

# International Library Education

Italian Library Education / Formazione Bibliotecaria Italiana

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# Overview

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- Past
  - Humanities-based program
- Current
  - Transitional Stage
- Future
  - Challenges



# Looking Back

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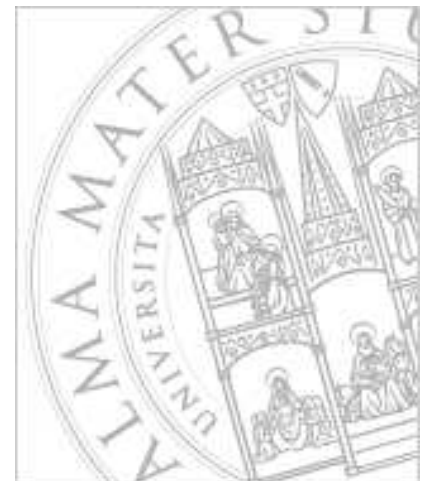
- Italy
  - Not a separate course of study
  - Part of a humanities degree program (literature, history...)
  - Late '70 the first Program of Library Science (Udine 1979)
  
- France
  - Single, centralized school of Library Science
    - Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB)



# Looking Back

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- Preservation / Curation emphasis
  - “Preservation of Cultural Heritage Studies (Bologna) “
  - “Library Science and Paleography (Parma)”
- Typical Courses:
  - Philology
  - Bibliology,
  - Paleography
  - Latin
  - Humanities computing



# Looking Back

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- No distinction between types of librarianship
  - Unlike U.S.
    - public, academic, school...
- More cultural and less service-oriented
- Humanities, not library science, degree required for entering the profession



# Transitional Period

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- Bologna Declaration, 1999
  - The Bologna Process represents the most radical and wide ranging set of reforms European higher education has seen in the last 30 years.



# Transitional Period

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- Degree system based on two cycles
  - first-level degree (3 years; 18—24 credits)
  - second-level degree (2 years; 90-120 credits)
- System of credits



# Transitional Period

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- Bologna Process Goals:
  - Harmonize higher education degrees among European countries (ca. 40 now)
  - Support mobility and interchange among European Higher Education faculty, students and staff
  - Promote European cooperation in quality assurance



# Brave New World

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- Library Education also in transition
- Great opportunity to redefine the next generation library and information science education
- AIB (Italian equivalent to ALA), along with faculty and administrators, is at the center of an interesting debate over the objectives, the content, and the methods of library science education



# Current Situation

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- Humanities-oriented courses
  - 37.2%
- Archives curation / Library preservation
  - 35.8%
- Management issues
  - 5.5%
- Technology
  - 6.2%
- New topics (music, cinema, theater materials )
  - 15.7%

Source: <http://www.aib.it/aib/sezioni/sic/berger01.htm>



# Current Situation

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- Recent Italian Reforms
  - Greater didactic autonomy and more flexibility in building new programs and adding new courses
  - 27 first-level degree programs
  - 27 second-level degree programs
  - Proliferation of Masters degrees
  - Growing distance education programs



# The Future

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- Tension between cultural and historical specificities and growing technological emphasis
- Need to balance humanities tradition with technological innovation
- Concern for allowing programs to be flexible enough to keep up with the evolving profession



# LS vs. IS

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- Italy
  - Library Science is not integrated with Information Science (IS is tied to Computer Science)
- Germany
  - The first Library and Information Science degree program began in 2002



# LS vs. IS

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- United Kingdom
  - Moved towards primary IS (technology-oriented education)
  - Many complain the weakened LS education has lead to the visible impoverishment of many British public libraries



# Is Academic Training Necessary?

## Antonio Panizzi (1797-1879)

He had a string of posts at the British Museum library: first Assistant Librarian (1831-37), then Keeper of Printed Books (1837-56) and finally Chief Librarian (1856-67).

While there, he undertook the creation of a new catalogue, based on the *Ninety-One Cataloguing Rules* which served as foundation of the Anglo-American cataloguing tradition, and are at the origins of the ISBD of the 21st century and of digital cataloguing elements such as Dublin Core.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony\\_Panizzi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Panizzi)

