

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

LIS 7011 Information Behavior
Fall 2021

Asynchronous Online Class

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Office Hours by Appointment

Catalog Description

User-centered approaches to meeting information needs of individuals and communities; community analysis; user studies; and reference interview.

General Course Objectives

1. To provide students with a conceptual framework and research foundation for information services
2. To introduce students to models and methods for analyzing the information needs of individuals and communities
3. To inculcate a user-centered approach to information services

Class Materials

Required textbook:

Donald O. Case and Lisa M. Given (2016). Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking, Needs, and Behavior. Fourth Edition. Emerald.

The first edition (2002 version) of the book is available online through LSU Libraries (<http://lib.lsu.edu>). You may download the PDF file, and read it using Adobe Digital Editions. If you have not got the fourth edition yet, you may use the first edition **temporarily**.

Topics Covered During the Semester

Historical Overview of Research into Information Needs and Information Seeking

Qualitative Research Methods

User-Centered Methods

Reference Services from a User-Centered Perspective

Focus Groups: A User-Centered Approach

Community Analysis from a User-Centered Perspective
 User-Centered Design of Electronic Resources
 Information Behavior Models
 Information Seeking Scenarios
 Passive Information Acquisition
 Information Behavior: Crisis Situation
 Information Behavior: Personal and Social Contexts
 Decision Making

Evaluation Methods

Assignments are always due no later than 11:00 am on Mondays.

All assignments will be submitted to the Moodle site for the class. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a grade **no higher than C** for that assignment. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in the event of true emergencies, in which case the student must submit a written request for an exception which includes a valid explanation for failure to submit the assignment on time.

The due dates and points for assignment are shown below:

Assignment*	Due Date**	Points
Session 1/Tentative Paper Topic & Resources	Session 5 (9/20)	Not graded
Session 2/Discussion #1 (D1)	Session 3 (9/6)	3
Session 3/HW1. Qualitative Research Question Set	Session 5 (9/20)	15
Session 4/HW2. Reference Assignment Part 1	Session 6 (9/27)	Not graded
Session 5/Discussion #2 (D2)	Session 7 (10/4)	3
Session 6/HW3. Reference Assignment Part 2	Session 8 (10/11)	15
Session 8/HW4. Community Analysis Assignment	Session 10 (10/25)	15
Paper Draft (Optional)	Session 10 (10/25)	Not graded
Session 10/HW5. Focus Groups Assignment	Session 12 (11/8)	15
Session 11/Discussion #3 (D3)	Session 13 (11/15)	4
Term Paper	Session 16 (12/6)	<u>30</u>
		100

*Note: We have four homework assignments (15 points each), three discussion forums (3 points each), and a term paper (31 points).

**Note: A one-session cushion is given for late submissions. That is, if an assignment's due date is X, its cutoff date is X+ 7. After the date of X+7, the Dropbox on Moodle is closed. If an assignment's due day is a Monday, its cutoff day is its following Monday.

The student's final grade will be based on the percentage of the total 100 points earned on assignments. Successful performance in this course requires students to commit at least nine hours per session to the class.

Grading Scheme (Applied to the Entire Course)

97-100%	A+
93-96.99%	A
90-92.99%	A-
87-89.99%	B+
83-86.99%	B
80-82.99%	B-
77-79.99%	C+
73-76.99%	C
70-72.99%	C-
67-69.99%	D+
63-66.99%	D
60-62.99%	D-
Below 60%	F

The average grade in the course is in the B range, which indicates that the student has met the expectations and requirements for the course. A grade in the A range indicates that the student has exceeded the requirements and demonstrated a superior understanding of the principles and concepts involved.

LIS 7011 is a core course for the MLIS degree at SLIS. All core courses must be completed with a grade of B or higher (note that a B- is not a satisfactory grade for core courses). If you do not earn at least a B, you must retake the course. Failure to earn a B a second time will mean you are ineligible to complete the degree program.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted for grading must adhere to the standards for academic integrity set forth by Louisiana State University. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. ***The work submitted must be your own, created without collaboration with other students.*** See the LSU Code of Student Conduct for policies and procedures regarding academic integrity: <https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>. Procedures of addressing academic misconduct are introduced at the Student Advocacy & Accountability website, accessible at <https://www.lsu.edu/saa/>.

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability which requires special accommodations, you must contact the Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall, 225-578-5919. For more information, go to

<http://www.lsu.edu/disability>

Expectations

LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, you (the student) should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend a minimum of six hours outside of class each week working on assignments for this course. For more information see:

<http://catalog.lsu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=822>

Academic Success

The primary ingredients of your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing good critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that will assist you in developing these skills. The place to begin is the Center for Academic Success (<https://www.lsu.edu/cas/about/staff-studentleaders/>). The CAS offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring in the basic subjects, and workshops on a variety of topics, from note taking to time management. Communication Across the Curriculum (<https://www.lsu.edu/academicaffairs/cxc/>) assist students in developing the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, with respect to professional success, the LSU Olinde Career Center (<https://www.lsu.edu/careercenter/>) can assist you with all aspects of the job search, from building a resume, writing a cover letter, and interviewing well to writing an effective thank you note, to ensure success in securing employment when you graduate from LSU.

Access to Instructor

Discussion Forums

Each topic block in Moodle includes a discussion forum to which you may post questions or comments about that session's topic.

Email

I do check my email (wuyj@lsu.edu) frequently throughout the day, and this is usually the best way to contact me directly. I check emails more frequently than Moodle Discussion Forums. If you have a question that you want a quick response, please email me instead of posting it on Moodle.

Zoom Meeting

If you wish to have an extended discussion about any aspects of the class, the best procedure is to email me and I will set up a meeting on Zoom.

SLIS Listserv

Each of you must subscribe to the SLIS listserv, if you have not already done so. If there is ever a problem communicating with the entire class through Moodle, I will send messages to the listserv. Beyond that, the listserv is used to distribute important information to students, such as upcoming graduate school deadlines. To subscribe to the list:

1. You will send an email to listserv@listserv.lsu.edu
2. Leave the subject line blank
3. As the message, type SUB SLIS-L [your first name and last name]. As an example: SUB SLIS-L John Smith
4. The message cannot contain any other information or formatting or signature
5. Send the email

24-hour Response Time

After you send me an email or post questions on Moodle, I will do my best to respond as soon as possible, but please allow at least 24 hours of response time during weekdays. I may need more response time during weekends and travels.