



School of Information Studies

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SOIS Ranked No.1 Nationally for Contributions to Research Output

MILWAUKEE - The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies (SOIS) is ranked No. 1 nationally among schools of library and information science for contributions to its university's overall research output. This prestigious honor marks the second time in two years that a national publication has ranked SOIS as a leading school of library and information science in the U.S.

The ranking was announced in a recent issue of ScienceWatch, which analyzes trends in university performance in basic research. This leading national publication based its rankings on a five-year (2002-2006) listing of research papers published in Thomson Scientific-indexed journals of library and information science. Schools of library and information science were ranked according to the percentage of papers their faculty published in indexed, peer-reviewed journals compared to the number of overall research papers published at the institution.

"We have a very distinguished faculty and a research-oriented culture," says Johannes Britz, dean of the School of Information Studies. The ranking is particularly noteworthy, he adds, because SOIS did not have a doctoral program during the period when the data were compiled. "We anticipate that the addition of the doctoral program (scheduled to start in the fall), will only increase our research output."

An earlier study, published in Library & Information Science Research in late 2006, also ranked SOIS among the top library and information science schools in the U.S. in scholarly productivity. The authors of the study used a number of measures in developing the rankings, including journal publications per capita; journal articles by program; citations to faculty work; and, per capita citations by program.

The School is expanding its research interests around the world with diverse faculty who bring extensive international ties. SOIS currently works in partnership with programs in Africa, China and Korea, and partnered with the International Center for Information Ethics to organize the first-ever African Information Ethics Conference (the second is scheduled for this summer).

The School's work is closely linked to UWM Chancellor Carlos Santiago's focus on university research as a driver of sustained economic development, according to Dean Britz. The School focuses its research on information policy, information organization and information retrieval, all key factors in future economic development, notes Dean Britz.

"Information is the cornerstone of the knowledge economy," Says Dean Britz

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The School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee offers several degrees and programs including the Bachelor of Science in Information Resources and a Master of Library and Information Science (accredited by the American Library Association). With a student body of about 500, SOIS strives to meet the demand for information professionals at all levels in such institutions as libraries, archives, corporations, government agencies, trade associations, schools, and in higher education. SOIS is a leader in online education and currently enrolls students from most of the United States and from countries around the world. For more information about the school, its faculty, and its programs, see <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SOIS/> or call 1-888-349-3432.

INFORMATION our focus
INTERNATIONAL our scope
INTERDISCIPLINARY our mindset

