenges, March 2005
3. Information Services through Collaboration.
4. Records/Information Management Best Practices in Microfinance
5. Maximizing Value in Automating Information about Information

Finally, today, I-Network Uganda has organized a Regular Fellowship in Kuku Hall at Grand Imperial Hotel, at 5.00pm. ISFEA Members who have some time this evening could benefit by attending this meeting, in two ways:

1. By learning something new about this animal called Open Source Software in Uganda, and
2. By 'stealing' a few ideas about the I-Network Colleagues conduct their knowledge-sharing business in promoting professionalism.

Thank you. I wish you the very best. Most Sincerely,
Richard.

Thanks for the information, Richard. I believe it is an excellent idea to have back up presentation/papers. This evening, I will be attending the I-Network fellowship. I hope I'll see you and other members of the ISFEA fraternity there. Regards.

Olive Kihika

Brilliant Richard,

These are excellent suggestions for the ISFEA Fellowships. Thank you Chris and Richard. The topics from Richard seem to be interesting for our audience. Am following up with the organizers of May Fellowship, and be sure, we will ask you for the full text of those topics especially for the newsletter other upcoming fellowships. This evening, I will be attending the I-Network fellowship. I hope I'll see you and other members of ISFEA.

Regards,

Hilda

(Msc. Info.Sci Student) –

ISFEA Fellowship Administrative Secretary

Hello colleagues,

I totally agree with what Chris has said. The idea of an alternative paper is paramount. I suggest that whenever there is a paper to be presented, one or two people are requested to write their papers and submit at the fellowships, incase the main presenter is not in position to do so. Richard, I did not receive the schedule on fellowships, may I receive a copy and circulate to potential members. Thank you.

Harriet Apio, - ISFEA Kampala Chapter Advocacy Secretary
Manager, Legal Resource Centre, Uganda Law Society

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MAGAZINE PICTORIAL



Knowledge exchange



The After Swallowship



Discussion



Ultra Modern LIS Persons



Mr. Lyazi Micheal Ivan, Statistician, Child Health and Development Center, Makerere University

THE 4th ISFEA FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS AT THE BATIVA HOTEL GARDENS, THURSDAY April 19th 2007, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Topic: *Statistical Data Analysis best practices and information quality*

What are statistics?

Statistics are numerical facts and figures. For instance: The largest earthquake measured 9.2 on the Richter scale; Men are at least 10 times more likely than women to commit murder; One in every 8 South Africans is HIV positive; 1 in every 5 Ugandans talks about politics; 1 in every 5 students talks about football.

The study of statistics involves math and relies upon calculations of numbers. But it also relies heavily on how the numbers are chosen and how the statistics are interpreted. For example, consider the following two scenarios and the interpretations based upon the presented statistics. You will find that the numbers may be right, but the interpretation may be wrong. Try to identify a major flaw with each interpretation below, before we describe them.

Problem 1

A new advertisement for a newspaper introduced in January of this year resulted in a 30% increase in sales for the following two months. Thus, the advertisement was effective.

Solution 1

A major flaw is that consumption generally increased in these months of February, and March regardless of advertisements because there were presidential elections, and people had to buy the newspapers to follow what was going on before and after the elections.

This effect is called an event effect and leads people to interpret outcomes as the result of one variable when another variable (in this case, one having to do with the event that was at the time) is actually responsible.

Problem 2

The more churches in a city, the more crime there is. Thus, churches lead to crime.

Solution 2

A major flaw is that both increased churches in Kampala and increased crime rates can be explained by larger populations. In bigger cities, there are both more churches and more crime. This problem refers to the third variable problem. Namely, a third variable can cause both situations; however people erroneously believe that there is a causal relationship between the two primary variables rather than recognize that a third variable can cause both.

As a whole these examples show that statistics are not only facts and figures; they are something more than that. In the broadest sense, "statistics" refers to a range of techniques and procedures for analyzing, interpreting, displaying, and making decisions based on data.

Why use statistics

You learn to present data in a way that lends credence to your ideas and helps you sell your message; Allow you to communicate to your audience in a meaningful and precise way, in addition statistics allows you to get to the core of large volumes of data and simplify your presentations so they will appeal to a wide audience; **This toolkit of information** empowers you to back up your decisions, negotiations and presentations with clear facts and figures. Statistical data allows you to be more confident in the accuracy of your decisions. By illustrating your point of view with easy to understand numeric evidence, you remove the emotional element of decision-making.

