Course Profile: Access to Information

Course Number: LIS 6120

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): LIS 6010 and 6080 or concurrently

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

This general reference course introduces students to the structure and organization of knowledge in both print and non-print resources. It covers reference services and the communication skills needed to interact with users. The course also addresses the philosophy and procedures of database construction and the basics of searching, OPACs, commercial databases, and the world-wide-web.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain the structure of print and non-print reference sources
2. Demonstrate Boolean search logic and its relationship to successful search strategies
3. Perform reference interviews, develop search strategies, perform searches through the translation of search questions into queries that will utilize print and non-print resources
4. Identify major concepts concerning the reference functions: goals, direct and indirect services, instruction, and information services
5. Understand the relationship between the reference function of the library and other library operations
6. Evaluate reference services and print and non-print sources.
7. Identify and cite, according to a style manual, a reference source from which requested information is retrieved

Content:

Organization and administration of reference department; query negotiation, introduction to and evaluation of print and non-print reference sources, development of search strategies.

Course Methodology:

During the term, class sessions may include some or all of the following: Readings, class discussions, guest speakers, problem sets, site visits.

Includes scholarly and professional readings; participation in Blackboard discussions; critical viewing and response to streaming video presentations; quizzes; completion of problem sets; several library
site visits; extensive observation of reference transactions; virtual reference interactions; and face-to-face interviews with professional reference staff.

Basis for Evaluation of Student performance:

Class participation and attendance; reference observation and electronic searching assignments.

Text: To Be Determined

Approved: 1/12
Updated: 8/13