LIS 600-201: Information in Society, Fall, 2009  (v. 8/5/09)

Format: BlackBoard, plus one F2F meeting, August 28, 2-4PM in Little Library (LCLI) Room 302
Instructor Information: Dr. Donald O. Case. Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10-12, Wednesday 1-3
(859) 257-8415 • dcase@uky.edu (contact by email is preferred, for reasons of timeliness)

Official Course Description: An introduction to the nature of information (both utilitarian and aesthetic) in contemporary society, and to the role played by libraries and other information organizations in disseminating that information. Emphasis is on developing perspective.

Course goals: LIS 600 addresses the “Foundations of the profession” core competency area, as approved by the ALA. The course provides the following content: the history of human communication and its impact on libraries; the history of libraries and librarianship; types of libraries and related agencies; the importance of advocacy for libraries, librarians and their services; the ethics, values and foundational principles of the profession; the role of LIS professionals in promoting democratic principles and intellectual freedom; the legal framework within which libraries operate (e.g., laws respecting copyright, intellectual property, privacy, equal rights, and certification/licensure); and social, economic and cultural trends and policies of significance to the profession.

Assignments and Grading. Three reading reports each account for 10% of the grade (30% total). A term paper (10-12 double-spaced pages) accounts for 20%. Quizzes on the readings and PowerPoint presentations equals 30%. Participation in the class (including the F2F sessions) decides the final 20% of the grade.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<td>Reading reports (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final paper:</td>
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<td>Quizzes (6):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Online &amp; F2F Discussions</td>
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One text contains most of the required readings:

We will also read a few chapters from the following book:
Available at: [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Library/Services/](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Library/Services/)

Grading Policy. All grading is comparative and on a curve. Papers are assigned points in comparison with each other, based on quality of thought and of writing style, thoroughness of research and of references, length and originality. Papers or quizzes received after the due date will be assigned a lower grade than would otherwise be received. Only exceptional work will receive an “A” grade. There is no fixed boundary between grades; in the past “A” grades have typically required 185 out of 200 points.

Attendance, etc.: Each classmember must contribute regularly (i.e., at least 4 postings) to each set of Discussion Board questions—the equivalent of a "B" grade for "participation." Less participation will lower the grade; frequent, informed participation will raise it. Acceptable reasons for an excused absence from a class meeting include serious illness or bereavement; it is UK policy to grant incompletes (I grade) only for such reasons; see the UK Student Code for details (www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/). Students with documented disabilities must contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Center in advance of requests for accommodation. Papers for this class require original research and writing. Quotation of others’ work without full attribution is a violation of ethics and UK policy; Academic Senate rules stipulate an E grade, or worse, in instances of plagiarism.

Integration of Syllabus with UK Educator Preparation Unit Themes: This course will address the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education unit: research, reflection, learning, and leading. Students will be given the opportunity to review, analyze, discuss, and apply research from diverse perspectives in education and information seeking environments. Reflection will also be integrated into students' learning opportunities through the production of written work. This course emphasizes the commitment of the professional education unit to assure that its graduates move into their professional lives equipped for life-long learning as educators who will be active in leading colleagues in their schools and/or professional organizations. The ultimate goal in addressing these four themes is to produce leaders who work together to improve service and learning among diverse populations and improve education in Kentucky and beyond.

Integration of the Syllabus with the Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Technology: All UK professional education programs address and affirm the value of diversity in education, the use of technology to support all aspects of instructional programming, and the importance of obtaining high levels of skill in assessing the outcomes of instruction. This course provides students an opportunity to demonstrate attention to these themes and reflect on the mechanisms that this course has provided to demonstrate improved skills in these areas.
LIS 600: Tasks by date due [v. 8/5/09]. The definitive schedule is on Blackboard “Course Documents”; this printed syllabus will NOT reflect all web materials, such as PPT files and optional readings. Course weeks start on a Monday and end on Sunday.

WEEK 1 (Friday, 8/28, 2-4PM): Introduction to course.

