**Rationale:** In order to more accurately reflect broader political, cultural, and societal changes, the course LIS 598 Government Information be given a permanent number. SLIS has offered a course related to government information/documents for many years under the course number LIS 517. The most recent course offering on the topic of government information was listed as LIS 598 Government Information. Giving this LIS 598 a permanent number will allow SLIS to refresh the course content and title and maintain a consistent course number.

**Course Objectives:**

The Introduction to Government Information course is designed to provide students with an overview of government information and its dissemination and use in a library context. Much of the course will be devoted to an examination of the information policies and practices of Canadian federal, provincial and local governments. In some ways, however, the underlying nature of government information policies and processes is universal and competence in government information librarianship is a skill which is transferable. We will therefore

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<td>LIS 5XX: Access, control, and dissemination of government information.</td>
<td><strong>★ 3 (fi 6)</strong> (either term, 3-0-0) The focus will be on the Canadian federal system with a view towards discovering patterns, approaches, and techniques applicable to other jurisdictions and bodies, in particular, the United States and International Governmental Organizations.</td>
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<td>Pre-requisites: LIS 501, 502, and 503 or consent</td>
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devote some time to the publications of the American and British governments as well as key international governmental organizations (IGOs).

**Measurable Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. have an understanding of the current policies and practices of Canadian federal, provincial and local governments in the publishing, recording of and access to government information.

2. be able to provide reference service using Canadian, foreign, principally American and British, national documents and international, principally UN, documents.

3. be able to evaluate and use the various bibliographical tools for finding and classifying information.

4. understand the problems of acquiring, classifying, using and promoting the use of government information.

5. be familiar with the challenges and opportunities related to the acquisition, use, and management of government information.
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
Faculty of Education – School of Library and Information Studies

CALENDAR CHANGE REQUEST FORM

Implementation Calendar Year: 2020/21
Type of Change: [ X ] NEW COURSE* [ ] EXISTING COURSE [ ] COURSE DELETION

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<td>LIS 5xx: Selected Topics in Information Policy</td>
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<td>★ 3 (fi 6) (either term, 3-0-0) An examination of selected topics in information policy including a focus on origins, policy and regulatory environment and current issues. Selected topics regularly examined are intellectual property; telecommunications policy; Access to Information, privacy, and surveillance.</td>
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Course title: LIS 5xx: Selected Topics in Information Policy

Rationale:

1) The proposed course enriches offerings in the area of information policy. While information policy topics are covered in a range of courses, Information Policy was the only course solely focused on these issues. Information Policy competences are reflected in the ALA’s Core Competences of Librarianship (1F and 1G).

2) The Information Policy course has run four times – Fall 2013 (F2F), Winter 2016 (F2F), Winter 2017 (Online), and Winter 2018 (F2F). Enrollment has been relatively consistent across the offerings with 17, 18, 21 and 17 students respectively.

3) The proposed course affords flexibility in covering a range of information topics. The original Information Policy course was limited in depth because of the breadth of the subjects covered (Introduction to Information Policy; Information Policy and the Information Society; Trends and Issues in Information Policy; Access to Information; Privacy; Surveillance; Copyright; Innovation; Open Content; Telecommunications Policy; Broadcasting Policy; Internet Policy). The proposed Selected Topics in Information Policy addresses this limitation by focusing on narrower policy domains within information policy, and it will also students to gain a better depth in the subject matter covered.

4) There is sufficient instructional capacity within the University of Alberta and Edmonton community to sustain various offerings. For example, Edmonton has a vibrant community of
copyright experts which could instruct “Selected Topics in Information Policy: Intellectual Property;” multiple professors across SLIS and the Masters of Arts in Communications and Technology program could instruct “Selected Topics in Information Policy: Telecommunication Policy.”

5) Having a permanent course in the area of information policy may build on the capacity of SLIS students to contribute to ongoing policy discussions and consultations. Notable, recent SLIS student policy contributions include: three students making a joint submission to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada’s 2018 consultation on online reputation; 13 students submitting a joint brief to the House of Common’s Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology’s Statutory Review of the Copyright Act; and, a SLIS student winning the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications 2018 CRTC Prize for Excellence in Policy Research (Master’s Category).
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NEW: LIS 5xx: Technology, Information, and Society
★ 3(fi 6) (either term, 3-0-0) A critical and interdisciplinary examination, incorporating human and social perspectives, of technology in the context of libraries and information organizations and of the complex relationships among technology, information, and society. Prerequisite: LIS 501 or consent of instructor.