Data Analysis best practices

As use and acceptance of data in decision-making increases, there is intensified focus on appropriate methods of data generation and interpretation, with important questions being asked about the best data and analysis methods. Key issues to note when analyzing data include;

- What statistics am I generating from my data?
- What is the intended audience for my statistics
- What software or program am I going to use?
- Up to what level of analysis am I intending to perform?
- Other quality aspects to be considered before the data is collected include training of the data collectors or researchers, conducting through field supervision, editing the field questionnaires every end of day of work.

During the data entry process, quality issues include use of experienced data entrants, and use of double data entry. Important also is to always backup the data in more than one place or location to avoid any eventualities that may occur.

Information quality

Researchers should evaluate the quality of information based on five criteria scope of:

- Coverage including methods,
- Authority,
- Objectivity,
- Accuracy and
- Timeliness.

Thank you



Input to EASLIS Strategic Plan

- Hide quoted text -

Dear LIS Professionals

I thank you for your views through Mr. Charles Batambuze who represented ULIA to participate in the EASLIS Retreat and deliver a paper on the "Perception of the LIS stakeholders about the teaching and learning, research and innovation and outreach at EASLIS". We appreciated all your concerns and Our Strategic Plan for the next 10 years will address them. One of the pertinent issues that was deliberated on in the retreat was the formation of college with other unit(s) in the University. The Retreat deliberated on this issue, and this was followed by a consultative meeting with academic staff at EASLIS. Before we reach at the conclusion of this issue, we would like to get the views of Library and Information Professionals about it. Tentatively, the retreat, followed by a special consultative meeting with members of academic staff has come out with various suggestions, which include:

1. The Faculty of Computing and IT and EASLIS to form a "College of Computing and Information Sciences"
2. EASLIS to join the Faculty of Social sciences, Faculty of Arts to form "College of Humanities and Behavior Sciences"
3. EASLIS together with the Department of Mass Communication to form a "College of Communication and Information Sciences"
4. EASLIS to join with the School of Education and Distance Education to form a "College of Education and Information Science"

As we are in the process of finalizing our strategic plan, we would like to have the views of the professionals on this issue. We will appreciate your constructive views, preferably before Tuesday 15th May 2007, 5:00 p.m. Your views will form a basis for the justification of the choice.

Thank you.

Assoc. Prof. Elisam Magara

Director, East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS), Makerere University; Tel: 256-531530; Mobile: 256-77495592; Home: 256-41-573228 Fax: 256-41-540817.

Big thanks to the Architect of the strategic plan of EASLIS sure giving a chance to stakeholders for their in put, is an important landmark in LIS profession. I believe the suggested mergers; Faculty of IT & EASLIS for a college is ok. While the other way also to come up with the Humanities college is also ok because intact in many universities, you find Library & Information Science

Studies under Humanities college or Faculty. Therefore, the two suggestions are ok. BUT, in the strategic plan, I suggest the provision of **VISITING LECTURERS** from different countries to come and impart modern technology to our students especially at Postgraduate level. Many people have run to Faculty of IT for their postgraduate education because they believe there is less gain at Masters level from EASLIS by the same lectures who taught them at undergraduate level {I am sorry if anyone is offended but this is why BLIS graduates are running away} so by introducing a component of Visiting lectures at least for course units in IT and Modern information Management technology would do us better. Thanks for requesting for our input. May God Grant our requests and wishes come true.

Chris Ssebandeke – ISFEA/CAA

Dr. Magara,

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the future of the new constituent College. Right off my head, I can say that the trend I see in US is for LIS schools joining with Communication for a variety of reasons most notably "synergy." I arrived in Tennessee the very semester the School of Information Sciences was joining the College of Communication and I was lucky to be nominated to serve as the doctoral representative to the College Council. Listening to the conversations then and watching the new College take shape, I am totally convinced that Communication is our rightful place. Looked from a different angle...national information policy space...libraries and information institutions are, but part of a larger national information infrastructure and communications is an important aspect of this infrastructure. Joining with Mass Comm brings far more opportunities than other actors. I know we can make a case for computer sciences for the simple reason that computing is an important element of what we do. And it is. But realistically Makerere's dynamics, computer science will simply shallow up LIS! Discipline-wise, those of us who still like the "L" word (Libraries), the fear of being seen as "computer" people is not a myth! Specifically on Makerere dynamics. From my few correspondences with Dr. Mwesige in Mass Com, he comes off as well versed with the synergies I am talking about having trained in US. He will be a great resource and partner. Besides we have more graduates in 'communication-related areas' than we do in other areas (computing is no longer a specialized field in my opinion - but a generic area that touches each and every field, discipline, etc).

