Class meets on Mondays 1:00-3:40 p.m. (Sessions #7 - #14 run until 4:00 p.m.)
Instructor: Dr. Péter Jacsó, Professor
Hamilton #H3, Phone: 956-5817
E-mail to jacso@hawaii.edu (mind the spelling, include LIS 667 in the subject line, please)
Instructor's home page: http://www2.hawaii.edu/~jacso/
Office hours: 4-6 p.m. on class days + on appointments

Textbook: None

Course Description

This course educates students about the software tools and information sources of advanced database searching. It includes such topics as selection of online information systems and databases, advanced techniques for index and thesaurus browsing, query formulation, expansion and refinement, traditional and autonomous citation searching, measures of the prestige, impact and popularity of databases and journals, open and controlled access information sources, resource discovery tools, advanced Web-wide search engines and metasearch engines, federated searching, metadata and linking among publishers' archives, abstracting/indexing databases and full-text aggregator sites. Students will be provided demonstrations of and/or access to several advanced online information systems. Prerequisite: LIS 663 Basic Database Searching.

LIS Program Learning Objectives

1. understand the theories and processes for selecting and organizing information sources;
2. understand the theories and processes for the retrieval, dissemination, and utilization of information sources;
3. attain competency in the latest and specialized information technologies;
4. understand the above objectives within the perspective of prevailing technologies.

Course Learning Objectives

1. learn about the state-of-the-art in online database searching, with emphasis on their use in support of research in academic and special libraries and information centers
2. become acquainted with the advanced and unique characteristics of bibliographic and non-bibliographic databases from a searcher's point of view
3. learn the concept of advanced search techniques and discovery of scholarly information resources
4. understand the importance of the quality, prestige, impact and popularity of information sources, and the extent of coverage of such sources by databases
5. learn about the ways and means of conducting federated searching across information sources and linking to digitally available assets.

Teaching Method

- The course applies a combination of lectures, demonstrations, students' exercises and class-room activities.
- The exercises allow students to demonstrate their database searching abilities and knowledge of the principles and issues of database searching.
- Class-room activities allow students to share their experience and to get reaction from the entire class.
Requirements

Reading of systems’ documentation, online help information are important in addition to the articles listed in the Digital Reading List (http://www2.hawaii.edu/~jacso/667-digr-03fall.htm). Also, thumb through a few current print issues of Online, Computers in Libraries, Library Journal, Online Information Review and Searcher in their entirety to avoid tunnel vision and to make sure that you see the forest from the trees. I would ask you occasionally what did you read this week – beyond the required readings listed.

Assignments and Grading

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<td>Readings and Search Quizzes</td>
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<td>Mid-term paper</td>
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(1) Readings and Search Quizzes (20% of the grade)
These will be questions related to the assigned readings and presentation materials, and simple, short exercises to test your knowledge of various search features.
Deadline: will be announced

(2) Mid-term paper (30% of the grade)
Deadline: October 20. 1 p.m. (late submission is not accepted)

(3) Term Paper (40% of the grade)
Detailed guidelines will be distributed about three weeks before the deadline.
Deadline: December 1, 1. p.m. (late submission is not accepted)

(4) Class activity (10% of the grade)
You need to be active in the class by asking questions, bringing up interesting issues which relate to the topics of the course, and discussing current issues that you read about or experienced in the library and are relevant to our subjects.

Session 1. Introduction, Changes in the Information Industry Landscape
Session 2. The Essence of Advanced Searching; Selecting the Best Options in Online Services, Software and Databases
Session 3. Metadata, XML, RDF, Master & Index File Architecture
Session 4. Advanced Information Retrieval Techniques
Session 5. Traditional & Autonomous Citation Indexing & Citation Searching
Session 6. Measures of Prestige, Impact, and Reach (Popularity) of Information Sources - Part I
Session 7. Measures of Prestige, Impact, and Reach (Popularity) of Information Sources - Part II
Session 8. Student Presentations of Mid-term Papers
Session 9. Open Access & Controlled Access Information Sources
Session 10. Resource Discovery, Scholarly and Special Web Directories
Session 11. Advanced Web-wide Search Engines and Metasearch Engines
Session 12. Federated Searching, Proxy Searching & PolySearching
Session 13. Discussion of Term Paper Issues
Session 14. The Strongest Links for Digital Information Research