

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7111 Information Retrieval in the Health Sciences
Syllabus
Spring 2009
Three Credit Hours

Adjunct Instructor:

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Catalog Description

An introduction to the online information retrieval systems that are standards in health sciences libraries. The course covers searching the health sciences databases, managing bibliographic records, and evaluating online products and publications that facilitate study and practice in various health professions.

Course Outcomes

Each student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify products that are standard information retrieval tools in a health sciences library
- Translate a request for health sciences information into a retrieval strategy
- Retrieve information using search strategies appropriate to the online product
- Evaluate the information retrieved for reliability, accuracy, and relevance
- Deliver the retrieved information to clients using appropriate formats
- Develop methods and activities for teaching online information retrieval skills to audiences that populate health sciences facilities

Textbook

Jankowski, T. A. 2008. *The Medical Library Association essential guide to becoming an expert searcher*. NY: Neal-Schuman. ISBN: 978-1-55570-622-7 (Paperback)

A copy of the textbook (listed above) is on Reserve for this semester in the Odum Library on the Valdosta State University campus. By mutual agreement between the MLIS Program and the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) office in the Odum Library, required textbooks for courses offered this semester will not be available for interlibrary loan. ILL staff in the Odum Library are **not** responsible for obtaining books that are required texts for any VSU student during any given semester. The complete MLIS Policy on Interlibrary Loan Requests for Textbooks is at: http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/student_resources/documents/ILL_Textbooks.pdf

Instructor Availability & Support

Mrs. Kelly checks her e-mail and telephone messages daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5). By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (WebCT/Vista and BlazeNet e-mail). **Please use the TEMP email for Mrs. Kelly. She will notify students once the other VSU accounts are set-up.** If you are registered for the course as a non-degree student, a BlazeNet account will be assigned to you for this semester. Your BlazeNet login and password serve as your WebCT/Vista login and password. All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this

online course must be sent via WebCT/Vista.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. The instructor reserves the option of scheduling live chat or Live Classroom (a product that allows voice over the Internet) sessions for additional instruction if such instruction seems necessary and can be mutually arranged between her and the members of the class.

Graded Course Requirements (Based on the Points System)

As a student in this class, you are expected to: (1) read or view all assigned background materials; (2) participate in all assigned discussion groups; and (3) submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor.

Grading

Your final grade will be one of these letter grades:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Below 60 F

Course Activities:

Article/ Chapter Summary 5 points

Discussions 10 points

Online Searching Exercises 40 points

Teaching Exercise 25 points

Product Profile/Comparison 20 points

Total 100 points

Overview of Course Activities

Chapter Summary

Students will have at least 1 chapter summary in this class. The suggested style manual for this assignment will be APA. Further instructions will be placed on WebCT.

Discussion Board Participation

Students are expected to participate in all discussions. You are also expected to comment on materials posted by fellow students. These discussions offer a means to communicate with each other and your instructor.

Online Searching Exercises

You will be asked to complete online searching exercises. When submitting these exercises either copy and paste or email the entire search strategy and/or search history along with the results. Complete instructions will be given on WebCT.

Teaching Exercise/Presentation

Each student will develop a teaching presentation on a select resource. Further instructions will be given on WebCT.

Product Profile/Comparison

You will be asked to complete a product profile of Medline via PubMed in comparison with another interface of Medline, (EBSCOHOST, MDConsult or Ovid). Complete instructions will be given on WebCT.

Technical Requirements

All class materials will be placed on a password-protected Web site using the Vista/WebCT course management program. If you are a new Vista user, go to the Vista help pages at <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/>. On the right margin are "Self Help" links. View the "Getting Started" tutorial first. Then return to the Vista page and login using your BlazeNet email ID and password. The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's email and other sources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/> and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Distance Learning Support

A VSU reference librarian is responsible for coordinating library services for off-campus VSU students. That librarian's email and phone contact will be provided to you at the start of this semester. An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/revised_students.pdf.

Academic Dishonesty

"Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources."

Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the *Student Handbook*, *Student Code of Ethics*. Please acquaint yourself with the full policy at <http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/root/eced4300/Academic%20Dishonesty.doc>.

It is **your responsibility** to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches of academic integrity. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to post rules for citing, quoting, or ethical exchange of information for every assignment. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

Special Needs Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or the handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498 (ttv).

Student Agreement

Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.

Assignment Calendar

Assignments will be due at 2-week intervals.

Week 1-2 Introduction to the National Library of Medicine

Jan. 12 & Review NLM's website (wkly module)

Jan. 19 **Answer questions on the discussion board by January 25, 2009**

• on the discussion board and tell us a little about yourself.

Ready Article by Kent Smith on NLM (wkly. module)

Week 3-4 Introduction to Role of the Expert Searcher

Jan. 26 & Read Jankowski text: Chapter 1

Feb. 2 Read article on the Role of Expert Searcher located in Content file.

Answer questions on the discussion board by Feb. 2, 2009.

Read chapter on Medline by Brian Katcher (wkly. module)

Assignment • write 1-2 page summary on Medline (from the chapter by Katcher), using the APA style manual

Week 5-6 How to Begin the Search Process

Feb. 9 & Read Jankowski text: Chapter 2, & 5.

Feb. 16 Answer questions on the discussion board by Feb. 16, 2009

Complete the PubMed tutorial

Read and review PubMed Central & My NCBI (online help)

Use search strategy worksheet from pg. 48 • Jankowski text.

Online exercise #1 (Wkly module) Due Feb. 22, 2009

Week 7-8 Understanding the structure of Health Sciences databases

Feb. 23 & Read Jankowski text: Chapter 3, 4, 6, & 7.

Mar. 2 Answer questions on the discussion board by Mar. 2, 2009.

Online exercise #2 (Wkly module) Due Mar. 2, 2009 extended to March 9, 2009.

Week 9-10 A Closer Look at other Interfaces of Medline

Mar. 9 & Review Ovid online help & database search guide.

Mar. 16 Review EBSCOhost online help.

Review MDConsult online help.

Answer questions on the discussion board by Mar. 15, 2009

Product Profile and Comparison Due by Mar. 22, 2009

Week 11-12 Other Health Sciences Databases, Pt. 1

Mar. 23 & Review select Entrez databases (NCBI) online help.

Mar. 30 Review of Current Content Connect or Scopus online help.

Answer questions on the discussion board by Apr. 5, 2009

Online exercise #3 (Wkly module) Due Apr. 5, 2009

Week 13-14 Other Health Sciences Databases, Pt. 2 & how to disseminate the results

Apr. 6 & Review Medlineplus, EBM, CINAHL, Social Sciences, & Psychology

Apr. 13 Bibliographic software - Endnote, Reference Manager

Answer questions on the discussion board by Apr. 19, 2009 Online exercise #4 (Wkly module) Due Apr. 19, 2009

Week 15-16 How to Teach the User

Apr. 20- Review the National Network of Libraries of Medicine website

Apr. 27 Select a Distance Learning Module to review.

Learning style and strategies (will be uploaded)

Prepare teaching exercise Due May 3, 2009

Answer questions on the discussion board Due May 3, 2009