So my early call is for us to seriously think along the lines of communications. For the sake of our identity but most important the exciting opportunities I see in US institutions (well aware of the differences in between US and Uganda or African for that matter).

Thank you for listening Sir!

Dick – USA/ISFEA Trustee.



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank Assoc Prof Elsam Magara for the request of our input. In my view, I would prefer the College of Computing and Information Sciences. The reason is that, there will be a lot to gain from this college given the fact that Library and Information Science is closely moving with IT in this era than any other subject.

Isala AbduKarim

Dear Dr. Magara,

Thank you very much for the feedback and it was quite exciting experience for some of us who managed to watch/listen highlights on TV & radio. However, concerning the drift to formation of new constituent colleges in Makerere in the near or not far future, sometimes it is good to have spontaneous thinking & response than ... So, when we were pioneering BLIS in 1989/1990 that was also about the time Mass Communication was born. In our interactions and comparison of notes by that time, we realized there was a lot in common between us than any other course at Makerere and hence, we found ourselves wondering why the two courses were not put under the same faculty/ administration, etc. Therefore, I think the EASLIS & Mass Communication fusion will have a lot to share and hence much more benefit than as compared to the fusion with the other disciplines. For example, we are both concerned with and responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating information to the people, if this could summarize what we cherish. Much as there is a lot of comparative difference between Uganda and US, I concur with Dick's enlightening dimension from US. Of course the essence is, whether this formation of the new constituent college will give a life long and befitting scope to our profession or not. Therefore, marriage of benefit is a factor here than marriage of convenience. IT is a tool and computing skills is required in every discipline. As the trend is now, in the near future, IT skills will be built in every course and ... So, my vote goes to EASLIS and Mass Communication considering that many of our colleagues have gone a head and done several mass com related courses and vise versa.

Akra Henry Ayias (Uganda Management Institute)

Dr. Magara,

Thank you for extending this dialogue to the alumni. I would like to add my voice and thinking to Dick's and say that merging communication and information sciences is the best option. In my own capacity as one who has had an attempt at computer science (academically) and communication work (at the work place), i'd say that most of the time the information science professional is expected to perform communication duties as well as infor. science duties or even better. Infor. science already equips one with basic ICT skills that can be bettered with practice, unlike mass communication related skills. Today the information officer is seen as one able to perform in the areas of ICT, Communication work (publications, documentaries, public relations, et al) and resource center management (traditional libraries or e_libraries). There are better opportunities for one who can effectively perform all the three with ease, contrary to the one with only Library/IT skills. An information officer with mass communication skills is able to compete more favorably in the market. I have witnessed this re often than not. These are my humble thoughts and passion for communication and information sciences. Thank you once again.

Thanks for requesting for our input. I would really think that Computing and LIS would be the most relevant merger coz the LIS professional is ⁵ more or less taking that trend.

Sylvia Namale

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks a lot for your input to EASLIS Strategic Plan. Thanks to Dr Elisam Magara for considering it necessary to consult the stakeholders and to share with us suggestions from a consultative meeting with members of the academic staff. Reflecting on my work experience, and on the trends in the employment sector, I would not hesitate to propose that EASLIS together with the Department of Mass Communication should form a College of Communication and Information Sciences. Information and communication are two wings of the same bird. In my work experience (sorry to refer to this as it may not apply to all of us) I have found a very close link between information management and communication. As an information manager I have often been asked to design communication strategies, develop information, education and communication materials, do public relations work, write press releases, newspaper and magazine articles, supplements, produce documentaries etc. I find our colleagues in mass communication more skilled in this and yet we are expected to do the same work. Likewise, I have interacted with a number of Mass Com. graduates who point out that they, too, lack some skills in information management which are expected of them at their places of work. In most cases these tend to be the skills library and information science professionals have. This gives me the impression that these two courses need one another. I think the merger would bring mutual benefit to both sides. I found the other option of merging with The Faculty of Computing and IT to form a College of Computing and Information Sciences very tempting as well. Information management nowadays requires IT skills. I think all of us are appreciate the role of IT in information management. Modern Library management System, for example, thrive a lot on IT. However, this does make having a College of Computing and Information Sciences the best option. Like Akra Henry pointed out, IT is a tool that will inevitably have to cut across all disciplines and Dick rightfully pointed out hat computing is no longer a specialized field but a generic area that touches each and every field, discipline, etc. Granted, IT is very essential in information work, but we can still have it, in my opinion, by incorporating the most relevant components into the training curriculum to impart the necessary skills. This is my humble submission. Regards

