

LIS 2970: Special Topics

FALL 2012

Information Sources, Services and Technology for an Aging World

This term-long, 3-credit online-only course will focus on collection development, reference, and education services for older adults, and their professional and family caregivers. The course will cover the critical evaluation of materials in print, non-print, and electronic formats, and a discussion of information services provided by healthcare organizations, community agencies, medical center and hospital libraries, public libraries which serve an aging population, and academic libraries serving students in the helping professions. This course is especially appropriate for those interested in working in medical libraries, healthcare organizations, community agencies, public libraries whose communities include large numbers of older people, and academic libraries serving students who are intending to enter careers in the helping or service professions, especially in fields that focus on older people. *NOTE:* There is an emphasis in this course on the medical aspects of the topic, as it is also offered as a continuing education course for Medical Library Association members.

SUMMER 2012

Digitizing Descriptive Bibliography

Bibliography, the study of books as material objects, takes three forms in an online environment. First, it requires traditional bibliographic knowledge: identifying literary documents, conducting precise physical descriptions of texts, judging the relationship between variant texts, and assessing their relative authority. Second, it requires an engagement with our subjective material relations to texts across different media. Finally, it means connecting certain computer programming languages, such as XML (Extensible Markup Language) and TEI (Text Encoding Initiative), with traditional bibliographic knowledge. By understanding the materiality of the book in a digital age, literary scholars and librarians will not only help inform the design of digital humanities projects, but they will also engage our changing relationship to language and literature in a digital age.

FALL 2011

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SUMMER 2011

Cultural Heritage

This course is designed to educate students on the vital role that archives and records play in the cultural heritage fields. Examines the application of various archival theories and practices in cultural heritage, cultivates a better appreciation of cultural groups represented in the cultural heritage industries, and analyzes the various ethical stances surrounding their cultural property, cultural traditions, art, and other memory devices and institutions.

SPRING 2011

Values in Design

We talk about technology having transformative effects on society, but often from the perspective of unintended consequences that arise after such technology is released “into the wild.” The Values in Design (VID) approach reverses this view and asks how values can be considered as explicit inputs to the process of technology and systems design, promoting and encouraging intentional social transformation in directions we choose—e.g., altruism, tolerance, diversity, mindfulness. This course approaches the emerging VID agenda in two ways: first, by exploring existing VID literature and quickly turning to active contribution in developing theory; second, by engaging design projects that prototype systems treating social values as primary inputs. VID is a course well suited to MLIS, MSIS, and PhD students and doctoral students with interests in social and community informatics, sociotechnical systems design, and novel application development using existing and emergent technologies.

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FALL 2009

Literacy in the Information Age

The focus of the class is to introduce students to two central ideas: genre and provenence, and to

explore with them the strengths and limits of different types of information. This is fundamental to being "literate" on the web and in/with many forms of information. The form of the class would be to take one information from each week (some might take 2 weeks), and explore different forms, affordances, and how one ascertains reliability and validity of certain kinds of information. I have thought so far of introducing the following forms: the list; the recipe (a la Jack Goody!), the standard, maps, visualization of information (a methodological piece that might take 2-3 weeks), a poem, a software program, a web page, a journal, a passport, footnotes (from their inception through endnotes) and a GPS system. I will explore each of these historically and in different low-and-high tech variants.

SUMMER 2009

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Collection Development

This course will cover the basics of collection management. At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the general theory and practice encompassed by collection management
- Prepare a written collection development policy for a specific type of library and a particular collection focus.
- Apply appropriate evaluation techniques to better understand and access a given collection.
- Identify and discuss the implications of current issues in collection management.
- Assess the role of resource sharing and cooperative agreements in the development of library collections.

- Discuss current trends and future issues impacting collections in libraries.

Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for Librarians

GIS is one of the most rapidly-growing fields in the computer industry. GIS is a computer system for collecting, managing, processing, and displaying geospatial data. GIS has become an essential component of modern information technology, assisting in solving and assessing many real-world phenomena. This demand has necessitated that librarians gain core competencies in GIS theory, GIS technology, and GIS applications. To be able to respond to reference questions, librarians need a basic understanding of GIS. For example, librarians in the sciences might use GIS applications in such fields as engineering, geology, geography, urban planning, forestry, and agriculture; librarians in the social sciences and humanities might use GIS applications in such fields as archaeology, history and culture, and museum; librarians in business might use GIS applications in socio-economics and marketing.

