

Course Profile: Multicultural Information Services and Resources

Course Number: LIS 7370

Title: Multicultural Information Services and Resources

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): LIS 6010 and LIS 6120

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

Multiculturalism is now a growing, important component in the evolution of a country's population. This fact impacts directly in such areas as work, education and day-to-day life. As regional populations become more diverse, more material is being developed to prepare people for handling multicultural diversity, resulting in the development of more resource centers. This course will include a component providing an understanding of what these changes mean, identifying how they will impact upon library services, recognizing the need to provide access to collections, determining if these collections accurately reflect the history and current concerns of specific populations, and recognizing the need to develop research methodology for this field.

Course Objectives:

The study and investigation of: 1) the nature of multiculturalism as a social force; 2) the resources available to further the investigation of multiculturalism; 3) the services which libraries must develop or expand; 4) how to translate multicultural concerns to reflect the needs of individual populations. The student will gain an overview of issues dealing with multiculturalism and translate/interpret these issues for individual populations. The student will also study issues which have an impact on library services and will become familiar with the literature and resource centers available to answer fact questions accurately and without bias.

Competencies Expected:

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

1. Define, historically, the role of culture and its impact on national literature.
2. Define the evolution from culturalism to multiculturalism and its impact on national literature.
3. Interpret the current terminology, and distinguish specific concepts from one another, i.e., enculturation, acculturation, cultural diversity, ethocentrism, and multiculturalism.
4. Define the role of the culture collections in the context of various types of libraries, including the implications for specialized services for specialized audiences.
5. Apply reference service and research techniques to a specific cultural collection for a broad spectrum of users.
6. Conduct content analysis of specific cultural collections regardless of formats and determine how accurate and bias-free they are.
7. Develop effective search strategies and conduct bibliographic searches relating to specific cultures or situations.

Course Profile: Multicultural Information Services and Resources

8. Interpret cataloging and classification systems as they apply to either an individual culture or to a group of related cultures.
9. Design a basic Multi-Cultural Collection.
10. Develop bibliographies for both print and non-print material to meet the needs of a specific culture or audience.
11. Describe the appropriate applications of technology, including networks, to develop collections and to make them available for appropriate populations.
12. Describe current concerns regarding the publication and dissemination of materials for specialized populations.
13. Describe the effectiveness of current selection tools in identifying the materials available for an individual culture or a specialized audience.

Content:

Introduction to cultures and ethnic groups and the evolution to a multicultural society; Principles of organization and collection development for different cultural collections; Specialized services which need to be developed to provide library service and which have been designed to meet the needs of specialized populations.

Course Methodology:

1. Lectures
2. Guest speakers
3. Class discussions
4. Audiovisual presentations
5. Visits to special collections
6. Assignments: identification of appropriate materials, identification of specialized collections, and demonstrating an understanding of multiculturalism

Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:

1. Class Participation
2. Discussion of readings
3. Assignments: A paper discussing an aspect of multiculturalism
4. Bibliographic essay or annotated pathfinder on a specific culture identifying resources and resource centers

Text: To Be Determined

Revised: 2/97