



2015 ALISE Annual Conference
January 27 - 30, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

**Mirrors & Windows: Reflections on Social Justice and
Re-imagining LIS Education**

Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world. (Freire, 1970, p. 34)

Library and information science professions are historically rooted in service-oriented ethics and philosophy. However, we seldom hear about the effects and outcomes of what we in Library and Information Science (LIS) do in terms of social justice and promoting change in the lives of people on the margins. Indeed, these and other socially-responsible stances are professional mandates in the varied dimensions of the discipline, providing important distinctions to the LIS domain.

We need to extend traditional understandings in areas such as user-centered resources, culturally-appropriate technologies, human information needs, seeking and use, information literacy, among others, in order to address issues of empowering people to better their own life conditions, realities, and experiences. Join us at the Centennial Celebration of the

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) 2015 to explore the implications of social justice in LIS education.

The term “social justice” is emerging as a useful conceptual and practical tool to describe and analyze qualitative and quantitative aspects of LIS research, teaching, and practice. Historical analysis of LIS shows that rarely was social justice explicitly articulated in LIS practice and research, despite the social justice orientation that is implicit in LIS work. This calls for the adoption of social justice in extending existing LIS theories, concepts, frameworks, etc., integrating new ways of approaching LIS education, as well as representing best practices in social justice action and praxis.

You are invited to contribute your ideas and expertise on the conference theme of Social Justice at the ALISE 2015 Annual Conference and to participate in an exploration of its meanings and applications to LIS education, practice, and community-based research.

Potential topics related to social justice from the local to the global could include but are not limited to issues of change, empowerment, and transformation in:

- Action Research
- Advocacy
- Community engagement
- Culturally-appropriate technologies
- Human information needs, seeking, and use
- Informatics
- Information ethics and policy
- Information literacy
- Information organization, representation, and retrieval
- Library 2.0
- Library, information, and cultural environments
- Open source access and movements
- Social justice curriculum
- Social networking
- User-centered information

Opportunities for sharing include juried paper proposals, juried panel discussions, work in progress poster sessions, doctoral poster sessions, lightning talks, and SIG panels. Engage in critical discourse with colleagues at roundtable discussions, SIG meetings, the popular “birds of a feather” meeting, during breaks, and at various conference venues.

Please check the ALISE website (www.alise.org) periodically for more detailed calls for participation.

Conference Planning Committee for 2015:

Coordinating Co-Chairs: Kendra Albright, South Carolina (2015), albright@sc.edu, and Bharat Mehra, Tennessee (2015), bmehra@utk.edu

Co-Chairs, ALISE Academy Committee: Nicole A. Cooke (nacooke@illinois.edu) and Tonyia Tidline (tidline@illinois.edu), Illinois; Kevin Rioux (riouxk@stjohns.edu), St. John's

Co-Chairs, ALISE Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Doctoral Poster Competition Committee: Ajit Pyati (apyati@uwo.ca), Western Ontario, and Mega Subramaniam (mmsubram@umd.edu), Maryland

Chair, Works in Progress: Kyung-Sun (Sunny) Kim (kskim@slis.wisc.edu), Wisconsin – Madison

Doctoral SIG Conveners: TBD

Co-Chairs, Council of Deans, Directors and Program Chairs: TBD

Chair, Conference Juried Paper Proposals Committee: Lisa Hussey (lisa.hussey2@simmons.edu), Simmons

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