This course introduces students to the concepts, techniques, and technology of GIS. The topics covered in the course include geospatial data types, geospatial data sources, geospatial databases, geocoding, techniques for creating maps, and off-the-shelf GIS software packages.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the characteristics of geospatial data
- Collect geospatial data sets from various sources
- Create geospatial databases for different GIS applications
- Create maps to address the needs of different users/applications
- Utilize an off-the shelf GIS software package to implement GIS projects

SPRING 2009

Technology in the Lives of Children

Effects of media on young people, ages 0 to 12; Technology in everyday life - from toys to television; Gaming and libraries; Filtering; Privacy and child safety; Social networking/cyber bullying; Information/media literacy instruction in children's libraries (public); Digital libraries for children; Evaluation of digital resources for children; Children's information behavior; Interaction/interface design for young people; The digital divide and social equity issues; Global perspectives -technology in young people's lives around the world; Future trends - What's next?

Advanced Information Retrieval

This course offers an examination of problems and techniques related to storing and accessing unstructured information with an emphasis on textual information. Overview of several approaches

to information access with a primary focus on search-based information access. Covers automated retrieval system design, content analysis, retrieval models, result presentation, and system evaluation. Examines applications of retrieval techniques on the Web, in multimedia and multilingual environments, and in text classification and event tracking.

Prerequisites: introduction to logic and statistical analysis, familiarity with a high-level programming language)

Course Goals:

Upon finishing this course, the students should be able to

- to understand the dimensions of the information retrieval "problem"
- to master the analysis and design of information retrieval systems
- to consider the factors which optimize the information retrieval process
- to examine current issues in information retrieval

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will:

- be able to explain core concepts and terms of information retrieval
- be able to explain different retrieval models and basic algorithms
- be able to evaluate existing information retrieval systems and suggest how the systems can be improved
- be able to apply theories to effectively solve information retrieval problems in real world situations

FALL 2008

Services and Resources for Preschool Children

The goal of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide developmentally appropriate services and resources for preschool children, ages 0 to 5 years, and their families and caregivers.

SUMMER 2008

Resources and Services for Older Adults

Collection Development

Photographic Archives

Intro to Information Science

SPRING 2008

Information Visualization

Academic Librarianship

FALL 2007

Digital Citizenship

This course will examine the following topics: the digital divide; the role of librarians in addressing digital inequality; and the changing norms, laws, architecture, and markets governing information technology in politics and society more generally.

Citizenship is increasingly mediated by digital communication. For example, political parties, interest groups, media organizations, and governments utilize a variety of digital communication forms to reach out to their constituencies. Blogs, websites, chat rooms, and instant messaging – as well as -- other communicative functions are all aspects of the emerging digital citizenship.

The rise of the “virtual” individual and community in cyberspace substantively and procedurally changes the manner in which citizens can engage their democracy, as well as the prerequisites for equitable participation. Individuals who lack Internet access or the skills necessary to use Information Technology (IT) are on the underprivileged side of a widely recognized "digital divide". This class will explore the possibility for educational innovations that seek to identify, understand, and remove these barriers in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

This course incorporates a service learning component which will allow students to connect course information to hands-on, community-based learning experiences.

FALL 2004

Museum Archives

Beginning with an overview of the evolution of the purposes of museums, this class will discuss the history and development of museum record keeping systems, with particular emphasis on the changes in those systems in transition from paper-based to electronic records. Functional analysis will be used to identify the principal functions of museums and to guide the appraisal of the records that document those functions.

SUMMER 2004

Collections Conservation

This course explores collections conservation utilizing the resources of the Archives Service Center (ASC) and the Preservation Department in the University Library System. Defined by the Research

Libraries Group (RLG) as a "preservation management strategy for the physical treatment and protective housing of endangered research materials that allocates treatment resources for maximum benefit to the collection." Students will be better able to manage preservation activities by learning how to execute hands on conservation treatments, prepare materials for outsourcing and better protect paper, photograph, and moving image collections.

SUMMER 2001

Art Information Resources

Description: Exploration of the different missions, collections, organizational structures, patrons and services found in a variety of art libraries and visual resource collections: art museums; academic institutions; public libraries, architectural and art & design schools; and visual resource centers.

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Library Instruction

Description: A survey of current practice and research in library instruction. Students will have opportunity to design and evaluate library instruction programs and learn how to effectively use instructional technology in a variety of settings.

