

Course Profile: Academic Libraries

Course Number: LIS 7060

Title: Academic Libraries

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s):

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

Academic libraries play a crucial role in education, training, research, and scholarly communication. Their collections and services are developed to promote the goals and objectives of the parent institution.

Academic libraries are viewed as an important instructional support unit and participant in the teaching-research process of colleges and universities. Academic libraries also play an important role in the storage and preservation of recorded human knowledge. In recent years, their role in the development and utilization of electronic information technology became significant. Since academic libraries are serving complex organizations, many have become complex organizations themselves. Their staff perform a multitude of tasks and services requiring specialized knowledge and competencies.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to help prepare the student for a career in academic librarianship. Students will study, analyze, and discuss a wide variety of issues, trends, principles, problems and solutions relating to academic librarianship.

Competencies Expected:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand, discuss and analyze a variety of complex issues facing academic libraries.
2. Articulate possible solutions to problems unique to academic libraries.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with literature of specific interest to academic libraries.
4. Understand the evolution of higher education in the U.S. and the transformation of scholarship, all of which shaped the development of academic libraries.
5. Understand the teaching, service, collecting, preservation, and access roles and functions of academic libraries.
6. Demonstrate understanding of administrative issues of academic libraries such as personnel policies, fund-raising, budgeting, balancing support between instruction and research, etc.
7. Understand the importance of academic library standards and guidelines.
8. Understand and appreciate the role of professional associations of interest to academic libraries.

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9. Possess an understanding of academic libraries and higher education normally expected from entry-level librarians.

Content:

1. History of higher education and academic libraries.
2. Organizational culture and higher education.
3. Scholarly communication.
4. Perceptions of the academy.
5. Governance.
6. Organization and management of academic libraries.
7. Libraries and money.
8. The collection.
9. Electronic information and academic libraries.
10. The communities of the academic library.
11. The academic librarian.

Course Methodology:

The class will utilize a lecture-discussion format. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion and group projects and to submit weekly abstracts of relevant articles selected from the professional literature. Practicing visiting librarians will be invited to enrich discussions. Each student will conduct independent research on an approved topic.

Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:

Quality of preparation for each class, completion of reading assignments, quality of participation in class discussions, attendance, quality of papers, demonstrated understanding of academic librarianship, and the ability to articulate the role of academic libraries.

Text: To Be Determined

Revised: 10/05