Course Number: LIS 7400

Title: Urban Libraries

Credits: 1

Prerequisite(s): LIS 6010, LIS 6080, LIS 7040; LIS 7050 recommended

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

This course introduces students to issues unique to libraries and information centers in urban environments. The course enhances the student’s competencies and skills while also providing the essential knowledge base for innovating, leading and assessing library information services in complex urban settings. The course further introduces the concepts of community engagement, aligning library services with community priorities and values, and connecting with communities and stakeholders.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain the issues and challenges unique to libraries and information centers in urban environments
2. Mobilize data, resources and technologies that are critical to the maximum delivery of services in urban libraries
3. Identify and examine critical social factors that affect the successful operation of urban libraries
4. Explain the importance of community engagement, outreach, and activism in urban libraries
5. Articulate a community-sensitive philosophy of aligning library services with community priorities and values
6. Describe, compare, and evaluate strategies for connecting libraries with communities and stakeholders

Content:

Historical purposes of libraries in urban settings, the digital divide, community partnerships, community demographics and needs analysis, activism, advocacy, literacy, social responsibility, inclusive library services, and library outreach.
Course Methodology:

Interdisciplinary readings, field trips, guest speakers, lectures, class discussions, presentations, and written assignments.

Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:

Evaluation may consist of the following:

- Research papers
- Small group assignments
- Examinations
- Presentations
- Participation/discussion

Text: To Be Determined

Approved: 1/12
Updated: 8/13