



NEWSLETTER

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Information & Library science



**Southern Connecticut
State University**

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Message from the Chair

Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends!

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of the Department of Information and Library Science Newsletter at Southern Connecticut State University. This marks an exciting milestone for our department as we establish a new way to connect, share achievements, and highlight the incredible work of our faculty, students, and alumni.

Over the past decade, our department has undergone significant changes. In 2016, we developed and launched the new Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program as a fully online degree, which received full ALA accreditation in 2020. Since its inception, the MLIS program has experienced remarkable growth, with enrollment increasing by an average of 15% each year—an achievement made possible by your unwavering support and dedication.

At the same time, in Fall 2024, we made the strategic decision to close the undergraduate Information Management and Services program to focus our resources on the rapidly growing MLIS program. This decision was made in collaboration with university leadership to strengthen our department's impact in the field of library and information science.

In an era where information plays a crucial role in every aspect of our lives, our department remains committed to preparing future leaders in librarianship, information science, and knowledge management. Through innovative research, community engagement, and academic excellence, we continue to shape the evolving landscape of information access and technology.



This newsletter will serve as a platform to celebrate our community's successes, showcase ongoing projects, and keep you informed about upcoming events and opportunities. We encourage you to contribute, stay engaged, and help us build a strong network of professionals dedicated to the values of information access, education, and service.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to sharing this space with you and hearing your stories.

Warm Regards,

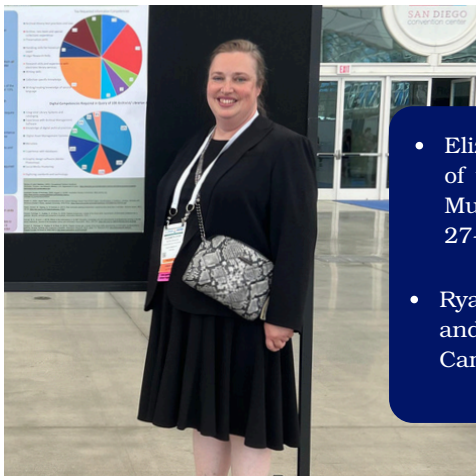
Hak Joon Kim, Ph.D.

Chair and Professor,

Department of Information and Library Science,

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven

Conference Presentations



ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2024

- Elizabeth Dyer and Saira Hanif Soroya. (2024). Getting GLAM: An Examination of the Skill Expectations for Job Seekers in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Poster Presented at the ALA annual meeting in San Diego on June 27- July 2, 2024.
- Ryan Keeler & Saira Hanif Soroya. (2024). Charting New Territories: A Wayfinding and Design Odyssey at Sterling Memorial Library. Paper presented at Hogan Campus Center, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA on June 03, 2024.

Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting 2024

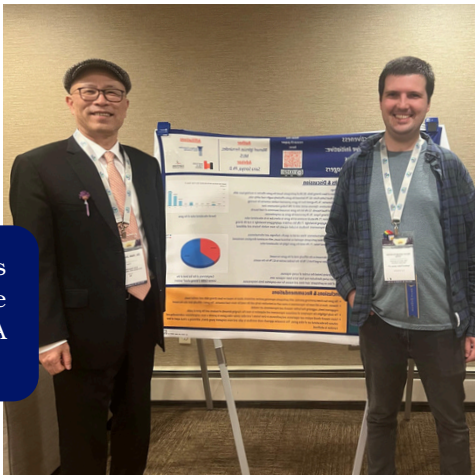
Allison Wendt & Saira Hanif Soroya. (2024). Exploring Digital Inclusivity: Analysis of Academic Library Homepages in Accordance with WCAG 2.2 Guidelines. Poster presented at the ASIS&T 2024 on 27 October 2024.

Kaylee Smith & Saira Hanif Soroya. (2024). School and Public Library Partnerships: Current Status and Practices in Connecticut. Poster presented at the "Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Conference 2024" at SCSU on April 29, 2024.



New England Library Association Annual Conference 2024

Our two students "Manuel Iglesias Fernández" and Jennifer M. Mottolese presented their posters at the NELA Annual Conference 2024.



Student Success Spotlight



For ILS 610, Grant Writing and Fundraising for Libraries and Nonprofits, I was tasked with developing a case statement for a specific library, which included a community profile, the library’s strengths, as well as its challenges and needs. In the course of this assignment, I recognized a community need for computers geared towards children.

