

LIS 661 Information Sources and Systems in the Humanities

Spring 2002: Class meets Thursdays 1:00-3:40 in SL 129

Instructor: Dr. Diane Nahl

Office: SL Mezz. 1b; **Voicemail:** 956-5809; **Email:** nahl@hawaii.edu

Web Site: www2.hawaii.edu/~nahl

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12:30 & 4:00-5:30 p.m.; Thursday 11:00-12:30 & 4:00-5:30 p.m.; and by appt.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of information sources in the humanities, their generation, bibliographical control, and use; reference services; reference effectiveness research and reference negotiation; and bibliographic instruction for the humanities.

Prerequisite: LIS 601

Program Learning Objectives

This course addresses the following objectives of the LIS Program, enabling students to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the philosophy, principles, and ethics of library and information science;
3. attain basic competencies and knowledge that are essential for providing, managing, and designing information services in a variety of information environments;
6. demonstrate an understanding of the theories and processes involved in retrieval, dissemination, and utilization of information sources;
7. demonstrate an understanding of the principles of administration applicable to libraries and information centers;

9. demonstrate an understanding of research techniques and methods of applying new knowledge as it becomes available;
10. acquire attitudes and interpersonal skills needed to communicate with colleagues and information users;

Course Learning Objectives: Students will seek to:

1. discern the similarities and differences in information structure and use between humanities disciplines and those in the sciences and social sciences.
2. understand the principle means by which humanities information is created and disseminated.
3. become familiar with the characteristics of the literature of the humanities disciplines and of their information structures.
4. gain insight into the approaches to humanities information taken by scholars, students, and the lay public.
5. apply principles of search strategy in seeking answers to reference questions.
6. improve search skill by documenting and analyzing their own search strategies.
7. understand the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that are important in achieving accurate reference service.
8. develop grounded data for reference service design by documenting and analyzing user behavior.
9. complete a pilot study with users on some aspect of using information

systems, including data instrument design, data gathering, analyses, and reporting.

Course Philosophy

This course emphasizes developing professional knowledge and skills in understanding information seeking and use for the purpose of designing reference services for humanities information. This includes learning to teach novice users how to search and how to ask the right questions in pursuit of information. Fieldwork helps students to focus on the intermediary role of librarians and instructors through real world experience observing librarians helping people solve their information problems. The broad goal of the course is to help students acquire the ability to design and provide user-oriented reference service and conduct user-based research in a collaborative, classroom-workshop environment.

Teaching method

Limited lecturing; guest lectures; role playing; collaborative class exercises; field research; research design workshops; oral presentations; search strategy analysis; written synthesis.

Requirements

Readings

Required Text: Nahl, Diane. 2001. *Strategic Research Approaches for Reference Librarians*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall-Hunt.

In addition to the text, there are weekly reading assignments from the reference literature and relevant Web sites that will be the focus of class discussions. You will search for the answers to humanities reference questions, document and discuss your efforts in class. There will be class exercises and some guest speakers. Active class participation is essential when discussing readings, search strategies, and social science sources. Consult the written instructions for the assignments listed below:

Assignments and Grading

Subject Discipline Report	25
Cultural/Scholarly Event Report	15
Action Research Report	30
Reference Questions	20
Class participation/exercises	10
	100

Refer to the written *Assignment Instructions*. Read the instructions for each assignment and follow them closely. Your grade will depend on how well you follow written instructions. Please do not use report covers or binders.

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D

Due Dates

Due dates are given on the course schedule. Late assignments will be assessed one point per day. Those presenting subject discipline reports may postpone the assigned reference questions for that week. Event Reports may be turned-in any time on or before the due date.

Participation Requirements

Attendance, assigned readings and exercises, fieldwork, and active class participation are required.

Technology Requirements

This course requires you to use a computer to produce all of the written assignments. PCs and Macs are available in the LIS, ICS and other UH computer labs, but you must bring your own paper to print. You are also required to obtain and use your free UHUNIX email account (or a commercial one if you prefer) to subscribe to lis-stu (our internal mail list for students). Students are expected to use the Internet and subscribe to at least two instruction-oriented listservs, and to locate and study World Wide Web resources pertinent to the course topics.

LIS 661 Spring 2002 COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

Session	Date	Topics	Assignments & Due Dates
(1)	JAN 17	Nature of the Humanities	
(2)	JAN 24	Scholarly Communication in the Humanities	Text Ch 1; Brockman <i>et al.</i> <i>Subject Discipline Topics Due</i>
(3)	JAN 31	Humanities Information Structure	Text Ch 2; Blazek & Aversa <i>Philosophy Questions</i>
(4)	FEB 7	Reference Effectiveness Research	Text Ch 3; ALA/RASD, Dewdney & Ross <i>Discipline Report</i>
(5)	FEB 14	Human Factors in Reference Services	Text Ch 4; Radford <i>Discipline Report</i> <i>Religion, Myth, Folklore</i> <i>Questions</i>
(6)	FEB 21	Information Use in the Humanities	Text Ch 5; Wiberley, Lazinger <i>et al.</i> <i>Discipline Report</i>
(7)	FEB 28	Librarian and User Behavior Studies	Text Ch 6; Nahl, Ross & Dewdney <i>Discipline Report</i> <i>Visual Arts Questions</i>
(8)	MAR 7	Library Response to Information Use in the Humanities	Tellman, Garfield <i>Discipline Report</i>

(9)	MAR 14	Tensions in Information Use in the Humanities	Text Ch 7; Massey-Burzio <i>Discipline Report</i> <i>Performing Arts Questions</i>
(10)	MAR 21	Digital Information Services	Text Ch 8; Garnsey & Powell, Sloan <i>Discipline Report</i>
	MAR 28	Spring Break	
(11)	APR 4	Bibliographic Instruction for the Humanities	Text Ch 9; Tibbo <i>Discipline Report</i> <i>Language & Literature Questions</i>
(12)	APR 11	Issues in Information Literacy	ACRL/IS Web Site, Geffert & Christiansen <i>Discipline Report</i>
(13)	APR 18	Information Retrieval Issues in Reference Services	Dewdney & Michell <i>History Questions</i>
(14)	APR 25	User-Centered Information Service	Cobbledick, Mozenter <i>et al.</i> <i>Event Report</i>
(15)	MAY 2	User-Centered Information Service	Gross <i>Course Evaluation</i> <i>Action Research Oral</i>
	MAY 9	Last day to turn-in assignments	<i>Action Research Report</i>