**Course Outline for LIBR 7**

**THE OPEN WEB AND SEARCH ENGINES**

**Effective: Fall 2016**

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
   LIBR 7 — THE OPEN WEB AND SEARCH ENGINES — 0.50 units

   Introduction to research techniques in a college library using search engines to find materials on the open web. Focus on use of the the open web 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:**

   |  | **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 useful Internet search tools;
   B. Contrast and compare Internet search tools to determine the most appropriate resource;
   C. Use search engines 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 Meta Search Engines
         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. Bibliography
  1. Functions
  2. Types (annotated, works cited, bibliography, reference list)

## VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
- A. **Demonstration** -
- B. In-class, hands-on skill work
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Written assignments
- E. Group work with discussion

## 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 a meta search engine and a search engine. 3. Identify features of a website; refer to the evaluation tips 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 bibliography 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: search strategy, discuss web sources chosen for webliography and review citation format for correctness
             2. Group presentation critically analyzing a particular website using the evaluation criteria
             3. Final project: written bibliography of websites, not articles from subscription database
- 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. Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.* 7th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2009.
2. American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.* 6th ed., American Psychological Association, 2010.
3. Hacker, Diana, and Barbara Fister. *Research and Documentation in the Digital Age.* 6th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.
4. Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference.* 8th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.

## X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:
- A. Student I.D. card
- B. GoPrint Card