Utilizing the knowledge gained from the coursework and the connections I made through the project, the library I selected applied for a grant and successfully received funding to acquire four AWE Early Literacy Stations for their children's department.

Since the installation of these computer stations, there has been a notable increase in computer usage within the children's department. Children have enjoyed countless hours of interactive games aimed at increasing early literacy and STEM skills.

Adelle Adams
Email: adamsa32@southernct.edu
MLIS Graduate Student
Southern Connecticut State
University





Awards Recipients



Allison Wendt, Recipient of Best Poster Award - ILS Research Forum Spring 2024



*Mikolaj Galazka, Recipient of Best
Poster Award - ILS Research Forum Fall
2023*

Scholarship Recipients

1 Outstanding MLIS Student Award 2024

- Jessica Anderson, Chris J. Hill

2 Carol A. Stone Scholarship Fund

- Ana Felipe
- Rebekah Hering
- Kelly King
- Milton Ward
- Emily Young

3 Elma Jean and John Wiack Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

- Cathryn Coburn

4 Jung Family Fund

- Ana Felipe
- Michaila Fuerst

5 Lois Elizabeth Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund

- Adelle Adams

6 Sage Family Trust Library Science Scholarship Fund

- Adelle Adams
- Rebekah Hering
- Kelly King

7 Sage Family Trust Library Science Scholarship Fund

- Adelle Adams
- Cathryn Coburn
- Ana Felipe
- Michaila Fuerst
- Milton Ward
- Emily Young

Research Publications

- **Liu, Y. Q., Bielefield, A., & Beckwith, J.** (2024). ADA Digital Accessibility on Academic Library Websites. *College & Research Libraries*, 85(2), 166.
- Guo, Y., Li, S., Zhang, X., Fu, Y., Yuan, Y., & **Liu, Y. Q.** (2024). Embracing the Metaverse: A Survey of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality Practices at the United States' Top One Hundred University Libraries. *College & Research Libraries*, 85(7), 1006.
- **Murtha, H. & Schofield, C.** (2024). Exploring the nexus: Homeschooling and libraries in CT, *Public Libraries Quarterly*, 1-23.
- **Murtha, H.** (2024). Are you using your school library effectively? *Principal Leadership*, 20-21, National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- **Soroya, S. H.**, Sharif, A., & Faiola, A. (2024). Role of Pakistani e-libraries in promoting health awareness for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal-3. *Health Information & Libraries*. doi: 10.1111/hir.12554. Online ahead of print.
- Naveed, F., **Soroya, S. H.** & Mahmood, K. (2024). Assessing the Impact of Health Information Orientation and Health Information Literacy on Patients' Engagement with Health Information. *Journal of Information Science*, 99(6), 1038-1045.
- Shahzad, I & **Soroya, S. H.** (2024). Integrating Tacit Knowledge Transfer Model in Academic Context: A SEM Analysis Approach. *Journal of Knowledge Economy*.<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13132-024-02490-y>
- Raza, Z., Rafiq, M., **Soroya, S. H.** (2024). Readiness of Pakistani journals for open-access publishing. *The Electronic Library*, 42(5), 795-810. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EL-11-2023-0279>
- Afzal, M. B., **Soroya, S. H.**, Chaudhary, N. I., Niazi, A. A. K., & Ashiq, M. (2024). The Influence of Responsible Leadership on Organizational Commitment: The Mediating Role of Trust in Leaders. *RADS Journal of Business Management*, 6(2).
- Basit, I., **Soroya, S. H.** & Batool, S. H. (2024). Finding the Association Between Information Literacy and Research Productivity: A Systematic Literature Review. *International Journal of Information Management Sciences*, 8(1), 229-245.

