

Thank you very much, Dean Chen, for your hospitality in sharing this opportunity for learning, and for all the kindness of your staff, and for your generosity in inviting us. I'm happy that you and your President will be visiting the University of Illinois next week, and I assure you that my colleagues are prepared to receive you.

This has been a very successful conference, and a very effective celebration of your 90th anniversary: please accept my congratulations on behalf of the iSchools and the University of Illinois. As the last speaker, I want to note a few common themes from the conference and the agenda for LIS education:

LIS education doesn't always produce students who have the skills and qualifications that their library and archive employers need; on the other hand, employment opportunities are expanding into new areas, so our educational programs need to be both more broadly theoretical, and more systematically practical--students need hands-on experience, perhaps especially in archives but really in all areas of LIS education, and they need to learn foundational principles. Our schools need to retain their independence and assert the identity of the information professional, but in order to do that, Chinese LIS programs may need to shift their emphasis from undergraduate to masters-level education: by doing that, they may get students who have a clearer idea of why they are undertaking this education, and those graduates may be better representatives of the profession. In considering how to broaden and deepen LIS education for the new information environment, global

comparative studies are very useful--and I would suggest that their usefulness is also global: they are not just important for China, but also extremely useful for the US, for European programs, and for everyone involved in library and information science education. By doing these comparative studies, we can identify the enduring values of LIS education, and we can also diversify our approaches to new challenges, adopting and adapting one another's methods and curricula. I hope you'll share the LIS Education Facing Broader Professions Action Agenda with the rest of the iSchool deans and with ALISE and IFLA, as a starting point for a global discussion of education for information professions.

Going forward from this meeting, let's resolve to communicate more effectively with one another, to coordinate more strategically, and to celebrate both our similarities and our differences. With that, I declare this conference is closed, and the road ahead is open.