LIS 601 Section 201 (2021 Summer)
Information Search

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Preferred method of contact:	Email/ Canvas.
	I usually respond to questions within 24 hours
	(expect a delay during weekends and holidays)

Course Description

LIS601 is one of the four core courses in the MSLS program. The course description reads: Within given theoretical contexts, students search and retrieve organized information. Students learn to construct, apply, and critically evaluate advanced information search and retrieval strategies.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Describe methods providing information services to diverse communities and individuals with appropriate resources.
- Identify basic concepts of information retrieval and its relationship with information organization.
- Construct and apply information search strategies informed by an understanding of information organization.
- Critically evaluate information retrieval systems based on different systems of organization, such as OPACs, online databases, and digital libraries.
- Identify, analyze, and critically evaluate major models of information behavior in multiple contexts.

Readings

- Textbook: Brown, C. C., & Bell, S. S. (2018). Librarian's Guide to Online Searching: Cultivating Database Skills for Research and Instruction, 5th Edition. Libraries Unlimited. ISBN-13: 978-1440861567
- There will be additional readings to the textbook, and they will be made available on the Canvas course site.

Course Activities and Assignments

The course includes online lectures (PPT slides), online discussions and exercises, and assignments. For the purposes of this class we will treat Monday as the first day of class each week. Also, readings should be completed by at least Wednesday in order to participate in online discussions.

Your final grade is determined by your performance on the items in the table below. There are four search exercise assignments (70%). In Assignment 1 & 2, you will be asked to search relevant articles from academic online databases to respond to your own research

problems. In Assignment 3, you will retrieve a selection of sources from WorldCat. In Assignment 4, you will exercise searching multimedia items from digital collections. For each assignment, you will need to provide a report of search log including search statements, search strategies, controlled vocabulary use, resource evaluation, and others. Detailed instructions will be given later during the semester.

In addition, you will need to participate in weekly online discussion (30%). Participation points come from both quantity and quality of posts to the discussion board. For each week, we are going to have a discussion forum for class discussion. In the forum, you can discuss important issues of each week's topic posted by the instructor as well as any questions, ideas or thoughts you have regarding the topic, slides, readings or exercises for that week. To get full credits for class participation, you will need to participate in at least twice in each of the forums. The week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday at midnight.

Type	Topic	Points
Assignment 1	Searching in online databases (1)	15
Assignment 2	Searching in online databases (2)	15
Assignment 3	Searching in OPACs	20
Assignment 4	Searching in digital libraries	20
Participation	Online Discussion	30
		Total: 100

Course Grading
- 90 - 100% = A
- 80 – 89.9% = B
- 70 – 79.9% = C
- Below 70%= E

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Topic
1	6/16-6/20	***Course overview & Introduction to Library Databases*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 1
2	6/21-6/27	***Database Structure and Controlled Vocabularies*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 2 & 3 • Gross, T., & Taylor, A. G. (2005). What have we got to lose? The effect of controlled vocabulary on keyword searching results. *College & Research Libraries,* 66(3), 212-230. • (Optional) Larson, R.R. (2012). Information Retrieval Systems. In *Understanding Information Retrieval Systems: Management, Types, and Standards* (pp. 15-30). Taylor and Francis Group, LLC.
3	6/28-7/4	***The Searcher's Toolkit*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 4 & 5 • Brown & Bell Chapter: 6

		• "EBSCO Interface – User Guide: Search Tips". EBSCO. ⌖ • "ProQuest – Search Tips". ProQuest. ⌖ • Ojala, M. (2007). Finding and using the magic words: keywords, thesauri, and free text search. *Online*, 31(4), 40-42. ⌖
4	7/5-7/11	***Social Science and Humanities Databases*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 7 & 9 • Brown & Bell Chapter: 8 • Meho, L. I., & Tibbo, H. R. (2003). Modeling the information-seeking behavior of social scientists: Ellis's study revisited. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 54(6), 570-587. • Barrett, A. (2005). The information-seeking habits of graduate student researchers in the humanities. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship,* 31(4), 324-331.
		Assignment #1 Due : July 11, by 11:59 pm
5	7/12-7/18	***Databases for Science and Medicine*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 10 & 11 • Branching Out: The MeSH Vocabulary. • Ojala, M. 2004. Statistically Speaking. *Online*, 28 (March-April), 42-44.
		Assignment #2 Due : July 18, by 11:59 pm
6	7/19-7/25	***Searching in OPACs and Discovery Systems*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 12 & 13 • Nichols, A. F., Crist, E., Sherriff, G., & Allison, M. (2017). What Does it Take to Make Discovery a Success?: A Survey of Discovery Tool Adoption, Instruction, and Evaluation Among Academic Libraries. Journal of Web Librarianship, 11(2), 85-104. • Hofmann, M. A., & Yang, S. Q. (2012). "Discovering" what's changed: a revisit of the OPACs of 260 academic libraries. Library Hi Tech, 30(2), 253-274.
		Assignment #3 Due : July 25, by 11:59 pm
7	7/26-8/1	***Searching in Digital Libraries*** • Walsh, J. (2011). The use of Library of Congress Subject Headings in digital collections. *Library review*, 60(4), 328-343. • Matusiak, K. K. (2006). Information seeking behavior in digital image collections: A cognitive approach. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 32(5), 479-488. • Druin, A. (2005). What children can teach us: Developing digital libraries for children with children. *The Library Quarterly*, 75(1), 20-41. 👍 Information about Assignment 4
		Assignment #4 Due : Aug 5, by 11:59 pm
8	8/2-8/8	***User Behaviors and Meeting Information Needs*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 14 • Xie, I. (2012). Information searching and search models. In *Understanding Information Retrieval Systems: Management, Types, and Standards* (pp. 31-46). Taylor and Francis Group, LLC. 👍

