

**University of Kentucky**  
**School of Library & Information Science (SLIS)**

**LIS/ICT626 201**  
**Electronic Information Resources in the Health Sciences**  
**Fall 2021**

**Instructor**

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**Office Hours**

- By appointment

**Class Information**

- Online class; no scheduled meetings

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description**

Survey of electronic information resources in the health sciences, including databases and Web sources. Discussion of relevant controlled vocabularies and their use in formulating and executing search strategies. The course also includes an evidence-based health care component whereby students learn to analyze critically the biomedical literature and determine reference and research relevancy.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Understand the basic principles involved in developing search strategies to retrieve citations to the biomedical literature;
2. Become acquainted with controlled vocabularies used to index the biomedical literature;
3. Become acquainted with reference tools utilized in health sciences information retrieval;
4. Develop an understanding of evidence-based health care techniques employed to analyze critically the biomedical literature and determine reference and research relevancy.

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to provide an overview of various health sciences electronic information resources as well as controlled vocabularies used to index the biomedical literature. Students will gain hands-on experience developing and executing search strategies. Students will gain

exposure to evidence based health care techniques employed to evaluate the literature and determine reference and research relevancy.

Topics to be covered:

1. Health sciences electronic information resources;
2. Controlled vocabularies;
3. Search strategy formulation and execution;
4. Evidence based health care.

## **Required Reading**

### **Required Textbook:**

Greenhalgh, Trisha. How to Read a Paper: The Basics of Evidence Based Medicine. 6th ed. Chichester, West Sussex, UK; Hoboken, NJ : Wiley-Blackwell/BMJ Books, 2018.

### **Supplemental Materials:**

Straus, Sharon E., Glasziou, Paul, Richardson, W. Scott, Haynes, R. Brian. Evidence-Based Medicine: How to Practice and Teach EBM. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Edinburgh : Elsevier, 2018.

Handouts will be distributed throughout the course of the semester.

Select Web sites will be identified and reviewed throughout the course of the semester.

CINAHL Subject Heading List. Glendale, CA : CINAHL.

Medical Subject Headings. Bethesda, MD : National Library of Medicine.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh>

EMBASE User's Manual. New York : Elsevier Science.

EMTREE Thesaurus. New York : Elsevier Science.

Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms. Washington, DC : American Psychological Association.

## STUDENT EVALUATION

### Grading Parameters

This course is taught in distance education format. The majority of the course is conducted via Canvas. It is expected that students will devote a considerable amount of time outside the formal class to study materials covered as well as become acquainted with the literature and reference tools.

There will be a series of exercises to be completed by students. These will be posted each week in Canvas. Once completed, class exercises do NOT need to be returned to the instructor.

There will be a series of assignments distributed throughout the course of the semester. These assignments are based on information and resources covered in the class exercises and class readings. These assignments comprise the majority of the student's grade. Completed assignments are expected to be returned to the instructor prior to or on the date noted on the assignment. Late assignments will only be accepted with prior permission from the instructor.

There will be a series of 8 assignments, a term paper, and a reflection paper required for the course:

- Assignment 1 – Access Medicine Evaluation
- Assignment 2 – Medical Subject Headings
- Assignment 3 – Search Strategies and Execution
- Assignment 4 – Research Study Design
- Assignment 5 – Medical Subject Headings
- Assignment 6 – Search Strategies
- Assignment 7 – Search Strategies
- Assignment 8 – E-Health Resource
- Assignment 9 – Term Paper
- Assignment 10 – Reflection Paper

Details for each assignment will be distributed along with the assignment according to dates indicated on Course Calendar. Each assignment will have a due date noted on it.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>
Class participation	5
Term paper	20
Class assignments, exercises, and projects	65
Reflection paper	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Grading Policy:

Class assignments are due on or by the due date noted on the individual assignments. The majority of the student's grade is based on the cumulative total received on individual assignments. Late assignments will only be accepted with prior approval from the instructor.

## Grading Scale

- 90 – 100 = **A (Exceptional Achievement)**
- 80 – 89 = **B (High Achievement)**
- 70 – 79 = **C (Average Achievement)**
- 0 – 69 = **E (Failing)**

## Participation

Class participation constitutes 5% of the student's grade. Students are expected to complete weekly exercises and readings and to be active participants in class discussion forums. Under the University's "Federal Regulation Regarding Disbursement of Federal Financial Aid Funds (Title IV), Policy for Confirming Student Enrollment and Engagement in Courses" students must be active participants in class in order to remain enrolled.

## Submission of Course Assignments

Course assignments should be submitted via Canvas. Include the course number (i.e., LIS690) and assignment number (e.g., assignment #1) in the subject line if submitting via e-mail. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS.**

Assignments are due by 11:59pm of the due date noted on each assignment.

