

Law Librarianship LIS 641
Summer 2015
School of Library and Information Services
University of Kentucky

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Office Hours

As an online class office hours are a meaningless concept. In the world of law libraries you will be on call to attorneys, judges and other patrons via a variety of communication methods. This may be via phone, fax, e-mail, online chat, or live. As such those are all methods which I will employ to keep in contact with you. I will try and be accessible to you in all of the above mentioned ways, whichever is most convenient to our mutual schedules.

Required Text

The assigned text for this class is *Law Librarianship in the Digital Age*, editor Ellyssa Kroski, Scarecrow Press, Inc: Lanham (2014)

Online Course Page

This class will not be using Blackboard, we will use TWEN instead. TWEN is an online course page created specifically for law schools. It is very similar to Blackboard but allows for easy access to online legal materials. You will need a user name and password to access the TWEN page **which I will be providing to you.**

Course Grading

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|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Law Library Visit & Report. | 40% |
| 2. | Online Discussions | 40% |
| 3. | Article Review | 20% |

Course Objective

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the field of law librarianship. Law librarians are trained to work with legal materials and conduct legal research for their clients, usually lawyers. You will visit a law library and write a paper describing what you learned during the visit. You will participate in online discussions where we will explore various topics affecting the law library world. Finally you will read and review an article dealing with a current topic in law librarianship.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the professional organization that is devoted to the advancement of the law library profession. AALL has created a core set of competencies for law librarians. These can be found at [<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Leadership-Governance/policies/PublicPolicies/competencies.html>]. Please review these competencies so that you can gain a better understanding as to what it is that law librarians do. As you will see many law librarians serve as specialized Jack of All Trades. This class will give you a broad overview of the field. It is hoped that you will like what you learn and decide that this might very well be a career path that you would like to pursue.

Class Assignments

Section One: Online Discussions

This part of the course will be based on the readings in our textbook. Each week we will explore various chapters in the textbook. I will post questions for you to consider and I will ask individual students to be responsible for answering these questions. I will then comment and ask your fellow students to comment as well. Through these discussion forums I hope to give everyone a broader understanding of many of the issues that law librarians face each day. Our discussions will be asynchronous, but there will be set times when the discussions will begin and end. These discussions will occur via the TWEN page “forums”.

Week 1: [June 11th-18th] Chapters 1 & 6 (pp.3-12, pp.89-106); Questions will be posted on June 11th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on June 15th, and the discussion will be open through Noon on June 18th.

Week 2 [June 19th-25th]: Chapter 7 (pp.109-122); Questions will be posted on June 19th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on June 23rd, and the discussion will be open through Noon on June 25th.

Week 3 [June 26th - July 2nd]: Chapters 14-17 (pp.235-311); Questions will be posted on June 26th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on June 30th, and the discussion will be open through Noon on July 2nd.

Week 4 [July 3rd - July 9th]: Chapters 18-19 (pp.315-344); Questions will be posted on July 3rd, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on July 7th, and the discussion will be open through Noon on July 9th.

Week 5 [July 10th - July 16th]: Chapters 20-21 (pp.347-371); Questions will be posted on July 10th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on July 14th, and the discussion will be open through Noon on July 16th.

Week 6 [July 17th - July 23rd]: Chapters 25-26 (pp.429-466); Questions will be posted on July 17th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on July 21st, and the discussion will be open through Noon on July 23rd.

Week 7 [July 24th - July 30th]: Chapters 27-28 (pp.469-501); Questions will be posted on July 24th, assigned students should have their answers posted by Noon (EST) on July 28th, and the discussion will be open through Noon on July 30th.

Section Two: Law Library Site Visit

I will assign you to a particular law library and librarian, you will arrange for a tour of the library and an interview. A report based on the interview will then be written up. A series of questions to consider will be circulated prior to the tour and interview are conducted. We will have a discussion forum open to discuss the visits beginning the week of **July 14th**.

Assignment: This assignment is available under the Assignment Drop Box tab and must be submitted on the due date via this Tab. **The visit must occur by July 21st, 2014, and the report is due by August 5th, 2014, at 6:00pm EST.**

Section Three: Article Review

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the world of law librarianship you will read an article from Law Library Journal (the leading academic journal relating to law librarianship). I will then ask that you write up a 2-3 page summary of the article outlining what you believe to be the salient points from the article.

You may choose from the following recent articles. You need to clear with me the one you choose. It will be first come first served (so to speak) on the articles. So choose early. The article write-up is due to me by **July 14th, 2014 at 6:00pm EST**. I will post each student's article review on the course page so everyone can benefit from the information. We will also open a discussion forum for any questions that may arise.

Elizabeth Caulfield, *Is This a Profession? Establishing Educational Criteria for Law Librarians*, 106 Law Libr. J. 288 (2014).

Michael Whiteman, *Book Burning in the Twenty-First Century: ABA Standard 606 and the Future of Academic Law Libraries as the Smoke Clears*, 106 Law Libr. J. 11 (2014).

ALL-SIS Task Force on Library Marketing and Outreach, *Marketing and Outreach in Law Libraries: A White Paper*, 105 Law Libr. J. 525 (2013).

Simon Canick, *Library Services for the Self-Interested Law School: Enhancing the Visibility of Faculty Scholarship*, 105 Law Libr. J. 175 (2013).

Genevieve Blake Tung, *Academic Law Libraries and the Crisis in Legal Education*, 105 Law Libr. J. 275 (2013).

R. Lee Sims & Roberta Munoz, *The Long Tail of Legal Information: Legal Reference Service in the Age of the Content Farm*, 104 Law Libr. J. 411 (2012).

Ashley Ahlbrand & Michael Johnson, *Degree Pedigree: Assessing the Effect of Degree-Granting Institutions' Ranks on Prospective Employment at Academic Law Libraries*, 104 Law Libr. J. 553 (2012).

Taylor Fitchett et. al., *Law Library Budgets in Hard Times*, 103 Law Libr. J. 91 (2011).

Michelle M. Wu, *Building a Collaborative Digital Collection: A Necessary Evolution in Libraries*, 103 Law Libr. J. 527 (2011).

Additional Information

UK's Information Technology Customer Service Center

◦<http://www.uky.edu/UKIT>

◦859-218-HELP

Procedure for resolving technical complaints – contact me by phone or e-mail and we will work it out.

Maximum timeframe for responding to student communications – I will usually reply within 24 hours.

Academic accommodations:

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations in this course, please make your request to the University Disability Resource 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 karnes@email.uky.edu.

Information on Distance Learning Library Services (<http://libraries.uky.edu/dlls>).

Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian

(859) 257-0500, ext. 2171

Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu

DL Interlibrary Loan Service: http://libraries.uky.edu/page.php?lweb_id=253