Course Outline for LIBR 6

INTRO SPEC RESEARCH DATABASES

Effective: Fall 2007

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
LIBR 6 — INTRO SPEC RESEARCH DATABASES — 0.50 units

Introduction to research techniques in a college library: specialized research databases. Focus on campus and remote use of subject databases, emphasis on discipline specific electronic resources, search strategies, evaluation of relevant resources, distinction between scholarly journals and popular magazines, discussion of plagiarism, and bibliographic citation of articles.

0.50 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:
Pass/No Pass

Discipline:

	MIN
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 subject specific databases;
B. Contrast and compare databases to determine most appropriate resources for topic;
C. Use subject specific databases proficiently;
D. Formulate effective research strategies for locating magazine, journal, newspaper articles, poetry and literary criticism on a selected topic in LPC discipline-specific databases;
E. Distinguish between popular magazines and peer-reviewed journals;
F. Evaluate articles using assessment techniques such as abstracts, controlled subject vocabulary, date, and relevancy rating to determine the best articles;
G. Demonstrate the ability to cite information;
H. Explain ethical, social, and legal issues concerning plagiarism; and
I. Develop and modify effective search strategies to compile a bibliography on a chosen topic using a standard citation style.

V. CONTENT:
A. Specialized Databases
1. Introduction to subject databases on LPC Library homepage
2. Research applications
a. Uses, commonalities, and differences
b. Scope and coverage
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 each database, including toolbars, basic and advanced search screens, refining search options.
b. Use limiters and expanders, Boolean operators, truncation, wildcards, and proximity searching to narrow or broaden searches.
c. Search by publication, subject terms, cited references, and images
d. Recognize results list features, such as persistent link to searches, print/e-mail/save options, browsing cited references, detailed citation features, and HTML and PDF full-text features.
B. Popular Magazines and Peer-Reviewed Journals
1. Differences between the two
2. Limit search to scholarly or peer-reviewed journals.
C. Evaluation Criteria
1. Determine appropriateness of publication to the topic.
2. Ascertain authority of author by looking at other articles on the topic.
3. Use of evaluation tools: abstracts, controlled subject vocabulary, date, relevancy rating.

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

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
A. **Lecture** -
B. **Demonstration** -
C. One-on-one consultation with a librarian
D. Group work with discussion
E. Written assignment
F. In-class hands-on skill work

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:
A. Discussion 1. Compare and contrast the differences and commonalities between Opposing Viewpoints and Ethnic NewsWatch on selected topics. 2. Determine which specialized database one would use to find alternative views on racial profiling. 3. Compare and contrast the differences and commonalities between LitFinder and Literature Resource Center. B. Demonstration 1. Formulate search strategy 2. Demonstrate retrieval of relevant articles C. Written Assignments 1. Write citations for the selected articles. 2. Prepare a bibliography on the assigned topic.

VIII. EVALUATION:
A. **Methods**

    1. Papers
    2. Projects
    3. Group Projects
    4. Other:
        a. Methods
            1. Skill demonstration in class: for example, find articles on specific topics using appropriate search strategies and databases.
            2. Group presentation: for example, present reasoning for choosing a database for a particular topic.
            3. Final project: written bibliography of articles found in a specific academic area
            4. Consultation with librarian to demonstrate search strategy, discuss sources chosen for bibliography and review citation and bibliographic format for correctness.

B. **Frequency**

    1. Frequency of Evaluation
        a. In-class evaluation of database search strategies
        b. In-class evaluation of selected database articles 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