First “face-to-face” (F2F) Meeting on Lexington campus in LCLI 302 -- Little Library, Top Floor.

Film: The New York Public Library.  [No reading due for this meeting]

Tasks: Buy text books, login to BlackBoard, and describe yourself and your interests.

WEEK 2 (8/30-9/6): History of libraries and information technology.


WEEK 3 (9/7-9/13): The sociology of professions. The profession of librarianship.

[View from EbscoHost via the UK Libraries Electronic Journals page: http://sfx.uky.edu:3210/sfxlcl3/azlist/default ]


DUE: Quiz #1 by Sunday, Sept. 13, 11PM.

WEEK 4 (9/14-9/20): Defining “information.”


DUE Sept. 18: Reading Summary #1. Read, summarize and be prepared to describe an article on any aspect of the profession (e.g., its history, image, rewards). See the attached list of journals from which to choose.

WEEK 5 (9/21-27): Information seeking and information services.


Case, D. (2002). Chapter 4, Information seeking. [file attached to Course Documents folder.]

Case, D. (2002). Chapter 5, Other concepts. [file attached to Course Documents folder.]

DUE: Quiz #2 by Sunday, Sept. 27, 11PM.


DUE: Quiz #3 by Sunday, Oct. 4, 11PM.

WEEK 7 (10/5-11): Libraries by type and organization: Public and School libraries.


Blackwelder, M. B. & Dimitroff, A. The image of health sciences librarians: how we see ourselves and how patrons see us. Available at: http://204.52.204.77/issues/vol84/number3/84-3-345.html


DUE Oct. 16: Reading Summary #2. Read, summarize and critique an article on the changes in libraries prompted by technological change. See the attached list of journals from which to choose.


Templeton, B. Ten big myths about copyright explained. Available at: http://www.faqs.org/faqs/law/copyright/myths/part1/

DUE October 30: One-page description of term paper topic, with at least two references (ungraded).


ALA. The 100 most-frequently challenged books. Available at: http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bbwlinks/100mostfrequently.htm

ALA. Facts about libraries and filtering. Available at: http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=cipa&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=44278


DUE: Quiz #5 by Sunday, November 8, 11PM.

Rubin, R. (2004). Chap. 9, "The library as an institution," in Foundations... [NOTE: Just read the last few pages of this chapter, on "human resources."]


Video (requires RealPlayer): Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng, University of North Texas.


Dupre, Deirdre. The perception of image and status in the library profession. [The following URL takes you to a page on the U. of Oregon website. Near the bottom is a link, "View/Open," to the actual article. The article is preceded by a commentary from someone else, so read carefully to see where Dupre's text begins.]
https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/dspace/handle/1794/1109


NB: No activity November 23-26 due to Thanksgiving. The final weeks start on Fridays and end on Thursdays.


Borrow, view, and discuss on BlackBoard, one of the following films from a library, Netflix or a video rental store:

- All the Queen’s Men
- Desk Set
- Foul Play
- Goodbye Columbus
- Gun in Betty Lou’s Handbag
- Major League
- The Music Man
- The Name of The Rose
- Off Beat
- Party Girl
- Possession
- Storm Center
- Soylent Green
- Salmonberries
- Where the Heart is

DUE November 27: Reading Summary #3. Read, summarize and critique an article or chapter on library ethical and/or policy issues. See the attached list of journals and books from which to choose.

WEEKS 15 (12/4 – 12/10): Prepare and post a 300-500 word description of your final paper to the indicated Discussion Board. Describe the topic and the sources, and what you learned and concluded. If there are any practical implications for information agencies, describe those. Respond to all questions by other classmembers.

DUE: Quiz #6 by Sunday, Dec. 6, 11PM.

The final paper is due by Friday, Dec. 11, 4PM – the last official day of classes at UK.
Reading Reports: List of Journals -- 2000 to Present

(NB: These are not on reserve but are widely available at academic libraries via electronic access.)

