LIS 5990 DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Catalog Course Description: LIS 5990 Digital Collections. (Crosslisted with Knowledge Management 5990). Prerequisite 5033. 3 hours. Introduction to the creation and development of digital collections and to the technical requirements for storage and dissemination of digital materials. Topics will include creation, development, organization, maintenance, and use of digital collections. Students will explore a variety of techniques and technologies for digitizing materials, evaluate the strengths and limitations of current efforts in creating, collecting and organizing digital materials, and explore the different opportunities and challenges of digital libraries, repositories, and archives.

Interpretation of Course Description: This course introduces students to theories and practices relating to digital collections of different kinds. Assigned readings will explore major issues and current trends in creating and maintaining digital collections. Projects will involve designing a digital collection for a specific audience or institution and implementing the preliminary stages of the proposed collection.

Audience: General elective; advanced; appropriate for both KM and MLIS students. Online format.

Expectations: Students should be able to use Desire2Learn. Students are encouraged to be familiar with the use of scanning software, digital photography, and relevant metadata concepts (Dublin Core and EAD) prior to entering this class. Use of specific collection management software (e.g., OMEKA, ContentDM) will be introduced during the semester.

Student Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:
* identify and discuss relevant theories and practices relating to digital collections of different kinds
* identify and discuss major issues and current trends in creating and maintaining digital collections
* understand, evaluate, and use techniques, technologies and tools relevant to a variety of digital collection environments
* explain in detail the professional standards of best practice regarding the ethical use of digital collections

Topics:
- Historical background of collections
- Contemporary convergence of collecting institutions
- Digital collection examples
- Collection philosophies
- Collection preservation and collection sustainability issues
- Collection best practices, including usability and retrieval
- Collection copyright issues
- Data curation
- Special topics: text, images, multimedia
- The future of collections

Opportunities for utilizing relevant real-world skills and technology:
Students will use a variety of technologies and software to build sample digital collections.

Course Last Offered: Fall 2008

Document prepared by: Betsy Martens, Fall 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.