LIS630 ONLINE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL  
School of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky, Summer, 2010

Instructor:  Rick A. Brewer  
rick.brewer@uky.edu (Indicate LIS 630 in Subject Header for my attention)

Office Hours:  7:30 am - 4:00 pm, M-F  
Medical Center Library

Phone:  859-323-5296 Work  
859-552-5076 Cell

Class Time:  4:30 pm - 7:00 pm T & TH

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines online information retrieval processes and services. It emphasizes searching commercially available online retrieval systems and databases and focuses on two major components of electronic searching strategies: the knowledge about system structure of electronic databases and the various strategies, models and approaches to online searching. The course contents cover the pre-search interview, query analysis, database selection, search strategy development, online protocol, and evaluation of search results. Current status of and future trends in the online industry are also discussed.

Prereq or concur: LIS 601 and LIS 602 or consent of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student should be able to:

• Outline a brief history of the online/computer-based industry, discuss current issues, and analyze future trends.
• Negotiate search requests, formulate strategies, select appropriate databases and evaluate search results.
• Describe the theoretical framework for computer-based searching, including file structure, search logic, controlled vs. natural languages, and system organization.
• Outline basic administrative policies and procedures necessary for the management of computer-based services and products.
• Perform searches on a variety of platforms and explain variations in search engines and search results.
METHOD:

- Course lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on practice
- Class discussions of issues and exercises
- Reserve readings (*indicates "highly-recommended")
- Exercises, both graded and those for practice
- Database comparisons by subject

POLICIES AND GRADING:

- Because of the laboratory nature of this course, attendance is required. Absenteeism will impact the final grade. Although the materials on reserve are not "required" reading, they should serve as an adequate representation of lectures if you must miss a class.
- Collaboration on practice exercises is acceptable. We will discuss these assignments in class, however, so you must be prepared to present any of the questions if called upon.
- Graded searches are part of your final grade and must be completed on an independent basis.
- Coursework will be evaluated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination I</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Searches (3 @ 15% each)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination II</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, see [http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf) for additional information regarding the School of Library and Information Science General Course Policies statement.

Summer Class Schedule and Reading List:

Although there is no textbook, the following book provides many of the readings and will be identified throughout by the name of the first author:

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

6/10 Th  Introduction and Review of Course Syllabus

History/overview of the online process. Searcher education and attributes.

Lecture 1 PowerPoint Slides


6/15 Tu  Database structure, organization and selection. Search logic: Venn diagrams, logical and positional operators, ranked retrieval, etc.

Lecture 2 PowerPoint Slides


*Conger, L.D. Back to basics: basic indexes, the space, the hyphen, and all that. Database 12(5):119-123, Oct. 1989.*

Walker & Janes, Chapter 5. "Database Construction and Structure." pp. 55-74. (Online access via NetLibrary)

6/17 Th  Database structure, organization and selection. Search logic: Venn diagrams, logical and positional operators, ranked retrieval, etc. (Cont'd)
Class relocates to MCL Computer Lab

Lecture 3 PowerPoint Slides


Walker & Janes, Chapter 11. "Searching Other Kinds of Databases.". pp. 227-261. (Online access via NetLibrary)

6/22
Tu

Natural vs. controlled vocabulary searching. Thesaurus design.

Lecture 4 PowerPoint Slides


Walker & Janes, Chapter 8. "Searching Using Free Text." pp. 139-175. (Online access via NetLibrary)

6/24
Search negotiation. Strategy formulation. Begin OvidSP.
Lecture 5 PowerPoint Slides

Lecture 5 pt.2 PowerPoint Slides


6/29

Tu Refining search strategy. Precision vs. recall. Continue OvidSP.

Lecture 6 PowerPoint Slides


7/1

Th Discuss OvidSP exercises. Search services administration. Graded OvidSP exercise distributed.

Lecture 7 PowerPoint Slides


Examination I

7/6 Tu  **OvidSP Graded searches due.**

7/8 Th  **Begin FirstSearch**

7/13 Tu  **Discuss FirstSearch exercises.** Graded FS Distributed. **Begin DIALOG.**

DIALOG I PowerPoint Slides

DIALOG pocket guides and other vendor information available online.


7/15 Th  **Discuss DIALOG exercise I.** Continue DIALOG: ONESEARCH, citation searching.

DIALOG II PowerPoint Slides


7/20  Discuss DIALOG exercise II. Continue DIALOG special searching features as time permits (map, report, etc.). **Due: FS Graded searches.**

DIALOG III PowerPoint Slides

7/22  Discuss DIALOG exercise III. Trends and issues in computer-based searching. Graded DIALOG search distributed.

Trends/Issues PowerPoint Slides


7/27-29  DIALOG.

Tu-Th  Database Evaluation
Due: Graded DIALOG searches.

Review for Examination

Examination II

Note: Not a "final" per se, but it will test you over your basic understanding of the objectives of the course.