Richard Mayanja - Concern Worldwide

Colleagues;

Dr. Magara initiatives at the school are welcome. I hear he has used the EASLIS Library for a demonstration library for students, this was not the case before. Now he is soliciting for opinions on the Strategic steps to take for the school so that its students remain relevant in the job market. All these are very good steps so far made, which no other director of that school had ever made. except we used to hear of professional dinners one of which dinner recently raised dust. Dick sent his opinion and I read it. He reasoned that IT is an area which has now become part of every discipline and that the way to go was to merge with Communications Sciences. I bought the idea whole sale. There are many areas in Communication sciences that we need at the school than in the IT areas, because IT is part of the syllabus. So, I suggest the mergence of EASLIS with Communication Dept.

Thank you

Simon Joseph ENGITU - Parliament of Uganda

Dear Dr. Magara,

Giving this forum such an opportunity is commendable. The input so far made is sound; please allow me to make mine.

I think we need to come up with guiding precepts which will enable

us to determine the absolute bigger picture we would like to see. The popular options so far seem to be a merger between Computing & Information Technology or Mass Communication and LIS. Some pertinent and prescient questions for either union may be:

1. What programmes will emerge out of such a union?
2. What product are we looking at as the out come? (What will they be able to do?)
3. What trends and changes would we like to see in the information industry in Uganda?

These simple questions and several others may help to define the bigger picture. If we can't see the production of an effective and almost ideal Librarian, Cybrarian, Broadcaster, systems analyst, software developer, Web specialist... and what ever other career is related—we will indeed be groping in the dark and will have missed the mark and quality issues will remain a nagging embarrassment. The merger, which ever it is, is not the bigger picture but of course, is part of it. It's the outcome that is critical. Withstanding the trends and scenarios pointed out by Dick and others, we might want to firstly, thoroughly analyze Uganda's information terrain and secondly, if the picture is still hazy we look at other scenarios to clear what ever is nondescript. Whereas a Mass Communication/LIS merger has been painted well by Dick and others and yes, as Dick pointed out may avoid obscuring the LIS and creating more synergy; I reckon what Uganda NEEDS is an IT/Computing and LIS merger. A quick survey among the current students at the school (EASLIS) may (I presume) show support of and IT merger. In Uganda Christian University, several LIS students I have talked to about their course thought it was heavily IT oriented but... and are a bit uncomfortable with the library component. Indeed an IT- LIS may risk LIS being swallowed, but with good packaging and prior agreements set, it should be protected. And let's admit it; the LIS profession today in Uganda needs a technology boost. Not just the generic stuff anybody can do with a computer or other gadgets, I mean creating the best and most appropriate information environments—simply as good as it gets. This may enhance creativity. We need Ugandan LIS professionals to for example, do system analysis and design, create software for our libraries and information centers, create the appropriate information systems and networked environments, package and pass-on information in most appropriate manner. I think it creates a sense of self-sufficiency and competence—this will undoubtedly improve our image too. However, in a broader perspective, is a merger between IT/Computing/Mass communications possible? After all, isn't information the crux of the matter? Thank you.

DB Bukenya - Uganda Christian University Library

... my two cents... I couldn't agree more on a College of Communication and Information Sciences. There are various similarities both in theory and practice between the fields. However, if you decide to go down that route, you better be careful not to let librarianship slip by the wayside.

I'm pleased that EASLIS could make us all a part of this process.

Kind regards!

