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*Employment profile of the Bachelor of Library and Information Science graduates from 1996-2005: a follow-up study**

During the past 10 years, graduates of BLIS in the UP ILIS nearly doubled as compared to the graduates of BLIS from the 60s to 90s. Despite the efforts of the Institute and the alumni association, not much is known as to what is the current employment profile of the BLIS graduates. This study is a follow-up study which seeks to find out the current employment profile of BLIS graduates, particularly those who graduated from 1996-2005. This answers others questions about the graduates' entry level into the profession, the effectiveness of their preparation in BLIS for their current jobs, and their satisfaction working in the field of LIS. Of 300 graduates covered in the period of 1996-2005, only 205 graduates have been located despite exhaustive efforts in searching professional directories, inquiries from graduates and librarians and librarians' organizations, and even the use of web-based social networking sites.

Questionnaires were sent to graduates included in this study through surface mail and/or electronic mail. Quota sampling was used and after the required quota of the needed respondents was met, data analysis was done. Most of the respondents are employed in work related to the field of library and information science. The BLIS education prepared them well for the job they are currently engaged in as majority of the graduates are engaged in a job directly related to LIS and they further stressed that BLIS, indeed, gave them enough knowledge to handle their job more effectively. To further boost the academic preparation of the student in BLIS, an

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informal "tracking" was introduced to help students who want to specialize more in some specific aspect in librarianship. According to those who followed the tracking, tracking prepared them more for their present job. Many of the graduates are satisfied with their current job as they see this as exciting and rewarding. They also feel that they work in a job situated in good working conditions and see a good opportunity for professional growth in their job.