School of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky  

LIS 601 202 Information Seeking, Retrieval and Services – Spring Semester 2012  
Dates of Semester: January 11 – May 4, 2012  

Instructor: Ning Yu  
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E-mail: ning.yu@uky.edu  
Office: 329 Little Library Building  

Course Syllabus  

Contact information: I prefer that you contact me via e-mail; my address is ning.yu@uky.edu. If you wish to talk or meet with me, I recommend you to make an appointment via e-mail. My office hours are 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesdays. My goal is to respond to student communications sent to me via e-mail within twenty-four hours of receipt of the e-mail on weekdays and within forty-eight hours on weekend.  

Course Format: This is an online course, but I require asynchronous class discussion via Blackboard to facilitate a sense of community.  

Course description: LIS601 is one of four core, or required, courses in the School of Library and Information Science master’s-degree program. The course description reads:  

An introduction to the theory and practice of information seeking and retrieval. Emphasis is placed on the roles played by information professionals to assist navigation of the user-system interface including question negotiation, the formulation of effective search strategies for information retrieval, and the evaluation of information sources and services. Ethics of information evaluation and services is also considered.  

Course overview: The course text (Bopp and Smith (B&S)) helps organize the course. Other readings are designed to supplement this textbook.  

Course objectives:  

- Identify the characteristics of diverse and underserved populations within the United States, design and implement programs for diverse and underserved populations within their library’s community, and evaluate and select information resources to support the diverse and underserved populations within their library’s community;  
- Interpret and evaluate research on user information seeking behavior and services and describe the important aspects of information seeking behavior in the provision of professional practice;  
- Examine ethical issues and apply them to the practice of library and information science and define their ethical responsibilities as information professions both as individuals and as part of the collective;  
- Identify and apply appropriate methods to match user information needs through the identification, selection, evaluation and dissemination of information and applying instruction strategies to teach users to identify, select, acquire and evaluate information; and  
- Detect methods for assessing information needs of users and describe methods for integrating needs assessment data in the provision of information services.  

Required textbooks:  


Additional readings: There will be additional readings to the textbooks, principally journal articles and reference-related web content.
Course grade:

- Analyzing Your Own Information Behavior 90 points (30%)
- Community Resource Audit 90 points (30%)
- Discussion Leading 60 points (20%)
- Participation 60 points (20%)

*core course artifact

Analyzing Your Own Information Behavior (30%):
1. Pick and describe an information behavior from your life.
2. Discuss what this behavior demonstrates about your information needs, how and where you look for and use information, and the information problems you face in your life. Your discussion should make clear that you have thought about and understand the concepts of information, information needs, information seeking, and information behavior as discussed in course readings.
3. Select two of the models, paradigms, or theories we have read about and/or discussed and analyze your information behavior using each of these two models, paradigms, or theories to interpret your behavior in two different ways.
4. Compare and contrast the results of your two analyses. How did these models, paradigms, or theories affect your interpretation of your information behavior? How useful were these models, paradigms, or theories for explaining your information behavior?

To give full attention to the paper, please produce at least 3,000 words of content.

Community Resource Audit = Report and Presentation (25%) and Peer Review (5%)
1. Select and describe a community for which you would like to know more about their information needs, uses, and behaviors.
2. Find research articles on the information behavior of this community, and use your interpretation and evaluation of the research on user information seeking behavior and services and describe the important aspects of information seeking behavior in the provision of professional practice; DO NOT simply summarize what has been researched, but relate the research articles to each other and synthesize a theme out of the articles you find.
3. Examine ethical issues related to your community and provide example from practice that relate to your responsibilities as information professional serving that community;
4. Apply appropriate methods to match user information needs of your community through the identification, selection, evaluation and dissemination of information and list at least 20 resources that may be useful for your community. A portion of your grade will come from the comments of this peer review.
5. Identify methods for assessing your community's information needs and discuss how you would conduct a needs assessment (or other research) to learn more about the community. What evaluations would you use? What questions would you ask? How would you analyze the data you gather? How might the results of your analysis improve our understanding of this population's information behavior? How would you effectively select, locate, evaluate resources to meet their information needs?
6. Finally, you will prepare a 10 minute presentation of your community resource audit to instruct members of your assigned group. A portion of your grade will come from the comments of this peer review.
7. The peer review will be confidential and based on a scale of one to five of the quality of your presentation. Your peer review grade will result from the mean of the scores given to you by the peers in your group.
8. Optional: if the members of your community of interest are easily reachable, you are encouraged to conduct simple interview or survey to facilitate step 2, 3 and/or 5.