Carolyn N. Atono – Graduate Teaching Associate,
School of Information Sciences, UTK (USA)

Dear Prof. Magara,

This is an interesting development which needs precise choice. To make the right decision, I think we better look at the current and future trends developments of Library Sciences other than relying on past relationships of these fields of studies. What I know is that, the greater part of information work today is forcefully being driven by the advent of technologies. Today, when I am helping students in Gulu University, computing solves almost all what an Information Scientist would want to do in the best possible ways. I am witnessing students doing research entirely relying on internet tech. At a global level, Google and other search engine are making a determine and successful attempts to put all information online. Banks are going online, what ever business name it, be it private or public sectors are going online. Colleagues, it will be a terrible regret for the decision makers not to choose College of Computing and Information Sciences which our descendants will live to curse us for not making right decisions. If College of Computing and IS is not chosen, I will know that LIS is placed in unfertile ground which will hardly germinate. If fellow professionals insist on anything other than this suggestion, it is technology that will forcefully change the profession, you will soon find yourself engaging in tech oriented course units to enable you keep pace with market trend. OR LIS students will look for additional tech oriented professions to boost themselves on their job as already is the trend today. Thanks.

Ongaya Kizito - Student of Information Systems
Librarian II , Gulu University

Dears,

Thank you all for your inputs. Apologies for not attending the meeting. Forgive me if the suggestion below has already been done. I am of the view that we need to start off with some working documents that can better inform us where a merger is possible or not. We are probably well versed with the EASLIS study programs but not those of Mass Communication and CIT. Perhaps there is need to critically analyse the programs offered in each of the three faculties, brainstorm on where a merger is/is not possible, and then make informed decisions, reflecting on the institutional and national goals. I believe Dr. Magara and his team can take a lead in that.

Dr. Sekabembe Beatrice

Dr. Magara,

The one below is more pragmatic than prescriptive :-) but builds on Dr. Sekabembe's idea of 'working documents.' Part of it is based on my recollections of the Tennessee process. A White or Green paper mapping out possible areas of 'synergy' with proposed merger partners will help. The paper is the basis for action by EASLIS faculty or Board. It should take stock of existing (and future) teaching and research needs of those units and 'ours.' For instance, CS/IT currently offers the following: <http://www.cit.ac.ug/site/research/areas.php>. Mass Comm website is down (red flag!!!). Again the key word, in my opinion, is synergy. What and where are the areas of 'synergies?' Ofcourse there are other considerations beyond teaching and research including administrative structures. How does EASLIS fit in the new organizational dispensation? What do we give up? What can't we give up? Does EASLIS retain the existing organization setup or will you have to reorganize within the new College? Finances? Resources? I believe EASLIS owns the current home (building). Do you give up the 'structure' (and for that matter other assets) to the new College? One last and crucial point, in my opinion. Who of the proposed partners is interested in merging with 'us?' That is extremely important otherwise we can't force a relationship unless that other unit is interested (at faculty and student levels).

Likewise who is the preferred choice for EASLIS faculty and students? Ultimately faculty and students are the immediate constituencies (and ought to be consulted and involved). They will make or break the new partnership. Dr. Magara it helps if some background work is done on this point preferably through working committees (student and faculty). Committees should carry out informal survey of the two units (Com & CS/IT), to start with, followed by formal procedures based on a set criteria and specific questions. All these questions should lead to clear alternatives, or paths, in the white/green paper(s) for EASLIS faculty/Board. Again this is an exciting process to the extent that it opens up new possibilities for interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary teaching and research.

Dick - USA/ISFEA Trustee

Colleagues,

The discussion on contribution to EASLIS's strategic plan is welcome. My own feeling is that this is the best opportunity to make a good decision for EASLIS. A good decision must be a satisficing decision. A satisficing decision for all of us will be that one which takes care of different facets of the problem we are trying to solve. The problem is that LIS training seems to be inadequate and thus in dire need of a re-orientation to accommodate the expectations of a Knowledge and Information economy we are living in; and also takes care of the expectations of a competent Information Professional from the employers. Such a reorientation therefore, would require us to strengthen both the IT content in our training and at the same time borrow many ideas from Mass Communication, so that we produce a competent Information Professional. A Professional who would fit very well in today's Information and Knowledge economy. It would thus not be prudent to trade a merger with the FCIT and forego that one with Mass communication. The idea therefore, of something like "The College of Information, Mass Communication and Computing", as nearly proposed by Richard Mayanja; is very appealing and I believe will solve the problem once and for all.