Presentations



- **Liu, Y, Q.**, (July 2024). Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and Smart Knowledge Technologies. Presented at the 7th International Conference on Computer Information Science and Application Technology in Hangzhou, China.
- Tauseef Hussain, **Soroya, S. H.** and Kanwal Ameen. (2024). Through the Artist's Lens: Investigating Image Search Behavior in the Creative Realm. Poster presented in San Diego at 2024 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition on June 27-July 2, 2024.
- **Soroya, S. H.** Facilitated five weeks workshop on "Generative AI for Creative Activity and the Classroom" for the faculty members of Southern Connecticut State University from September 12 to October 10, 2024.
- **Soroya, S. H.** and **Hak Joon Kim.** (2024). Defining Social Injustice in Library Collection Development. Accepted for presentation at the New England Library Association Conference at Portland in October 2024.
- **Salubi, Oghenere** (2024) It was the Age of Knowledge; It was the Age of Ignorance: Librarianship in an AI-Driven World. Presented at the SCSU Fall 2024 Faculty Tapas
- **Murtha, H.** & DeLorenzo, V. (2024). School and Public Library Collaboration: Findings from the CT Association of School Librarians Survey 2022.
- **Murtha, H.** & **Schofield, C.** (2024). Homeschoolers and Public Libraries: Findings from the CT Public Library and Homeschoolers Surveys 2023.



It was the Age of Knowledge; It was the Age of Ignorance: Librarianship in an AI-Driven World

Common Themes Behind Distrust	AI	Librarians
	Vast Information Access Reasoning Database Rapid Information Retrieval Profit-oriented Focus	Comprehend User Needs Provide Context Authoritative Sources People-oriented Focus
Examples of M&IP	Challenges	Future
	Algorithm Dependence Limited Context Reduced Depth of Interaction	Enhanced Information Access but What if in a world where algorithms create & curate humanity's every question and knowledge?

Honoring the Remarkable Career of Professor Arlene Bielefield

The end of the 2024 academic year was the end of an era for the Southern Connecticut State University Information and Library Science Department—Associate Professor Arlene Bielefield retired, at the age of 92, after an extraordinary career that spanned decades of service to both the University and the broader library and information science community. Bielefield received her MLS degree from SCSU in 1976, her Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut in 1981 and was a member of the Connecticut Bar Association. Little did she know how the two degrees would intersect in the 21st century as libraries sought leaders who could navigate through the entanglements of copyright and intellectual property law in the expansive digital environment.

Bielefield began her library career in 1966 as a library assistant at Middlesex Community College when the school was just being established. According to Bielefield “It was the best imaginable experience for anyone contemplating a career in libraries, because it meant learning to do every job in the library... from selecting, ordering, and paying for books, to cataloging them, putting them on the shelves and furnishing reference services using them.”

In 1971 she became the Bookmobile Librarian at the Russell Library (Middletown, CT) where “I visited neighborhoods, school, convalescent homes and housing projects to bring books to people of all ages.”

She later served as the Head of the Children’s Department and ultimately, was appointed Library Director.

By 1978 she had become the Patron Services Division Head at the Connecticut State Library supervising over 50 employees providing service via 17 departments and units including Archives, History and Genealogy, Connecticut Prison Libraries, Law and Legislative Reference, Acquisitions, Cataloging, and Preservation. In addition, she headed the Principal Law Library of Connecticut (Hartford) and oversaw 14 field law libraries located in court houses across the state.

For ten years beginning in 1986 Bielefield served as Director of the East Hampton Public Library responsible for the day-to-day operations of the library and managing a building that also housed a day care center and senior center, providing many opportunities for intergenerational programming and outreach. During her tenure, the library became a member of the LION (Libraries Online, Inc.) network, an early shared integrated library system, and public access computers were introduced for the first time.

During her time at East Hampton, Bielefield became an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at SCSU. At the undergraduate level she taught courses related to the book trade, children’s literature, user services, technical services and organization of information centers. Her graduate level courses were focused on legal bibliography, library management, personnel management, reference materials and services, and various bibliographic, media and technology topics. In 1995 Bielefield accepted a full-time teaching position and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1999. As the School was reorganized as a Department in the College of Education and the MLIS program re-imagined, Bielefield played a major role as a leader in the ALA re-accreditation effort and was a bridge between the old and new programs.

Professor Arlene Bielefield Cont. ...

As chair of the Department Curriculum Committee, she shepherded the full catalog of newly written ILS courses through the University approval process, including courses she had developed in the areas of Management, Collection Development, Ethics and the Information Profession and in 2023 introduced a popular new course called “Copyright: The Basics and Beyond.” Bielefield taught in-service workshops and lectured throughout the region and published numerous articles on the topics of copyright, licensing and intellectual property law and core competencies in librarianship. She published nine books between 1992 and 2007 including *Technology and Copyright Law: A Guidebook for the Library, Research & Teaching Professions*.

Bielefield gave generously in service to the University and library community serving on and chairing numerous committees including the University Library Committee, Graduate Council Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Connecticut State University (CSU) Distance Education Committee (as the MLS program at SCSU became the first fully online program in the country).

