LIS 600-201: Information in Society, Spring, 2010 (v. 7/26/2010)

Format: BlackBoard online class

Instructor Information: Dr. Donald O. Case. Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10-12, Wednesday 1-3
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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. The grade is decided according to the following percentages:
- Reading reports (3): 30%
- Final paper: 20%
- Quizzes (6): 30%
- Participation in Online & F2F Discussions: 20%

One text contains about a third of the required readings:

We will read a few chapters from these books; the first is free online, the second is not:
Available at: 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 course activities 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 attaining 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. The definitive schedule is Blackboard “Course Documents”; this printed syllabus does NOT reflect all web materials, such as PowerPoints and optional readings. Course weeks start on Mondays and end on Sundays, except for week One, which runs Wednesday to Sunday. Note that all written work is due on a Friday (preferably by 4PM), while Quizzes and Discussion are due Sundays.

WEEK 1 (8/25 -9/5): Introduction to course.

[No reading due for this week]

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

WEEK 2 (9/6-12): History of libraries and information technology.


WEEK 3 (9/13-19): The sociology of professions. The profession of librarianship.


DUE: Quiz #1 by Sunday, Sept. 19, 11PM.

WEEK 4 (9/20-26): Defining “information” and “Information science.”


DUE Friday, Sept. 24: 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 (9/27-10/3): 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, Feb. 14, 11PM.

**WEEK 6 (10/4-10): The Information Society: Implications for libraries.**


**WEEK 7 (10/11-17): Libraries by type/organization: Public and School libraries.**


**DUE:** Quiz #3 by Sunday, Oct. 17, 11PM.

**WEEK 8 (10/18-24): Libraries by type/organization: Academic & Special 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


Shamel, C.L. (July/August, 2002). Building a brand: Got librarian? Searcher, 10 (7). Available at: http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/jul02/shamel.htm

**DUE Friday, Oct. 22:** 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.


DUE: Quiz #4 by Sunday, Oct. 31, 11PM.

WEEK 10 (11/1-7): Issues: Copyright, access and the Digital Divide.


Henderson, Carol. Libraries as creatures of copyright: Why librarians care about intellectual property law and policy. Available at: http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/copyright/copyrightarticle/librariescreatures.cfm

Pew Internet and American Life Project. Latest Trends. [NOTE: Just examine the first two links, about “Demographics” and “Activities –Total”.] Available at: http://www.pewinternet.org/trends.asp


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

DUE Friday, Nov. 5: 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, Nov. 14, 11PM.


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

Engle, Michael. Remythologizing Work: The role of archetypal images in the humanization of librarianship. Available at: http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/staff/moe/archetype.html


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 Friday, Dec. 3: 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.

WEEK 15 (12/6-12): 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. 12, 11PM.

The final paper is due by Friday, Dec. 10, 4PM – the last official day of classes at UK.
Reading Reports: List of Journals – Based on Published Literature 2000 to Present

(NB: These are not on reserve but are widely available at academic libraries via electronic access. For easy links to the Open Access journals, consult the DOAJ site: http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=subject&cpid=129)

Bulletin of the Medical Library Association
College and Research Libraries
Communications in Information Literacy (Open Access)
Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (Open Access)
Government Publications Review
Information Outlook (formerly Special Libraries)
Informing Science (Open Access)
Information Research (Open Access: 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 and Information Research: Research Into Practice for Information and Library Services (Open Access)
Library Philosophy and Practice (Open Access)
Library Quarterly
Library Trends
Public Libraries
School Library Journal
School Library Media Quarterly
School Library Media Research (Open Access)

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 a .docx file, NOT .wps format. Please do NOT include a cover page, and 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.
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.