Luyimbazi Godfrey, Kyambogo University

Dear
A merger with Faculty of Information and Communication Technology would suffocate and eventually kill EASLIS. There is too much hype about everything ICTs as evidenced by their ambitious list of courses. Please no merger whatsoever between EASLIS and FCIT! FCIT is for technology, e-data and with a gluttonous appetite for a hands-on-technologies! FCIT's products are yet to realise full potential in everyday Ugandan businesses! Let them wait and merge with Faculty for Engineering and Technology' particularly the Electrical / Electronic unit. We shall find them there. The hype surrounding the majority of FCIT courses should be allowed to rest here! I have also noted that FCIT graduates hate to handle information, are inadequate in professional information handling and communications and hate documents. Many FCIT courses ideal to EASLIS professional can be found as international certifications from Microsoft, Novel / Linux, Macromedia suite, Oracle, CompatiA+ and even CISCO. These are readily available and can be studied in other institutions anywhere not necessarily at FCIT but even on self pace study! FCIT becomes a poor choice for a merger with EASLIS. EASLIS can do without. Communication Studies, Makerere University. Information Science covers up for the information technology shy Library Science. Here, therefore are the premises for which I support a merger with Mass Communication department! An EASLIS graduate will pretend to do what a Mass Communication graduate does and while a Mass Communication graduate assumes to perform the tasks of an EASLIS professional! We are cousin disciplines to an extent. A merger is deal. We are processing, producing and communicating products using

information technologies primarily for human consumption. I dare add, we would be the ideal synergy of professionals in guiding the nation in the the Information age and the communication revolution. We would complete the Information Literacy training together! Having studied BLIS at EASLIS (2000-2003), got confused in the midst of the Information era and blundered by studying CCNA at the then Institute of Computer Studies, toyed with the idea of a Msc. Information Systems at FCIT, I finally came to agree that surely Msc. Information Science is better than anything in FCIT for among reasons, its long term strategic skills and its similarities to Mass Communication, Public Relations, and journalism or technical writing as EASLIS puts it. EASLIS (/ Mass Communication merger) can however collaborate with FCIT in the areas of Informatics, systems analysis and designs so as to give a meaningful application of Information Technologies for development. Thank You Dr. Magara,

Henry Owera

Dear Dick, & Dr. Magara

Am pleased by your contributions on this topic of merge, but I have a small divergence from the methodology you propose. In fact, I am in total agreement with Beatrice's approach. Divergence: They should look for where the school will benefit most from other than who is willing to merge with them. It is a university policy to merge into bigger units and form colleges, therefore it is matter of stating where I fit but not who is willing to team with me. What do u say about that?
My contribution/Input:

1. What is required is just a scientific method that explains EASLIS present and future unique properties in building the Nation. Through such a method, then EASLIS can dictate which unit to merge with.
 2. One of the steps in achieving that required scientific method is by analyzing the schools set criteria (their working premises – present, future) in fulfillment of the national goals. I think these are part of the documents that Beatrice Sekabembe is asking for.
 3. The nation (Uganda) is pro-science this is an issue that the EASLIS should not overlook.
 4. Looking at "best practices" and "experiences achieve in other regions of the world" are good reference materials in modeling and simulating your situation. But it's no a guarantee that a situation implemented in USA can be duplicated in Uganda and work perfectly. USA level of advancement and goals are totally different from those of Uganda.
 5. One of the objectives of forming colleges is minimizing duplication of courses and programmes in different departments (I beg collection on this point if not true). I wish to dissect EASLIS disciplines into broad categories (a) "L" as my friend Dick puts and (b) "IS" as it carried in BLIS, CLIS, MLIS, etc. qtn: In making your synergies where would EASLIS benefit most and become more authoritative in IS if the University was to maintain only one department of IS throughout all colleges? In my view, a strategic and scientific approach is required for "IS" to permanently belong to EASLIS throughout all university departments
 6. Have you ever looked at "L" as science? Look at the cores of "L", have you ever analyzed the classification schemes thought in EASLIS to those thought in subjects like Zoology, Botany, statistics, physics? Then which synergy would enable future young entrants to favorably compete to national science scholarships "remember we build for the future"?
 7. All over Europe, the trend now is re-building ICT enabled libraries. As you know, Makerere is privileged through the Canegie funding to be the first in the sub Saharan Africa that will get such a library building. So, I would say that such a trend might be another highlighter of what future products/graduates of EASLIS in this period of forming synergies
 8. Best practices is one way of learning, though it's duplication might not work well in different regions. Else, if it was possible the EASLIS Director and his team would get a chance of visiting the Egyptian National Library a good example of ICT enabled library building in Africa. Bearing in mind that EASLIS is the training ground of the future leaders to manage such buildings. Such an insight can also contribute in making informed synergies.
- Well, as a Librarian by Induction, this is my simple contribution.**

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