



September 29, 2014

Dr. Mary Stansbury
Chair, Committee on Accreditation
American Library Association

Dear Dr. Stansbury,

The School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (the iSchool at UBC) plays a vital role in the education of information professionals within this region and internationally, and has done so for more than 50 years. Community support for the iSchool and specifically for its largest program, the MLIS, is strong and widespread. I am extremely proud that this group of dedicated and productive faculty, graduate students and staff is part of the Faculty of Arts, and I would like to express my full support for the iSchool and the MLIS program as they seek to regain full accreditation status from the American Library Association.

Since we received notification that the iSchool had received conditional status, I and Dr. Michael Richards, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies have worked with Dr. Haythornthwaite and other iSchool faculty to ensure that they have the support necessary to address your concerns. The working group on accreditation within the iSchool has taken its task very seriously and the result is impressive. They have made major improvements in the way that assessment and planning is carried out within the iSchool, including greater involvement of external stakeholders and a clearer focus on measuring and fostering student achievement. The Learning Outcomes Assessment program that is now in place is broad-based and systematic and I am confident that it will lead to greater transparency and ongoing improvements to the quality of the iSchool's professional programs. Given the efforts of the school to develop a comprehensive plan, they will be well-positioned to take a leadership role within the Faculty of Arts as other units move towards implementing learning outcomes assessment.

The iSchool has many strengths in addition to this greatly enhanced assessment program, many of which were noted in the report of the External Review Panel who visited the school last fall: an outstanding faculty with strong records of research and teaching, an engaged and active body of graduate students, and excellent facilities in which to carry out their work. It is my hope that you will find that this report satisfactorily addresses the concerns raised by the ALA and that you will agree to return the iSchool and the MLIS program to full accreditation status at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gage Averill'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Gage Averill
Dean, Faculty of Arts

ARTS

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several concentric, slightly curved white lines on a black background, resembling a stylized 'A' or a series of orbits.