		• Bates, M. J. (1979). Information Search Tactics. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science.* 30(4), 205-214.
9	8/9-8/11	***Conclusion*** • Brown & Bell Chapter: 15-16

* Readings which are relevant to the diversity issues are marked with a ✌symbol.

** Readings which are relevant to the theme of technology are marked with a ☝ symbol.

Final Exam Information

There is no final exam.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted online via Canvas. Prepare and submit all assignments on time. A 10% penalty will be exacted every day the assignment is late.

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php.

Students are strongly encouraged to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the scheduled classes for the semester are missed per university policy. Please reference the definition of excused absences in the current edition of *Student Rights and Responsibilities* or on the web at http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules_regulations/Rules%20Versions/MASTER%20 RULES%20from%20February%202012_clean.pdf

Option #2 (quoting the rule):

Per *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2*, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request "appropriate verification" when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

Diversity
The School of Information Science defines diversity as "embracing differences between people and promoting increased understanding regarding age, ethnicity, gender, marital status, military service, physical disabilities, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic condition, and thought with the purpose of creating an inclusive community." In this course, students will discuss diversity issues in relation to information searching and resource selection through weekly online discussion.

Technology
The School of Information Science emphasizes the importance and centrality of technology in today's society. We must develop familiarity and comfort with an array of technology. In this course, you will learn different aspects of information system structure, including basic database system. In addition, the course will cover various system aids and tools to assist searchers to retrieve information. Students will participate in online discussion addressing technology issues in information searching.

Academic Integrity
Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: http://www.uky.edu/Ombud. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/ for the current set of *Senate Rules*) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations due to disability
If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/.

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at:
https://ci.uky.edu/sis/sites/default/files/policies.pdf

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Distance Learning Students are expected to have a minimum level of technological acumen and the availability of technological resources. Students must have regular access a computer with a reliable Internet connection and audio capabilities. Internet Explorer 7 (IE) or Firefox 2.x are the recommended browsers for those using a Windows-based PC. Those using Firefox 3.x may encounter problems with assignment uploads. Those using an Apple computer with MAC OS X (10.5.x) may use Firefox 3.x or Safari 3.x.

Please be certain that your computer and/or browser allow you to view Adobe Reader documents (.pdf). Microsoft Office and other software products are free for students: http://download.uky.edu/.

As your instructor, I am your first go-to person for technology problems. If you need more immediate assistance, please contact UKIT.

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)
http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/; 859-218-4357

Library Services & Distance Learning Services
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS
  • Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian
  • Local phone number: (859) 257-0500, ext. 2171; long-distance phone #: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
  • Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu
  • DL Interlibrary Loan Service:
    http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16

For more resources about online classes and student resources, visit http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/

The School of Information Science has a page with a comprehensive list of technology resources here: http://ci.uky.edu/sis/students/techtips

Military Members and Veterans
We recognize the complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student. If you are a member of the military or a military veteran or dependent, please inform your instructor if you are in need of special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, mandatory training exercises, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran related developments can complicate your academic life. If you are aware of a complication, we will work with you and put you in contact with university staff members who are trained to assist you. Please contact the Coordinator of the University of Kentucky Veterans Resource Center at (859) 257-1148 for additional assistance. Visit http://www.uky.edu/veterans for more available resources.

Related Program Learning Outcomes
Program-level Learning Outcome 2: Analyze the major tenets of information practice and apply them in multiple contexts
  • Describe methods providing information services to diverse communities and individuals with appropriate resources (Assignment #1-4, Online discussion)
  • Identify, analyze, and critically evaluate major models of information behavior in multiple contexts (Assignment #1-4, online discussion & class exercises)
Program-level Learning Outcome 4: Explain the dependence of information retrieval on the organization of information

- Identify basic concepts of information retrieval and its relationship with information organization (Assignment #1-4, online discussion & class exercises)
- Construct and apply information search strategies informed by an understanding of information organization (Assignment #1-4, online discussion & class exercises)
- Critically evaluate information retrieval systems based on different systems of organization, such as OPACs, online databases, and digital libraries (Assignment #1-4, online discussion & class exercises)