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Course Outline for LIBR 7

INTRO TO INTERNET RESEARCH

Effective: Fall 2007

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

LIBR 7 — INTRO TO INTERNET RESEARCH — 0.50 units

Introduction to research techniques in a college library: Internet. Focus on use of the Internet for research purposes, including web search strategies, appropriate search engines and directories, evaluation techniques for web resources, recognition of plagiarism, and bibliographic citation of web resources.

0.50 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Pass/No Pass

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	9.00
Total Hours:	9.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Locate LPC Library homepage and identify useful Internet search tools;
- B. Contrast and compare Internet search tools to determine the most appropriate resource;
- C. Use both search engines and subject directories proficiently;
- D. Formulate effective research strategies for locating and retrieving relevant information on a selected topic;
- E. Articulate and define criteria for evaluating a website;
- F. Examine a website in order to evaluate reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view or bias;
- G. Demonstrate the ability to cite information;
- H. Explain ethical, social, and legal issues concerning plagiarism as it relates to the Internet; and
- I. Develop and modify effective search strategies to compile a "webliography" (bibliography of online sources) on a chosen topic using a standard citation style.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Internet Research
 1. Introduction to Internet search tools on LPC Library homepage
 2. Search engines and subject directories
 - a. Uses, commonalities, and differences.
 - b. Explain why a particular website might contain the best information on a topic.
 3. Search strategy
 - a. Articulate a problem, issue, or research question.
 - b. Identify appropriate search terms.
 - c. Develop and modify effective search strategies.
 4. Search techniques
 - a. Use Help screens to discover search options for Internet search tools, including toolbars, basic and advanced search screens, search features, and refining search options.
 - b. Use limiters and expanders, Boolean operators, truncation, phrase searching, wildcards, query modifiers, and occurrence to narrow or broaden searches.
 - c. Search by domain, file format, language, synonyms, and date.
 - d. Search specifically for images, groups, news, shopping, local and scholarly information, and maps.
 - e. Identify results list organization, special features such as abstracts, and HTML and PDF full-text.
- B. Comparison of Resources Found in the Library or Library Databases with Internet Resources to Determine which is the Superior Source of Information.
- C. Evaluation Criteria
 1. Critically analyze reliability of content
 2. Use evaluation techniques:
 - a. content, bias, appropriateness, currency, author's or organization's credentials;
 - b. type of page (personal, educational, nonprofit, commercial, government);
 - c. why the information is published (inform, give facts or data, explain, persuade, sell; disclose, humorous, parody, etc.);and

- d. whether the page is a scholarly source (documented with citations or links, reproduced from another publication, what sites link to it).

D. Plagiarism

1. Define plagiarism.
2. Ethical, social, and legal issues

E. Citation Style

1. MLA, APA, and other citation formats
2. Use of bibliographic citation composer

F. Webliography

1. Functions
2. Types (annotated, works cited, bibliography, reference list)

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. One-on-one consultation with a librarian
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. Written assignments
- D. In-class, hands-on skill work
- E. Group work with discussion
- F. **Demonstration** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Discussion 1. Compare and contrast the results from two search engines using the same search terms. 2. Compare and contrast the features and functions of two subject directories (e.g., Librarians' Internet Index, Google Directory). 3. Identify features of a website; refer to the evaluation tip sheet to decide on the overall quality of the site. B. Demonstration 1. Narrow a search using special search strategies. 2. Show examples of effective search terms. 3. Display a website, point out its various components, and introduce criteria for evaluating web resources. C. Written Assignments 1. Use a checklist to evaluate two websites. 2. Create a webliography on a specific topic, presenting the resources in the appropriate format.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Projects
2. Group Projects
3. Other:
 - a. Methods
 1. Skill demonstration in class
 2. Group presentation critically analyzing a particular website using the evaluation criteria
 3. Final project: written bibliography of Internet websites, not articles from subscription database
 4. Consultation with librarian to demonstrate search strategy, discuss web sources chosen for webliography and review citation format for correctness

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of Evaluation
 - a. In-class evaluation of search strategies to locate appropriate web sites on assigned topic
 - b. In-class evaluation of selected web sites on an assigned topic
 - c. End of class final project: bibliography

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. LPC Library *User Guides and Tip Sheets.*, -, 2006.
2. Gibaldi, Joseph *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2003.
3. - *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th ed., American Psychological Association, 2001.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Student I.D. card
- B. GoPrint Card