Library and Information Science Education at the Faculty of Sociology, Toyo University

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“Education of LIS, Today and tomorrow”
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Points of the Presentation

- Practice of LIS education at the Department of Media and Communications, Faculty of Sociology, Toyo University
- No librarian course
- How do we practice education of LIS without a librarian course? What is our viewpoint?
2. History of the Department and our Point of View
History of the Department

• In 1959 Dept. of Applied Sociology, Faculty of Sociology (major in library science)
  - 3 majors = library science, mass communication, social psychology
  - Library(information) related subjects, about 50
  - Produced many librarians to universities and public libraries
  - Aimed to be an independent department since its start

• Difficulty to find jobs in libraries from the latter half of 1980’s
History of the Department

- In the latter half of 1990’s  Started discussion about reorganization of the faculty
- Building an independent department for training of librarians does not meet the needs of times
- Recognition of oversupply of “librarian” certificates, inflationary situation
- No problem of librarian supply even our university stops training of librarian
- Needs to provide students with education program that fits more the times
- Decision to establish a new department by specialized in library science and specialized in mass communication
History of the Department

• In 2000  Media Communication Department, Sociology Faculty
  – A new department provides special subjects of information study (library information study) to realize a new academic plan
  – All subjects for librarian training are closed.
Curriculum Policy of the Department (excerpt)

• To know social significance and function of current media, and to learn theory of academic knowledge and theory of analysis of present state
• To know historical development and progress of media’s past, and to study view for objective knowledge and view for historical recognition
• To learn social outlook and issues of media’s future, and to study and master methods to have creative knowledge and to solve problems
• To study and master skills in planning, making, publishing information in various forms through utilizing media
• To study and master necessary skills in retrieving, analyzing, and evaluating various forms of information through utilizing media
Professional Disciplines of the Department

• Informatics
  – Study of the world and society through information concept

• Social informatics
  – Study of diversified information phenomena in society

• Mass communication
  – Study of function and impact of mass media
From Library and Information Study to Informatics

• informatics
  – Not bearing “library”
  – Not information engineering (information science), but related area
  – Not social information, but related area
  – Study of the world/society through information concept
  – In English, “informatics”
3. Curriculum of the Department
Composition of the Current Faculty Members

• Quota 16= 11 experts+4 language specialists+1 assistant professor
  – Informatics 4 (+ 1 assistant professor)
  – Mass communication 4
  – Social informatics 3
  – Language(Chinese, English) 2
  – Language (foreign nationals with fixed term) 2
• Two researchers are recruited as tenured language specialists whose professional discipline meets the department.
Specialized Subjects

• Introductory subjects
  - Principles of Informatics A (required) / B (elective)
  - Principles of social informatics A (required) / B (elective)
  - Principles of mass communication A (required) / B (elective)

• Seminar
  - Introductory Seminar on Media and Communications (required for freshman)
  - Seminar on Media and Communications I (elective for sophomore)
  - Seminar on Media and Communications II (elective for junior)
  - Seminar on Media and Communications III (elective for senior)
Principles of Informatics A / B

• Information and humanity
• Digitized expression of information
  - bit sequence, A/D conversion
• Information and knowledge
• Social transmission of information / knowledge
  – media, information organization
• Potentiality and risks of information society
  – sufficient and excessive information/ utilization and misuse/sharing and monopoly
• Deep layer of information society
  – change in me / relation with others caused by informatization, society sift to consuming society by informatization
• Uneven distribution of information
  – living beings and information, social information
• Material object / energy / information
  – Greek philosophy, modern science, the theory of relativity, cybernetics, Turing Machine
• Quantification of information
  – self information, entropy
• Sign / language / knowledge as information
  – signal and symbol, Artificial Intelligence
• Definition of concept of information
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**Required by ministry**

**Specialized subjects**

1. Principles of Informatics
2. Intellectual Property/Information Law
3. Social Information Systems
4. Information and Languages
5. Information and Media
6. Information Organization
7. Information Analysis
8. Mathematical Science
9. Informetrics
10. Information Modeling
11. Web Information Systems
12. Database Theory and Practice
13. Information Network and Practice
14. History of information and Media
15. A/B
4. Careers of Graduates
Careers of Graduates

By industry Graduation from Mar. 2013 ~ Mar. 2017

- Media: 18%
- Information/Communication: 19%
- Civil servant: 19.3%
- Others: 60.8%
Careers of Graduates (Business Type)

• Mass communication area
  TV stations, TV program making companies, newspaper companies, advertising agencies, publishing companies, editing production companies, net journalists,

• Contents (video/ music) area
  video game companies, animation companies, music companies,

• ICT area
  system integrator, SI, companies, web related companies, database related companies, printing related companies,

• Others
  Companies, civil servants, teachers of junior/high school, graduate school,
5. Issues and Outlook
Issues and Outlook

• Social change
  – Further development of informatization (digitization, networking)
• Decrease of social function of printed materials
  – introduction of Artificial Intelligence, AI, into various areas

• Trend of job placement (exit)
  – Shrinkage of existing mass communication industry
    • publication, newspaper, TV
  – Increased demand from contents making industry
  - Increased demand for SE
Issues and Outlook

• Reality of examinees (entrance)
  – Want to be in entertainment industry, to be an entertainer
  – Uninterested in mass communication and journalism
  – Less interested in computer, less savvy about computer skill
  – Less reading experience

• Issues of department operation
  – Securement of the number of examinees of the department (entrance)
  – Support for students’ placement (exit)
  – Differentiation from other faculties/departments
  – Securement of the number of teachers of informatics
Issues and Outlook

● Similar consciousness between society (exit) and students (entrance)
  - Society (employment) ・・・ shrinkage of existing mass communication industry
  - Students (examinees) ・・・ lack of interest in mass communication

● Dissimilar consciousness between society (exit) and students (entrance)
  - Society (employment) ・・・ development of informatization
  - Students (examinees) ・・・ lack of interest in computer

● Providing specialized education of informatics with response to expectation from both sides
  - Showing students current situation of digitized society and direction of its change
  - Teaching knowledge and skills that are necessary for future leaders of society
  - In the above education, placing the core discipline of library and information science
The core discipline of library and information science straddles both singularity and universality of information/knowledge about social reality of information/knowledge.

In other words, LIS is an extremely unique discipline that entails incalculable substance of information/knowledge and calculable attribution.

Education/study of LIS will be continuously requested by times and society to expand its territory flexibly and actively, and to work together with other disciplines while keeping its identity through holding the core part.”