



# School of Information Sciences

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**Course Profile: Research for the Information Profession**

**Course Number: INF 7996**

**Credits: 3**

**MLIS Prerequisite(s):** INF 6010, 6080, 6120, 6210

**MSIM Co-requisite(s):** INF 6000

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## **Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:**

A knowledge of research methods is necessary for information professionals if they are to conduct research, assist other researchers, and critically read research literature. This course is also designed to demonstrate the importance of research and to strengthen the critical and analytical skills of students.

This course examines the role of research in the development of the profession and in contemporary management. It includes consideration of various research methods used in library and information science (LIS) with illustrations based on specific problems related to libraries and other information agencies. Students identify a research problem, design a research project to investigate the problem and write a research proposal describing how the research would be conducted.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Critically read and evaluate research studies from top tier journals in LIS including representative samples from at least three different LIS areas.
- Conduct an effective literature search and review of literature in an area of specialization in LIS (i.e. archives, technical services, school library, academic libraries, reference services, etc.).
- Describe and differentiate among various types of research designs (i.e. qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) and explain the disciplinary foundations of these designs and methods.
- Write an effective research proposal which incorporates standard categories of information (i.e. introduction, review of literature, methodology, etc.) and follows APA formatting requirements.
- Use appropriate statistical analysis techniques to analyze research data and draw conclusions.
- Develop appropriate data collection measures.

- Analyze qualitative and quantitative reports of research for both the legitimacy of the research design and the impact that the research will have on the profession.
- Articulate ethical concerns regarding the design and conducting of research studies in LIS including information security and privacy.
- Demonstrate understanding of how to develop research questions that are critically oriented: e.g. to address equity issues in LIS field, etc.
- Apply principles of intellectual property and copyright appropriately.

**Content:**

- Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research including, problems, theories, data collection and data analysis.
- Reading Research Reports: Quantitative and Qualitative, research journals in LIS,
- Basics of Quantitative Research: vocabulary, concepts, survey and experimental studies, reliability and validity, statistical significance.
- Basics of Qualitative Research: vocabulary and concepts, research design, data collection, data analysis, trustworthiness.

**Course Methodology:**

Readings, lectures, group participation, formative and summative activities and assignments, tests

**Basis for Evaluation of Student performance:**

- Evaluation of research reports
- Knowledge of vocabulary and concepts
- Group and individual participation
- Research Proposal
- Quizzes/and/or Exams

**Text:** To Be Determined

**Approved:** 1/12

**Updated:** 8/13