LIS 5053 – Information Users in the Knowledge Society

Catalog Course Description: Prerequisite: 5033. Information use by people in various roles, situations, and contexts, individually and in groups. Information behavior and the influence of learning and cognitive processes; value systems; and situational, psychological, sociological, and political perspectives. Application of study of user information behavior to textual, graphical, and visual representation of knowledge. Includes both theoretical models and practical methodologies for study of uses and for user-centered design of information and knowledge systems and services.

Interpretation of Course Description: This course will examine community, disciplinary, functional practices, and individual and social aspects of human information needs, seeking, and use based on current theoretical and empirical research. Because of the vast range of material in this subject area, the objective has been to select a few areas to focus on, in order to develop at least a little depth in those areas and to begin to develop judgment regarding the products of others in the field. An effort was made to select materials reflecting a wide range of philosophical and methodological approaches.

Audience: (level, environment/setting): Required, Introductory, MLIS, MSKM, face-to-face/video

Expectations: Prior to the start of class, students should be able to use D2L, including accessing news and contents, participating in discussion boards, and submitting assignments through folders; produce documents that are professional in appearance and scholarly using word processing software.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1) Identify the major concepts and findings of the literature on information needs, seeking, and use, including the important research programs and the questions, theories, and researchers associated with each; 2) critique the major areas of research on information seeking, including a description of their strengths and weaknesses; 3) understand the role of context in assisting users in deriving meaning, telling stories, or creating knowledge; 4) identify cultural constructions in information-seeking and use; 5) apply concepts and frameworks from the research literature to examples or cases; 6) identify the impact of domain and identity on information-seeking and use; and 7) observe and analytically describe information behavior activities in various settings, including library/archive/museum contexts and in everyday life.

Topics: Definitions and general; research Methods and information behavior; seeking and using documentary evidence; user needs for authenticity and processes for validating information; impact of learning styles and preferences on information use; supporting user needs through information systems design; information in human communities; information needs and information seeking of children, adolescents, and students; information seeking interactions: general public, including ethnically diverse communities

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology: Basic word-processing skills, D2L, PowerPoint presentations

Course Last Offered: Fall 2009        Document prepared by: Dr. White, Spring 2009

Disclaimer: This summary represents the course as it has been taught in past semesters and is provided for the convenience of students and advisors. No guarantees are expressed or implied about current and future course offerings.