Bulletin of the Medical Library Association
College and Research Libraries
Government Publications Review
Information Outlook (formerly Special Libraries)
Information Research (electronic only: http://informationr.net/ir/)
Journal of Academic Librarianship
Journal of Information Ethics
Journal of Library Administration
Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology
Law Library Journal
Library & Information Science Research
Library Quarterly
Library Trends
Partnership: the Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research
(http://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj)
Public Libraries
School Library Journal
School Library Media Quarterly

Guidelines for Preparing a Reading Report (1-3 pages each)

Over the course of the semester, read articles from three different journals. Begin your report with a complete citation (including all page numbers) to what you read. Choose articles of at least 5 pages in length; avoid publications like American Libraries or Library Journal that have very brief articles. Summarize what the author says in 200-400 words, double-spaced. Where appropriate, note what other work the author uses (through references and discussion.) Quote from the work only if you think the exact wording is particularly important. Most important points: critique what the author says in another 200-400 words; connect what you read to your own experience if possible. The total length should be 600-800 words. If submitted electronically the report MUST be a .doc or .rtf file, NOT a .docx or .wps format. Please do not include a cover page, just be sure your name is at the top of the first page. Overall, aim for a variety of journals and for articles of substance; do not choose regular columns or reviews of books or other media. For the same reason choose longer, more substantive, articles from the other journals. Be prepared to discuss what you learned in class.
LIS 600: Guidelines for Preparing a Term Paper

Outcome: A paper of 10-12 typed, double-spaced, numbered pages, investigating an aspect of the information professions. You will be asked to turn in a tentative topic description partway through the semester: one or two paragraphs, with at least two citations, will be sufficient. If you don’t hear from me within a week, your topic is fine as it is. Most past papers for this course have concerned a development, trend or controversial issue in libraries.

Identify a topic of interest to you and prepare a review and essay on the topic. Identify at least six relevant publications and discuss them; the publications may include some from the required reading list, but should include other publications and could include non-bibliographic sources (e.g., interviews, the WWW, personal experience). Concentrate on those sources you consider most important.

Virtually all of you will already know how to write a research paper. The rest of this text is mainly for those few of you who haven’t had much recent experience doing it:

Picking a topic: The first step is to identify a topic. Ideally your choice will be based on both interest and expertise. You will find the assignment easier if you select an area with which you are already familiar and which you find of interest -- based on your previous education, job, reading interests or social concerns. However you proceed, pick a topic that builds on your strengths.

Topics may differ considerably in the size of their literature. The areas that serve as "weekly topic headings" are too broad for a paper -- but they encompass many narrower sub-topics that may interest you. Consult the references in the text and other readings. If you are finding your topic to be too broad, here are some ways to narrow it:

- Restrict the topic to a particular setting. For example, your concern might be reference service in academic libraries, and what research tells us that might help libraries better serve their clients in that regard. Or it might explore the challenges of copyright for school libraries. Or in one-person libraries.

- Restrict the topic to a social or occupational group. Similar to the above approach, one might write about serving "rural residents," "the elderly," "distance learners," "African Americans," or "Hispanics." (Material on some groups is sparse -- you may need to incorporate more general literature.)

- Focus on a controversy or trend. This can be a very original approach, but among the hardest to research and limit. For example: why the Harry Potter books touched a nerve among some parents, or the attacks by Nicholson Baker and others on public libraries (controversies). Or how the Patriot Act has affected library policy, or how the WWW affects library reference service (trends).

It helps to start with some knowledge of "who is doing what" and follow-up on the names of individual writers and publications, by following the citations you see. I prefer (but do not require) that you cite "author (year)" in the text, and use citations in APA format for citing books and journals, e.g., "... Johnson (1997) and Chatman (1990) said..." would be cited in the references as:


WHATEVER CITATION STYLE YOU USE, THE REFERENCES MUST BE CONSISTENT AND COMPLETE! Please do not include a cover page or an abstract.