

## Course Profile: Public Libraries

Course Number: LIS 7050

Title: Public Libraries

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s):

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### Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

This course is intended to expand the concepts which are broadly introduced in LIS 6010 (Introduction to the Information Profession) and to build on other courses which are required of MLIS candidates in a manner which is specific to public librarians. It provides library and information science students with knowledge of the history, organization and function of public libraries and the skills necessary to deliver the wide range of services peculiar to this challenging area of librarianship.

### Course Objectives:

1. To provide a broad knowledge base for understanding the various trends and issues confronting American public libraries today.
2. To identify and understand the library's publics: a) users and non-users, how, why, and why not, including changing patterns of use; b) aspects and diversity of community as presented by metropolitan, suburban and rural populations; c) identification and study of special publics.
3. To study selected specific services of the public library.
4. To survey and analyze existing service standards for public libraries (including library networks and systems); the role of state library agencies, the federal government, professional associations, trustees and others in developing, maintaining and improving public library financing.
5. To identify methods of and approaches to goal-setting of services and their evaluation.
6. To help develop and strengthen a personal and professional commitment to public library services from the user's point of view.

### Competencies Expected:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Identify current trends in public librarianship.
2. Develop library programs appropriate for persons of any age, background, occupation or interest.
3. Relate library services and programs to needs arising from common information-seeking behaviors.
4. Plan and articulate a rationale for deciding how to allocate resources.
5. Develop and maintain library collections.
6. Identify major sources of aid to the public librarian (e.g., trustees, friends, professional associations) and major publications addressed to public librarians.
7. Discuss major means of delivering public library services -- main library, branch, bookmobile, deposit collection, etc.

**Course Profile: Public Libraries**

**Course Methodology:**

Class presentations and discussion, research assignments, site visits and guest lecturers.

**Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:**

Attendance and participation, research paper, book report and term project.

**Text: To Be Determined**

**Revised: 8/97**