Health Sciences Information Services and Resources
LIS 530BLE

Spring 2010 (January 19 – May 4)
Live session: Tuesdays, 6:15 – 8:15 CT
LEEP on-campus day: Thursday, March 4
Instructor: W. John MacMullen <wjohn@illinois.edu>
Office: 332 LIS / 217-265-0741
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 1 - 2pm CT
(or by appointment; email is the best way to schedule)

Course Description
LIS530BLE Health Sciences Information Services and Resources. Provides a general introduction to information services and sources which serve the health-related information needs of health care professionals and the lay public. Provides exposure to the tools and services most often encountered in delivery of health-related information, issues and trends in health science library practice, ethical issues in provision of health-related information, and specialized programs and services for all health information consumers. 4 credit hours. [official GSLIS description]

Objectives
The learning objectives for this course are:

- To understand the breadth and depth of print and electronic information resources and library-based services available to health professionals, biomedical researchers, consumers, and information professionals.
- To understand the underlying theories and methods by which these resources are organized (internally and in collections).
- To understand the information- and practice contexts of health professionals, biomedical researchers, and consumers.
- To develop context-appropriate information selection and evaluation skills to address the information needs of the above populations.
- To develop searching skills in some of the most frequently used online resources.

Evaluation

- 10% Participation
- 20% Case study (Due: 3/7)
- 30% Searching assignments (Due: 2/2 & 4/27)
- 40% Term project (Due: various dates; see Assignments)
Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Our readings and resources are posted by week on the main course page. This course will introduce you to many terms and concepts that may be new to you. Remember that the University Library and LIS Virtual Library provide access to some reference sources online that may be helpful in providing additional background and explanations. These titles are linked from: http://www.library.illinois.edu/lssold/encyclopedias.html. They include: ODLIS: Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science, Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, and Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology. The Supplementary Reading List for this course includes other health information resources, many of which we will explore this semester.

Participation Expectations

Individual students' attendance and contributions to each class session are extremely important. Please contact the instructor if you are unable to attend a session due to an emergency. Readings assigned for a particular class session are intended to be read before class meets for that week; students should come to class prepared to discuss them, and to provide substantive critiques.

Weekly class meeting environments

Our online class sessions will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, and skill development. Participation on the course web site's forums outside of class time is required, and affords opportunities for students to engage in substantive discussions of the material, work out complex ideas in a format that is not time-limited, and functions as a way to give the instructor feedback on the assigned readings and the materials covered in class. Given the diversity of backgrounds and experiences of class members, it is important for all members to be open to new ideas during our discussions and debates. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for the ideas and opinions of all other members of the class at all times. Participation in discussions demonstrates active engagement in the course rather than passive attendance.

If you have examples of online resources or services that you feel are relevant to a particular week's topic, posting them to that week's forum helps develop some degree of "institutional memory" for the class, and permits us to stay focused on the more conceptual and theoretical information during the class sessions.

Writing

As you move into your professional lives, it will be necessary to clearly articulate your ideas in
both written and oral form. It is important that you think critically and present your ideas throughout the duration of the course. (See 'Guidance on responding to readings', under Assignments and Evaluation.)

Collaboration and Honor Code

The University of Illinois has a code of academic integrity that encourages and promotes students' adherence to the ethics of academia. With regard to coursework, the code essentially means that you certify that the work that you submit is your own (or your group's in the case of group work), and that information taken from the work of others must always be attributed. In this course, unless specified otherwise, collaboration, discussion, and the use of assistance from other class members is encouraged and is not inconsistent with the honor code.

UIUC Student Code - Academic Integrity
http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article_1/a1_1-401.html

UIUC Library - Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html