SAIT LIT: Update from Southern Alberta

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This is a big year

- Centennial celebration

- SAIT turns 100 on October 16 – if you are alumni, be sure to watch the news and attend the events

- We have a new brand

- As well, new libraries being built in the city

Library Information Technology

- The focus for SAIT is excellence in applied education, SAIT president Dr. David Ross describes that as the development of hand and mind.

- LIT has an emphasis on applied experiential learning.

- Successful learners are problem solvers, risk-takers and information literate. They can recognize where they can apply what they have learned.

- Movers and shakers are successful learners who can also adapt and integrate technology.

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Numbers

- We are a smaller program in the School of ICT:
  - intake = 32
- Typically we fill…just…
- Last year we over-filled and only one student left
- Mostly female, but some recent years have increased in male numbers
- Practicum placements have included all types of libraries, around 55 places each year

Student resources

- This is a positive change from my days in post-secondary
- There are many student resources at post-secondary
- Accessibility, learning coaching, tutoring, writing clinics, counseling
- LIT is a program of choice for students with learning disabilities and faculty are supportive
- Broader SAIT priorities for campus life and a First Year Experience (FYE) initiative

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Courses

There is a range of courses, mostly technical: Three separate description courses, computer fundamentals, troubleshooting, online databse searching, ILS and other tech in libraries, records management, databases

Records management and electives

While we have made ithe program a technical and industry focused set of courses, we maintain electives. Largely unchanged. But many students take advantage of the IRM courses (a Distance Certificate) and courses in the School of Business.

Advisory committee

We have an advisory committee that meets annually in Spring.

Members include regional libraries, records centres, school libraries, public libraries and academic libraries.

Advisory feedback

- Recent committee meetings have highlighted the need for soft skills and confidence with technology.

- We are trying to update courses as we can. But as we all know, technology often outpaces our planning.

Soft skills and Practicum

- Two communication courses
- Library tech customer service course integrates communication on a desk, Practicum prep prepares students for the workplace too
- Practicum includes two placements in second year
- Three weeks in January; three weeks at the the end of April
- This is complex to manage but feedback is positive from both industry and students.

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Foundations

Our Intro to libraries course introduces students to types of libraries, typical roles of library technicians, jargon, library tours and general preparation for the program.
Is this foundation changing?

Related programs

- We offer the LIT diploma by distance
  - Day students often take a blended approach
- Library Operations Certificate by Distance
- Information Records Management
- iLIT with MCC

Blue sky

- Maker space shared between the Reg Erhardt Library and LIT
- Greater awareness for library role
- Data analytics, data visualization
- Student focus on social innovations and service learning
- Integrating indigenous ways of knowing and topics of truth and reconciliation
- Opportunities with CPL

Questions? Feedback?

I would love your feedback