

7-1-2008

The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program Starts Records and Information Management Certificate Program

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Recommended Citation

Turrini, J. M. (2008). The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program starts records and information management certificate program. *The Records Manager*, 2(3), 13.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/slisfrp/78>

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The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program Starts Records and Information Certificate Program

By Joseph Turrini

The Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program (LISP) will offer a Records and Information (RIM) Certificate Program beginning in the fall 2008 semester. The RIM Certificate Program will complement, but be separate from, two-existing LISP certificate programs, the Archival Administration Certificate Program and the Information Management for Librarians Certificate Program. The 15 credit-hour program will provide the educational background and professional competencies required for people seeking employment in a variety of public and private sector settings, including, records managers, corporate librarians, imaging specialists and IT managers, for example.

Wayne State University has been training records managers for the past two decades in its Archival Administration Program. It has offered a records management course as an elective since 1992 and added electronic records management content as a part of an Electronic Archives course a number of years ago. The creation of the RIM Certificate Program is an expansion of these earlier offerings. It is a response to the increasingly complex nature of the records found in institutions, the enhanced legal obligations of institutions to properly store and re-

trieve information, and the expanded technological skills required of records and information managers.

The RIM Certificate Program has been developed with the assistance of professional records managers and with the support of ARMA International. Recent ARMA International surveys indicate that many organizations are not training their employees to properly manage their records. ARMA International studies have also noted that a majority of the RIM professionals hold a bachelor's degree and are seeking advanced educational opportunities to enhance their skills and careers. The RIM Certificate Program is designed to address these concerns by providing formal graduate level educational training focused on the most important competencies for records managers as defined by ARMA International.

The RIM graduate program will be offered exclusively online. Students may earn the certificate while concurrently enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science Program or they may enroll in the certificate program only.

More information on the Records and Information Management Certificate Program can be found on the Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program website, <http://www.lisp.wayne.edu/degrees/imcertificate.php>. Prospective students interested in the RIM certificate can also contact Judy Field at (313) 577-8539 or by e-mail at aa4101@wayne.edu.