Late work will only be accepted with prior permission of the instructor.

## Syllabus Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

*The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community ([Governing Regulations XIV](#)). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/gr14>). These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.*

*We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor of record and/or the [Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity](#). Students may also contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, any college administrator, or the dean. All of these individuals are mandatory reporters under University policies.*

## **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: <https://iweb.uky.edu/MSDownload/>.

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

### **Teaching and Learning Services Center (TASC)**

<http://www.uky.edu/TASC/>; 859-257-8272

### **Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)**

<http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/>; 859-257-1300

## **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 number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
- Email: [dllservice@email.uky.edu](mailto:dllservice@email.uky.edu)
- DL Interlibrary Loan Service:  
[http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb\\_id=253&llib\\_id=16](http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16)

### **Course Reserves**

[http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/page.php?lweb\\_id=23&ltab\\_rank=3](http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/page.php?lweb_id=23&ltab_rank=3)

## **GENERAL COURSE POLICIES**

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at:

<http://www.uky.edu/CIS/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf>

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

### **August 26**

Introduction.

Overview of the course.

Discussion of course outline, assignments, exercises, projects, and expectations.

Text and supplemental materials.

READING: NLM MEDLINE Fact Sheet and ProQuest DIALOG MEDLINE ProSheet.

NLM MeSH Fact Sheet.

Look at NLM Medical Subject Headings web page located at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/> and read sections under All About MeSH.

***ASSIGNMENT #1 DISTRIBUTED, DUE SEPTEMBER 2.***

### **September 2**

Assignment #1 due.

Read article: The Hexamethonium Asthma Study and the Death of a Normal Volunteer in Research.

### **September 9**

Select Internet resources.

MeSH.

MEDLINE.

READING: Greenhalgh Foreward, Prefaces, and Chapter 1.

***TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED, DUE DECEMBER 2.***

### **September 16**

MeSH continued.

MEDLINE continued.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 2.

***ASSIGNMENT #2 DISTRIBUTED, DUE SEPTEMBER 23.***

### **September 23**

Assignment #2 due.

PubMed.

READING: NLM PubMed Fact Sheet.

Greenhalgh Chapter 3.

**September 30**

PubMed continued.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 4.

***ASSIGNMENT #3 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 7.***

**October 7**

Assignment #3 due.

EMTREE Thesaurus.

EMBASE.

READING: In the EMBASE User Manual, read the Introduction and Main EMBASE Data Elements section, look over the Country and Language Codes section, and review the Vendor Guide section for DIALOG. Also look over both volumes of the EMTREE Thesaurus.

Look over the ProQuest DIALOG ProSheet for EMBASE.

***ASSIGNMENT #4 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 14.***

**October 14**

Assignment #4 due.

CINAHL.

READING: In the CINAHL Subject Heading List, read the Introduction and User Guide sections.

Greenhalgh Chapter 5.

***MESH PRACTICE EXERCISE DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 21.***

**October 21**

MeSH practice exercise due.

Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms.

PsycINFO.

READING: In Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms, read Preface, History of Thesaurus, Development of 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, User Guide, and Search Guide sections.

Look over the ProQuest DIALOG ProSheet for PsycINFO.

Greenhalgh Chapters 6-7.

***ASSIGNMENT #6 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 28.***

**October 28**

Assignment #6 due.

Additional resources.

Beyond the basics of searching:

Filtering,  
Analyzing,  
Evaluating.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapters 8-9.

***ASSIGNMENT #7 DISTRIBUTED, DUE NOVEMBER 4.***

**November 4**

Assignment #7 due.

Searching continued.

Evidence based health care continued.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 10-11.

***ASSIGNMENT #8 DISTRIBUTED, DUE NOVEMBER 11.***

**November 11**

Assignment #8 due.

Searching continued.

Evidence based health care continued.

Health Source: Consumer Edition

MedlinePLus

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 12.

**November 18**

Searching continued.

Evidence based health care continued.

Lexis-Nexis.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapters 13-14.

**November 25 -- NO CLASS  
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**December 2**

Term paper due.

Pulling it all together.



READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 16-17.

***REFLECTION PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED, DUE DECEMBER 9.***

**December 9**

Reflection paper due.

Student evaluations of course.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignment 1 – Access Medicine Evaluation	5 Points
Assignment 2 – Medical Subject Headings	10 Points
Assignment 3 – Search Strategies and Execution	10 Points
Assignment 4 – Research Study Design	10 Points
Assignment 5 – Medical Subject Headings	10 Points
Assignment 6 – Search Strategies	10 Points
Assignment 7 – Search Strategies	5 Points
Assignment 8 – E-Health Resource	5 Points
Assignment 9 – Term Paper	20 Points
Assignment 10 – Reflection Paper	10 Points
Class Participation	5 Points