

Title: Access to Information

Course Number: LIS 6120

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): None

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 clients. The course also addresses the philosophy and procedures of database construction and the basics of searching CD-ROMs, OPACs, commercial databases, and the world-wide- web.

Competencies Expected: 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:

Readings, class discussions, guest speakers, supervised and unsupervised lab sessions, problem sets, site visits.

Basis for Evaluation of Student performance:

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

Text: To Be Determined

Approved in Principle: 9/09