Interpretation of the course description: Students will learn methods for evaluating library and information center policies, processes and procedures. The course includes discussion of the use of evaluation in planning for continuous quality assessment and improvement.

Audience: This is an advanced class for students who have completed all of their introductory requirements: Prerequisites include 5023, 5033, 5043, 5053. The course format depends upon the semester in which it is taught, it is sometimes an online and sometimes a face to face class. As a guided elective it may be selected in the Research, Discovery, and Evaluation category.

Expectations: Prior to the start of class students should be proficient in using standard technologies such as word processing, presentation software, and using OU’s Desire to Learn for discussions, submitting assignments, etc. They should also be able to cite correctly using Chicago Manual of Style. Additionally, students should have enough of a background in Library and Information Studies to be able to select appropriate evaluation topics.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:
Articulate the commonalities and differences between research and evaluation and the uses of each in library administration
Identify appropriate measures and methodologies for evaluation of library services and administrative functions
Plan and implement evaluation activities
Identify various data sources and techniques of data collection and analysis for evaluation
Discuss ethical issues which may be confronted in gathering data for evaluation
Prepare an evaluation proposal
Present evaluation results to diverse audiences

Topics: Students will propose an evaluation topic for a specific library setting and write an evaluation proposal including an extensive literature review, proposed methodology, and proposed data analysis method. They will also write data collection instruments such as surveys and focus group scripts. Additionally they will engage in discussions of potential evaluation topics in library and other information settings.

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology: Students will be required to do literature searches in library databases and use word processing software. They are required to communicate with each other and with the instructor through the D2L platform, and submit their assignments to the D2L dropbox. They may also be introduced to data analysis software.

Course Last offered: Spring 2011 Document Prepared by: Susan Burke, Fall 2011

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