

# MSc in Information and Library Management at Dublin Business School



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## **Background**

Dublin Business School is Ireland's largest independent higher education college offering over 100 accredited courses in business, arts, law, psychology, IT and more to over 9,000 students.

In November 2006, Dublin Business School identified a niche in the marketplace for a postgraduate programme in library studies delivered on a part-time evening basis. DBS was ideally positioned to offer this programme as it has highly experienced faculty in IT and Management and strong links to industry which can be exploited to expand job opportunities for library graduates. DBS also had a long and fruitful partnership with Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) which already had a highly regarded MSc in Information and Library Management.

## **History of the Programme**

In September 2008, a DBS delegation met with the Programme Manager and faculty of the MSc in Information and Library Management at LJMU. It was agreed that DBS would offer the LJMU programme which was accredited

by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in the UK (CILIP), subject to a successful validation, which was passed.

In September 2009, DBS launched the MSc in Information and Library Management which was a joint DBS-LJMU award and accredited by CILIP. Around this time the College was fortunate to attract well-known industry experts and faculty, many of whom were actively headhunted.

In 2014, DBS sought validation and accreditation for the MSc in Information and Library Management from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) respectively as part of a business decision by the College to migrate its programme offerings fully to the Irish regulatory framework.

### **Accreditation from the Library Association of Ireland**

Since September 2014, the MSc in Information and Library Management at DBS has been validated and accredited by QQI and LAI respectively. This was brought about by the hard work and collaboration of the Programme Leader Maria Rogers and faculty.

Accreditation by the LAI was extremely important for the MSc in Information and Library Management at DBS. It ensured that LAI personnel who comprise leading industry figures in this country were able to input into the content of the programme. The accreditation process by the LAI was rigorous and detailed but has resulted in refinements and modifications that have enhanced the learning experience of students on the programme and the employability of its graduates. DBS was impressed with the level of commitment that the LAI and the QQI displayed in ensuring that the programme fully encapsulated the skills and competencies required of a modern information and library manager.

### **Programme Content**

As an MSc, the programme at DBS is technical and applied in its approach to delivery and assessment with a strong IT focus offering modules in

Information Technologies, Network Resource Management and Information Architecture. Other modules include Organisation of Information, Management for Information Professionals, the Teaching Librarian, Records Management, Research Methods and Dissertation.

As part of the recent QQI validation and LAI accreditation, modules on the original articulation of the programme were retained but modernised and aligned to CILIP's [Professional Knowledge and Skills Base \(PKSB\)](#) which was a requirement of LAI accreditation. The PKSB was developed by CILIP following extensive consultation with employers, the library, information and knowledge community and learning providers. It outlines the broad range of skills that are required in the library and information management sector.

### **Employability**

A significant change on the programme is the introduction of a Personal and Professional Development (PPD) module to enhance employability. Module faculty work with students of the programme to prepare career development plans underpinned by use of an e-portfolio. The PPD module is now also linked to the programme's built-in three week, industry-relevant work placement.

Students prepare for the three week work placement in the PPD module and also complete a reflective learning log in relation to their work placement as part of the PPD assessment. Students of the programme have completed work placements in libraries such as the Irish Film Institute, Arthur Cox Solicitors, Maynooth University and the National College of Ireland. Students with prior library experience are exempt from the work placement but are facilitated should they wish to diversify their experience.

Graduates of the MSc in Information and Library Management have secured positions in TCD Library (Assistant Librarian) and Amazon (Taxonomist) for example. DBS works with the Careers Department on an on-going basis to source new and exciting opportunities for graduates of the programme.

## Faculty

Faculty from the previous articulation of the programme have remained with this version. A key strength of the programme is the commitment and passion of its faculty. These include Dr. Christoph Schmidt-Supprian (Sub Librarian, Trinity College Dublin), Dr. Clare Thornley (Researcher, Innovation Value Institute, Maynooth University) Dr. Shazia Afzal (IT Faculty, DBS), Caitriona Sharkey, (Head of Knowledge and Information Services, Ernst & Young), Mark Farrell (Proprietor [Arcline](#)), Maria Rogers (Head of Library Services, Barnados) and Brian Hickey (IT faculty, DBS).

Faculty combine extensive lecturing experience with real world experience of the library and information (LIS) sector at a senior level. The programme also incorporates guest speakers from the information and library sector such as John Duffy (Sub Librarian, Bar Council of Ireland) and Ann O' Sullivan (Acquisitions Librarian, Houses of the Oireachtas).

In 2014, Maria Rogers was promoted to Level Leader. Maria has been with the programme since its inception in 2009 as a lecturer on the Teaching Librarian module. She has an in-depth knowledge of the programme and a fantastic relationship with faculty, students and alumni. She also links the programme with DBS Library facilitating the use of real world projects for assignments when requested. Students of the programme have executed dissertations on reading list software used by DBS Library (Loughborough Online Reading List System) or the open source Library Management System Koha which DBS Library recently installed as examples.

## Programme Differentiation

The MSc in Information and Library Management enhances postgraduate library education by providing a part-time evening option. The programme is also offered on a full-time basis. Additionally as an MSc, the programme offers a more technical and applied approach to delivery, producing ready to work graduates. For example, students not only study the theory and literature pertaining to library management systems but they download and deploy

open source LMS solutions in the laboratory setting. The MSc in Information and Library Management has a strong IT focus which includes an essential module on network resource management. The programme also has a strong focus on employability and career planning. Finally, as an MSc in Information and Library Management, the programme prepares graduates for roles in the broader information management sector in addition to traditional library roles.

## Dublin Business School and the Wider Library Environment

This year DBS will be one of the sponsors of the Annual Conference of the Academic and Special Libraries section of the LAI. The College believes that this is a key event for librarians and library students and is keen to show its support. DBS will also have a stand at the conference for anyone wishing to find out more about the College and the MSc in Information and Library Management.

More recently Dublin Business School launched an annual seminar which was extremely well attended by library and information professionals in Ireland. This year's event will take place on June 12th. The line-up will be announced shortly. To see slides from last year's seminar please refer to the following link: <http://esource.dbs.ie/handle/10788/1759>. The event comprises speakers from DBS Library, the MSc in Information and Library Management and the wider library and information management sector.

For further information about Dublin Business School please refer to [www.dbs.ie](http://www.dbs.ie)

Further information about the programme is available at: <http://www.dbs.ie/course/postgraduate/msc-information-library-management-march>

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