SPRING 2001

Digital Preservation

Description: Digital Preservation is approached from several different perspectives in this course. First, students will look at the problems, issues, and decision-making processes surrounding the preservation of digital information in terms of electronic records and multimedia documents. Second, issues in the creation and maintenance of digital libraries and Web-based information will be addressed. Finally, students will examine issues surrounding the digitization of materials for preservation and the creation of electronic surrogates for records and artifacts.

XML Applications

Description: Provides an introduction and practical experience with the Extensible Markup Languages (XML) and its associated standards including XSL, XSLT, XPath, XLink, XPointer, CSS and others. Through practical exercises and a final project that incorporates XML and many associated

applications, the students will have a thorough grounding in this emerging technology. This fast paced course will require students to learn several technologies in support of their final projects.

Prerequisites: Advanced HTML skills class or equivalent, basic UNIX skills, comfortable in Windows environment, be able to understand and use basic internet protocols such as FTP and telnet.

Understanding of file formats (Proprietary File Formats workshop or equivalent) is a corequisite.

Students should feel comfortable learning new computer applications. Students who have had some exposure to a programming or scripting language will have an advantage, though programming skill is not required.

FALL 2000

Database Design and Application

Description: Covers basic knowledge of normalization of data, data modeling, database methods, database design, and the use of databases in information systems. Emphasis will be on the relational database model and its application in practice. Microsoft Access will be utilized by students to create databases. (No prerequisite is needed)

Information Architecture

Description: Provides an overview of information architecture (IA) and an opportunity to develop practical skills related to (IA). IA seeks to minimize the limitations on an organization's ability to provide information and communication within and among the organization, clients, suppliers, etc. Students will develop an understanding of IA concepts and will concretize these concepts by building complex web sites for real organizations.

(No prerequisite is needed. However certain technology competencies will be required (See Computer Competencies: MLIS Program and MLIS Technology Workshops for examples of minimum technology skills needed)

SUMMER 2000

Museum Archives

Description: Beginning with an overview of the evolution of the purposes of museums, this class will discuss the history and development of museum record keeping systems, with particular emphasis on the changes in those systems in transition from paper-based to electronic records. Functional analysis will be used to identify the principal functions of museums and to guide the appraisal of the records that document those functions.

Key Technologies for Information Services

Description: As digital libraries have emerged, several trends have become obvious and pronounced.

First, digital library services are being mounted on relational database management systems. Second, these services assimilate and deliver content in a variety of digital document forms, based primarily on evolving open technical standards. And, third, an array of higher-level programming and scripting languages and object models are being employed to automate and enhance the user interface. LIS 2970: Key Technologies for Information Services is intended to provide a substantive introduction in each of these areas.

SPRING 2000

Digital Preservation

Description: There are two different, yet related, foci of this course: digitally-born and digitally reformatted materials. Students will look at the problems, issues, and decision-making processes surrounding the preservation of digital information including mainframe, WAN, LAN, and personal computer based documents in offices as well as web-based information. The primary emphasis on the course will be on the issues surrounding the digitization of materials for preservation.

Digitally-born electronic records are a growing concern for archivist and records managers, these issues are treated in more depth in other courses, but will be touched on briefly in this class. Digitally-reformatted collections will be examined through a number of different lenses. How they relate to books, serials, archival collections, and image collections will be examined as well as some of the overarching issues such as copyright, economics, and long term sustainability of these collections will be discussed. The class will also contain hands-on exercises and imaging.

User Needs and Information Services

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the theory, principles, techniques, and tools behind the design of information systems, services, and institutions, with special emphasis on understanding user centered design . Students should be able to analyze the users of information systems and design elements of the information infrastructure to respond directly to those users needs. It is anticipated that students will adapt a general model for user-centered design to specific domains and develop detailed approaches to the design of specific information systems, services, and institutions.

Systems Administration

Description: The purpose of the course is to provide an overview of the concepts, tasks, and problems associated with the administration of computer systems operating in a networked environment and configured for the purposes of distributing service. The course focuses primarily on the administration of systems running versions of Linux and FreeBSD Unix for an array of reasons, including access and costs, but it also considers the integration of clients running Apple or Microsoft operating systems. While the focus of the course is mainly on issues associated with installing, configuring, and administering such systems, it should be noted that LIS 2970: Systems

Administration is also dedicated to the idea that open source systems offer powerful solutions at relatively low costs, and that these solutions may be particularly valuable for small businesses and non-profit organizations, such as libraries, schools, etc..