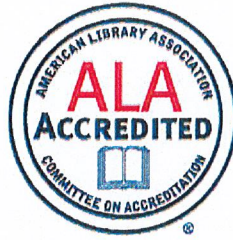


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June 26, 2016

Dania Bilal, Professor and Interim Director
Master of Information Sciences program
School of Information Sciences
University of Tennessee
1345 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dear Dr. Bilal:

On behalf of the Committee on Accreditation (COA/the Committee) of the American Library Association (ALA), I write to inform you that the Committee voted to grant Continued accreditation status to the program leading to the degree of **Master of Science in Information Sciences** at the University of Tennessee.

The next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for spring 2023 unless the COA is persuaded to take other action in the interim.

This decision was made at the Committee meeting on June 26, 2016, with the "totality of the accomplishment and the environment for learning... rather than from a consideration of the isolated particulars" (Standards, Introduction) in mind, and was based on the Program Presentation; the External Review Panel Report; the program's response to the ERP Report; all of the reports the program submitted to the Committee since the last comprehensive review; and the June 26, 2016, meeting with Eileen Abels, Chair of the of the External Review Panel; and the meeting following that with you, Robert Hinde, and Eileen Abels.

From this point forward, all reporting must address the revised *Standards for Accreditation* adopted by ALA Council on February 2, 2015. Electronic versions of the 2015 *Standards* are available at ala.org/accreditation. The spreadsheet that maps the 2008 *Standards* to the 2015 *Standards* may be especially helpful in the transition. Printed booklets are available upon request to accred@ala.org.

In a Special Report due by March 1, 2017, please address the following matters of concern (element numbers are from the 2015 Standards):

- I.1.3. Provide an update and evidence to demonstrate the program's use of systematically collected data to improve the program and to plan for the future. Include in this report progress of the Planning and Assessment Committee (e.g., the formal charge to the committee and documentation of specific activity such as minutes or actions taken);

- II.2. Provide an update on any curriculum changes demonstrating continued adherence to the ALA curriculum standards;
- IV.6. Provide documentation to demonstrate the program's application of student achievement evaluation data to program development.

In the next Biennial Narrative Report, due February 15, 2018, please address the following matter of concern (element number is from the 2015 Standards):

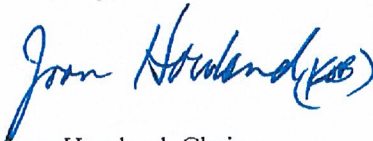
- V.6. Provide an update on any developments regarding the operating budgeting model for the program.

For your information and planning, the schedule for reporting is as follows:

Report	Due date
Annual statistical Report	December 1, 2016
Special report	March 1, 2017
Biennial Narrative Report	February 15, 2018

The Committee thanks all those who provided information and participated in the evaluation process. The cooperation of those associated with the program and with the University of Tennessee enabled us to facilitate the review of your program. We appreciate your cooperation in the ongoing evaluation, assessment, and review process of accreditation and we encourage you to continue your efforts.

Sincerely,



Joan Howland, Chair
Committee on Accreditation

cc: Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor, University of Tennessee
Susan Martin, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Tennessee
Robert "RJ" Hinde, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Tennessee
Michael O. Wirth, Dean, College of Communication and Information, University of Tennessee
Kimberly Douglass, Interim Associate Director, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee
Kitty McClanahan, Assistant to the Director, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee
Eileen Abels, ERP Chair
Karen O'Brien, Director, Office for Accreditation

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