Course title: LIS 5xx: Technology, Information, and Society

Rationale:
1. SLIS requires MLIS students to take at least two IT courses in order to complete their MLIS requirements. In addition, data from the curriculum review, exit surveys, and employment surveys indicate students, alumni, and employers all seek greater familiarity with LIS technologies and skills, theories, and practices associated with them. The proposed course is an IT designated course and thus helps meet this need.
2. The proposed course adds to the existing MLIS curriculum by educating students in human, social, and critical perspectives on LIS technologies, with a focus on evaluating and assessing LIS technologies through the lenses of these perspectives. This usefully (a) combines and connects both theory and practice around IT in LIS and cognate fields, and (b) augments existing IT courses that focus on skills and abilities with IT (e.g. LIS 534) and promote assessment, evaluation, and planning of IT adoption and use in LIS (e.g. LIS 539). Both theory and practice in both of these areas are believed necessary for MLIS graduates as they become librarians and information professionals, based on available data as mentioned above and the continuation of a range of IT courses and experiences in the MLIS curriculum.
3. The proposed course has been offered three times as part of the on-campus MLIS offering (Winter 2016, Winter 2017, and Winter 2019) with reasonably strong enrolments (13, 14, and 21 students completing the course, respectively), as well as twice as part of the online MLIS offering (Winter 2018 and Winter 2019) with reasonably strong enrolments (17 and 14 students, respectively), for a combined total of over 75 students having taken the course. Per
current SLIS timetabling the course will be offered again online in Winter 2020.

4. The title and course description provide sufficient flexibility for considering a range of human, social, and critical perspectives on LIS technologies and their design, implementation, adoption, use, and assessment. Specific course content can be tailored to emergent research, theory, and practice within these perspectives; the interests of students; and the domain knowledge of instructors and available guests.

5. There is enough capacity in SLIS to teach the proposed course. The course has been taught by two different instructors (Drs. Adam Worrall and Michael McNally) during its history as an LIS 598 pilot course.

**Recommendation:**

That a permanent course number be given to an existing LIS 598 course titled “Technology, Information, and Society” with the calendar description included above.
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| LIS 520-Information Resources in Specialized Fields  
★ 1-3 (variable) (either term, variable)  
Information resources and their administration in a specialized field and for a specialized clientele. The emphasis is on the nature of the field, problems of collection development, bibliographic access, retrieval and use by the clientele, and administrative issues in solving these problems. Specialized fields regularly examined are law, business, and health sciences. Prerequisites are variable, contact department for more information | LIS 520-Information Resources in Specialized Fields  
★ 3 *(fi 6)* (either term, 3-0-0)  
Information resources and their administration in a specialized field and for a specialized clientele. The emphasis is on the nature of the field, problems of collection development, bibliographic access, retrieval and use by the clientele, and administrative issues in solving these problems. Specialized fields regularly examined are law, business, and health sciences. Prerequisites are variable, contact department for more information |

**Course title:** LIS 520-Information Resources in Specialized Fields

**Recommendation:** To remove the variable credit offering from 1-3 to 3 credits.

**Rationale:** SLIS formally offered variable credit courses that ranged from 1 to 3 credits. Variable credit courses are no longer offered and therefore all SLIS courses should carry 3-credit weighting.
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<td><strong>LIS 593</strong> Archives Administration ★ 3 (fi 6) (either term, 3-0-0) <strong>Theories, standards and methods used in management of modern archives, with an historical overview and an emphasis on contemporary theory and practice.</strong> Pre or corequisite: LIS 501 or consent of instructor.</td>
<td><strong>LIS 593</strong> Introduction to Archival Studies ★ 3 (fi 6) (either term, 3-0-0) <strong>Introduction to theories, standards and methods used in modern archives, with an historical overview and an emphasis on critical and contemporary theory and practice.</strong> Pre or corequisite: LIS 501 or consent of instructor.</td>
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Rationale:

The revised title reflects the introductory nature of the course’s content and signals to students that this course provides an introduction to the topic upon which they might build in subsequent courses or through other means. The course content does not focus on the administration or management of archives but instead provides a high level overview of archival theory and practice. The revised title and calendar description are proposed to harmonize with new course topics and theoretical frameworks recently included within the course.