LIS 538: Digital Libraries
Winter 2019
Course Outline

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Calendar Description:
The goal of this course is to introduce students to the concept, development, types and trends of digital libraries. This course will focus on the creation, organization, access, use, and evaluation of digital libraries with a view to socioeconomic and cultural issues.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course students should be able to:

● Gain a critical understanding of the concept of and approaches to digital libraries
● Demonstrate an understanding of the issues of information representation, organization, access and retrieval in digital libraries
● Develop methods and skills to analyze and evaluate the major components of digital libraries
● Identify and discuss technical, social, economic and cultural implications of digital libraries
● Develop a small digital library using open source software

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

2. Evince complex and ethical awareness of major issues, research, trends, and dilemmas in library and information studies.
**Objective:** students will, within appropriate institutional, organizational, or professional constructs be ready to debate local, national, and global information issues and policies in a cross-disciplinary, analog, or digital context that includes, but is not limited to the responsibility of librarians and information specialists with respect to the free flow of ideas and access to information.

3. Demonstrate critical thinking, analytical capacities, and problem-solving skills.

**Objective:** students will possess the skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to evaluate and improve library and information systems and services.

6. Show understanding of the knowledge and information organization life cycle including, but not limited to, production, organization, distribution, access, preservation, disposition, and retrieval practices of recorded knowledge and information resources of all kinds.

**Objective:** students will be able to analyze and synthesize the concepts of knowledge, information, and communication; and to critically examine, assess, and make recommendations as to how these concepts and principles are applied in various information environments, including the Web.

7. Conduct effective searches to locate, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information sources, with respect for the culturally diverse composition of society and its information needs.

**Objective:** students will be able to create and manage user-centered information services and systems to meet the information needs of shifting and distinct communities of users.

9. Examine the impact, importance, and limitations of technologies in personal, professional, and social contexts as well as in library and information studies settings.

**Objective:** students will understand current information technology as an integral part of the operations and services of libraries and information agencies.

**Content:**

History and definitions of digital libraries, digital library architecture and technology, digitization, preservation, digital repositories, evaluation of digital libraries, user interfaces in digital libraries, information access and retrieval in digital libraries.

**Methods:**

Lectures, readings, group projects, hands-on exercises, online discussions.

**Course relationships:**

Pre-requisites: LIS 501, 502, 503 and 505.

**Required Texts:** None

**Assignments and Weighting:**

Assignment 1: Digital Collection Development (5%)
Assignment 2: Paper on Digital Libraries (10%)
Assignment 3: Evaluation of an operational digital libraries (Group) (10%)
Omeka Digital Library Lab (5%)
Dublin Core Metadata Generation (5%)
Omeka Digital Library Project Plan (Group) (5%)
School of Library and Information Studies Grading Statement:

Grades reflect professional judgements of student achievement made by instructors. These judgements are based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in class. The instructor should mark in terms of raw scores, rank the assignments in order of merit, and with due attention to the verbal descriptions of the various grades, assign an appropriate final letter grade.

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