



Louisiana Library Association

8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Telephone: (225) 922-4642 Fax: (225) 408-4422 E-mail: office@llaonline.org

Website: www.llaonline.org

June 3, 2010

Mr. R. Blake Chatelain
P.O. Box 12550
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

On behalf of the Louisiana Library Association, I am writing to urge your support to continue the Masters of Library and Information Science Program at the Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science (SLIS). The Louisiana Library Association strongly opposes the elimination of this program because it is the only program offered in the entire state.

The proposed elimination of LSU's School of Library and Information Science program will hurt the people of Louisiana. This will force many graduates to leave the state of Louisiana to pursue an advanced degree in Library and Information Science while the state is currently trying to retain and attract educated citizens to the state. The *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the LSU School of Library and Information Science in the top 25 American programs in the field of library and information science. As society becomes more technologically advanced, librarians are needed more than ever to help people find reliable information and use it effectively for both personal and professional purposes.

Librarians must keep abreast of the latest information technology in order to help users perform the research that they need to find information. Librarians are needed to select, organize, and classify materials in an effective manner that will meet the growing needs of users. Librarians are the culture keepers of our society, and great pride is taken in helping to preserve the history of the state's government and heritage as well as that of the nation. Librarians make sure that access to information is made readily available for all users, particularly as more government agencies are sending more citizens to libraries to acquire and register for many governmental services such as financial assistance and jobs.

The Louisiana Library Association has a history of a strong partnership with the LSU School of Library and Information Science. This partnership is evidenced by the granting of several scholarships for students who demonstrate academic excellence to attend the LSU School of Library and Information Science.

A majority of SLIS graduates serve as librarians in the state's academic, school, public, and special libraries. The School of Library and Information Science is needed more now than ever before as accreditation agencies require more accountability of education professionals. Librarians are needed to train individuals to be information literate as the amount of information continues to grow. Louisiana State University offers the only program in the state. Therefore, to eliminate this program would be a travesty to those unable to travel to other states to meet accreditation requirements. As citizens of Louisiana, we all stand to lose.

I urge you to support the continuation of the Masters of Library and Information Science Program at Louisiana State University. I hope that we can count on you to support this important degree program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Melanie Sims
President
Louisiana Library Association



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RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE THE MASTERS OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PROGRAM AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Whereas, Employment as a professional librarian in all types of libraries including academic, public, school, and special requires the Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree; and
- Whereas, Louisiana State University is currently the only such program in Louisiana and graduates sixty or more Masters of Library and Information Science students annually; and
- Whereas, This program offers distance education classes via compressed video to students in Shreveport, Monroe, Lake Charles, Houma, Lafayette, New Orleans and Alexandria; and
- Whereas, The *U.S. News and World Report* ranks LSU's School of Library and Information Science program as number 22 among all American library and information science programs; and
- Whereas, Approximately 75 percent of Louisiana libraries employ librarians with MLIS degrees from Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science; and
- Whereas, The Personnel Section of the *Standards for Louisiana Public Libraries* states that all directors of public libraries are required to be certified by the State Board of Library Examiners: "The requirement for certification is a Master's degree from an ALA accredited school of library science"; and
- Whereas, The LSU School of Library and Information Science exceeded its goal of \$400,000 and raised a grand total of \$1.2 million for the "Forever LSU" campaign through contributions of alumni and other donors; and
- Whereas, The LSU School of Library and Information Science successfully received a grant for over \$760,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to recruit and educate 30 new librarians to Southern Louisiana libraries that have

experienced staffing shortages due to the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;
now, therefore,


BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Library Association (LLA):

Strongly opposes the elimination of the Masters of Library and Information
Science degree at Louisiana State University; and

Urges the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Louisiana Board of Regents to
continue the Masters of Library and Information Science Program at Louisiana
State University; and

Urges the LSU Board of Supervisors to seek other cost saving measures that
would not negatively impact the libraries throughout the entire State of Louisiana.

Adopted by the Louisiana Library Association Executive Board
June 3, 2010

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Sims".

Melanie Sims
LLA President