She also served multiple terms as the President of the Connecticut Library Association, chaired the Southern Connecticut Library Council and was a leader in the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) serving as Vice-President of the CSU-AAUP for multiple terms.

wards and honors bestowed include SCSU Distinguished Alumna (1985), the inclusion of her book *Technology & Copyright Law*, in the Library Journal list of “Best Professional Reading of the Year” (1998) and CLA Librarian of the Year (1992, 2023).

Professor Bielefield leaves behind a remarkable legacy of dedication, mentorship, and professional leadership. Her knowledge regarding library science and legal frameworks surrounding information management combined with her extensive real-world experience made her an outstanding educator who enthusiastically taught about the importance of information in society, the ethical implications of access, and the growing role technology plays in the future of libraries.

While she will be deeply missed by her colleagues, students, and the broader SCSU community, her influence will continue to resonate in the department and in the lives of all who had the privilege of learning from her. Her mentorship was characterized by patience, encouragement, and a genuine desire to see others succeed—and Connecticut libraries are filled with librarians who benefitted from her wisdom and guidance and belief in their potential!

To send personal messages or share memories with Professor Bielefield, please reach out to the ILS department via email opalenikk1@southernct.edu, or USPS mail at ILS Department, BU225, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515.

Together, we honor her incredible career!

Cindy Schofield

Professor,
Department of Information and Library Science,
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven

Awards



Devoted to the Promotion of Research in Science

By this Certificate Warrants that

Han Quan Liu

was duly elected a Full Member

by the

Committee on Qualifications and Membership

of the Society in the year 2024

and has accepted the privileges and responsibilities of this membership as specified by the constitution and bylaws.



*Jamie L. Vernon, Ph.D.
Executive Director*
*Marija Strojnik, Ph.D.
President*

Dr. Liu was honored with a nomination to Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, in 2024. As one of the most prestigious international organizations for scientists and engineers, Sigma Xi has upheld a legacy of excellence since its founding in 1886. Membership in Sigma Xi is by invitation only. The society includes some of the world's most influential scientists, such as Albert Einstein, Linus Pauling, Barbara McClintock, and Sally Ride. Over 200 Nobel Prize recipients have been members of the society. Full membership requires candidates to have published at least two refereed journal articles, patents, or monographs as the primary author. Typically, nominees have received significant national or international research-based awards or grants. Dr. Liu's nomination recognizes his valuable contributions to the field.

This recognition is particularly significant for the field of library science, an area that deserves greater acknowledgment in scientific research communities. Increased participation in Sigma Xi could foster valuable collaborations, enhance professional development, and expand research opportunities by providing access to funding and a global network of researchers. Dr. Liu hopes that more professionals in library science will receive similar recognition, further strengthening the field's contributions to the broader scientific community.

Dr. Saira Soroya was honored to receive a prestigious award from the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). The award's purpose is to recognize a new ASIS&T member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in professional ASIS&T activities. You can find more details at the following link <https://www.asist.org/2024/06/24/102658/>



The researchers at Stanford University have created a publicly available database that ranks the world's top-cited scientists based on standardized citation indicators. This ranking considers factors like total citations, h-index, and a special score (c-score) that accounts for co-authorship and different authorship positions. The latest update includes data up to the end of 2023 and identifies the top 100,000 scientists or those in the top 2% of their field. Dr. Soroya has been acknowledged among those 2% scientists Top 2% most cited scientists .

Research Grants

PI: Dr. Saira Soroya

“Exploring the Viability of Innovative Interventions for Enhancing Mental Well-being in Young Adults”

Funded by CSU-AAUP Faculty Research Grants, year 2024-2025 (\$5000).

PIs: Dr. Saira Soroya & Dr. Hak Joon Kim

"Addressing Challenges in Mitigating Social Injustice in Library Collection Development"

Funded by Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee (MRRC) Grants, SCSU, year 2024-2025 (\$2000).

PIs: Dr. Saira Soroya & Dr. Jess Gregory

"AI over Inertia, using AI in Creative Activity and the Classroom (a hands-on introduction)"

Funded by Faculty Development Grant, SCSU, year 2023- 2024

PIs: Dr. Saira Soroya & Dr. Hak Joon Kim

“Health Informatics Course Development”

Project based on market research, year 2024-2025 funded by the Southern Connecticut State University (\$5,000).