Discussion Leading (20%)
Students will select a topic they are most interested in leading a discussion on. For that topic, each student will be responsible for leading a discussion board thread with discussion questions and select readings about their topic (this will begin Week 4). Successful discussion leaders must be prepared to lead a discussion board on their topic. This is beyond summarizing reading materials for the class. You will be responsible for questions and activities that will lead and shape your discussion during your week, including responding on the discussion boards about your topic (as best you can).
Participation (20%)
It is important to note that class participation is twenty percent of your grade because participation is an important component of facilitating learning in this class. Participation points come from both quantity and quality posts to the discussion board for each of the fifteen weeks of the semester (i.e., 4 points for a quality post X 15 discussion boards = 60 points). A quality post includes a substantive and thoughtful contribution to each week's discussion board topics, during that week. To get full participation in a week; however, please also react to at least one other student's post. The week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday at midnight. No credit will be given for posts that occur after the week. A quality post is both substantive (in most instances this means at least one hundred words) and thoughtful (“I agree with the author” is not a credit-worthy response). Please note: discussion board prompts will be posted in the graded discussion forum each week.

At the end of the course, I will convert the points earned into a percentage:

- 90% and above = A
- 80% to 90% = B
- 70% to 80% = C
- below 70% = E

I assign the grade of I (incomplete) only when I am convinced the student’s circumstances warrant it.

Course schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begins</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Pages in Textbook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Syllabus, Databases Video, and Chapter 1 (B&amp;S)</td>
<td>3-28</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Information Needs and Information Seeking</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (B&amp;S)</td>
<td>57-94</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RUSA Guidelines for Behavioral Performance of Reference and Information Service Providers <a href="http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesbehavioral.cfm">http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesbehavioral.cfm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SUBMIT TOPIC YOU CHOOSE FOR DISCUSSION LEADING TO ME BY 9:00 AM EST January 23, 2012.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Analyzing Your Own Information Behavior PAPER DUE 9:00 AM EST February 20, 2012.

**Access-Related Reference Services**

Week 7 Feb 20 Chapters 6 (B&S) 161-190


Week 8 Feb 27 Chapters 7 (B&S) 191-220


Week 9 Mar 5 Chapter 13 (B&S) 387-410


**March 12-17 - Monday through Saturday - Spring Vacation - Academic Holidays**

**Ethics**

Week 10 Mar 19 Chapter 2 (B&S) 29-56


Week 11 Mar 26 Chapters 12 (B&S) 341-386

RUSA Guideline for Library Services to Older Adults [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/libraryservices.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/libraryservices.cfm)


RUSA Guidelines for Library Services to Teens [http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesteens.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/resources/guidelines/guidelinesteens.cfm)

**Information Literacy and Instruction**

Week 12 Apr 2 Chapters 8 (B&S) 221-260


ACRL Information Literacy
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/index.cfm

Week 13 Apr 9  Chapters 9 (B&S)  261-302

LOEX Instruction Resources
http://www.emich.edu/public/loex/resources.php

Evaluation and Delivery

Week 14 Apr 16  Chapter 10 (B&S)  303-321


Week 15 Apr 23  Chapter 11 (B&S)  323-340


Week 16 Apr 30  Community Resource Audit Presentations

Community Resource Audit PAPER DUE 9:00 AM EST April 30, 2012.

Withdrawal Policy

It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college. Failure to do so will result in receiving an "F". The last day to drop/withdraw is April 6, 2012.

Diversity

The course content and the course environment are dedicated to an understanding of and acceptance of all people. Disparaging remarks in relation to others’ ethnic or racial background, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic background, etc., will not be tolerated.

ADA Services

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations in this course, please make your request to the University Disability Center. The Center will require current disability documentation. When accommodations are approved, the Center will provide me with a Letter of Accommodation which details the recommended accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center, Jake Karnes, Director at 859-257-2754 or jkarnes@email.uky.edu. The Center is located in the Alumni Gym, Room 2, at the corner of Avenue of Champions and South Limestone Street (next to the Student Center and across South Limestone Street from Kennedy Bookstore). See the campus map.

Other course requirements

You will need access to an appropriate computer with a broadband Internet connection. NOTE that it is YOUR responsibility to ensure you have a reliable computer for use during the course. Ongoing “computer problems” will not be considered a legitimate excuse for missing course activities. If you have a computer that is known to be unreliable, you should rectify that situation. Note that all UK students are eligible for a one time free download of Office from the UK download site (https://download.uky.edu); you can get help with this process from the UK helpdesk (859.257.1300; http://www.uky.edu/IT/CustomerService/).
Blackboard

We will use the Blackboard course management system to facilitate the class. Please visit http://www.uky.edu/Blackboard/ to learn about this system and the login requirements. You should be automatically added to the Blackboard roll; if this goes as expected, you will not have to sign up manually for the course. Blackboard help is available online through the Blackboard wiki website (http://wiki.uky.edu/Blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Home.aspx), and from the UK helpdesk (859.257.1300; http://www.uky.edu/IT/CustomerService/). The helpdesk is also able to assist with all general computing issues (file download, browser updates, etc.).

Distance Learning Library Services:

At UK, students in online courses have available Distance Learning Library Services. The link to DLLS is: (http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS) Here is some of the information at that site:

Phone: (859) 257-0500, ext. 2171; 2nd Phone: (800) 828-0439; Fax: (859) 257-0505
E-mail: dllservice@email.uky.edu ; Location: 2-2, north wing, William T. Young Library 0456

Distance Learning Librarian: Carla Cantagallo