8/31/12

Bluegrass Community & Technical College
Application for Offering a New Focus Area

1. Name of Focus Area proposed:

Associate in Arts with Focus in Library Informatics
Associate in Science with Focus in Library Informatics

2. Effective Date (Semester, Year):

Fall 2013

3. Area/program responsible for Focus Area:

CSIS Division/IMD Program

4. Describe the Focus Area, identify the minimal number of hours and list the courses to be included:

Library Informatics includes concepts and skills for organizing, accessing, and assessing information.

The proposed focus area will prepare students to transfer to the Northern Kentucky University Bachelor of Science degree program in Library Informatics.

The focus area in Library Informatics will include (18 hours):

LIT 115, 3 hours
LIT electives, 9 hours
IMD 114 (Information Literacy), 3 hours (required for the NKU BSLI)
STA 210 (required for the NKU BSLI)

5. Rationale for offering the Focus Area

According to the Kentucky Occupational Outlook to 2020[1], Education, Training, and Library Occupations job openings, 2010-2020, are estimated to be 3,940. All 120 Kentucky counties are served by public libraries. Of approximately 2,000 public library employees, approximately hold the master's degree in library science. Approximately half of public library directors in Kentucky hold a bachelor's degree. The undergraduate library information technology courses offered by BCTC meet state education requirements for public library paraprofessional employee certification. To include this course work in a focus area for the AA/AS degrees provides a pathway for Kentucky public library employees to pursue additional education beyond the BCTC Academic Certificate and the associate degree to transfer to the Northern Kentucky University bachelor's degree program in library informatics. In addition to public library paraprofessional positions, bachelor's degrees are required for many academic library paraprofessional jobs.

[1] https://kylmi.ky.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Outlook.pdf. Table 1, p. 6

The Northern Kentucky BSLI was created specifically for transfers from the BCTC Library Information Technology/Information Management & Design area.

There are diverse job opportunities for Library Informatics majors. Careers in information can be found in private industries, public and academic libraries, and non-profit organizations. A degree in Library Informatics differs from related degrees in management and computer science due to the emphasis on information in all its forms (words, numbers, pictures, sounds) and on applying information technology to help people and organizations solve important problems.

Potential job titles for graduates of the program include:

- **Online researcher**
- **End-user Trainer**
- **Information Services Manager**
- **Office Automator**
- **Information Designer**
- **Market Research**
- **Online Content Editor**
- **Electronic Public Relations**

Graduate Programs - Graduates with this degree can also go on for further study in library science, management, and management information systems

6. Persons primarily responsible for courses in the Focus Area (I.e. coordinators of areas from courses listed in the Focus Area)

NAME(S)	AREA(S)	CONTACTED (**Yes**/No)
Martha Birchfield	**IMD/LIT**	**YES**
Robin Davis	**STA**	**YES**
Drew Hunt	**IMD**	**YES**

7. Who should be contacted further about the proposal?

NAME: **Martha Birchfield**
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