ILS Research Forum

The Department of Information and Library Science launched the "ILS Research Forum" in Fall 2023, where students showcased research projects developed in my class as part of their capstone work. Building on its success, two additional forums were held in 2024—one in the spring and another in the fall. These events showcased the outstanding research and academic achievements of our students while also offering faculty an opportunity to present their ongoing projects. By fostering a dynamic research environment, the forum has inspired and motivated students, contributing to a thriving research culture within the department and across the university. As a result, our students are now presenting their research at regional and international conferences. The department launched the ILS Research Forum in Fall 2023 under the leadership of Dr. Soroya, providing students with a platform to present research projects developed as part of their capstone work. Building on this success, the department successfully hosted two additional forums in 2024—one in the spring and another in the fall.



ALA Student Chapter Seminar



On Friday, November 8, 2024 the ALA Student Chapter at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) hosted a hybrid seminar featuring Amy Beth, Director of Buley Library, SCSU. The event was held both in person and virtually and was well attended by participants.



The seminar was organized by the ALA Student Chapter under the leadership of President Noah Pittman and Vice President Sudie Simmons, with guidance from the chapter's faculty advisor, Dr. Helene Martha.

Amy Beth shared valuable insights related to academic librarianship, leadership, and the evolving role of libraries in higher education.



The engaging session offered attendees the opportunity to learn from an experienced library professional and fostered meaningful discussion on current trends in the field.

Southern at the NELA Annual Conference



The Department of Information and Library Science at Southern Connecticut State University was represented at the New England Library Association (NELA) Conference held in Portland, Maine, in October 2024.

Professor Hak Joon Kim and Dr. Saira Soroya participated as exhibitors on behalf of the department. They hosted an exhibition stall featuring departmental materials and souvenirs, engaging with conference attendees and sharing information about the programs and initiatives at SCSU.

Their participation helped raise the visibility of the department and fostered connections within the regional library and information science community.

What We Offer?

Graduate Programs (online)

- Library and Information Science (MLIS)
- School Library Media Specialist (SLMS), Graduate Certificate

Core Courses

ILS 502 (MLIS/SLMS)

Fundamentals of Library and Information Science

An overview of the history, philosophy, purpose, function and structure of library/information agencies.

ILS 505 (MLIS/SLMS)

Information Resources Organization and Management

The description and organization of information resources; metadata, bibliographic records, databases, and catalogs.

ILS 507 (MLIS/SLMS)

Information Science and Technology

Principles and applications of computers, information systems, and communication technologies in libraries and information centers.

ILS 508 (MLIS/SLMS)

User Services

Planning, programming, implementation and evaluation of library and information services for a variety of users.

ILS 509 (MLIS)

Management of Library and Information Agencies

General principles of management theory and practice applicable to various types of information agencies. Decision-making, planning and employment practices are emphasized

ILS 545 (SLMS)

Administration and Design of School Library Media Centers

Overall administration of the school library media center including policy development, budgeting, personnel, organization, facilities, technology, and instruction.

ILS 582 (MLIS/SLMS)

Library Science Internship

A professional work experience in an academic, public, or special collections library, school library media center, archives, or similar institution.

New Offering 1.5 Credit Courses

ILS 528: Public Library Services for Children

ILS 529: Public Library Services for Young Adults

ILS 544: Introduction to Research Methods in ILS

ILS 549: AI Tools in Library Services

Advisory Board Members

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Vice Chair
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- 13. Tom Piezzo
- 14. Amy Beth
- 15. Maria Bernhey
- 16. Alessandra Casiello
- 17. Noah Pittman

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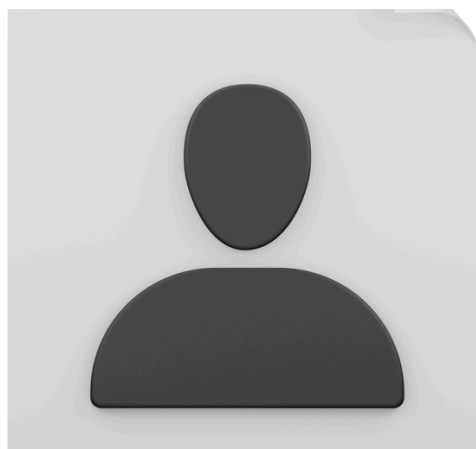
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