VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY& INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7111 Information Retrieval in the Health Sciences
Syllabus--Spring Semester 2011
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:
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Course Description:
An introduction to the online information retrieval systems that are standards in health sciences libraries. The course covers searching the health sciences databases, managing bibliographic records, and evaluating online products and publications that facilitate study and practice in various health professions.

Learning Outcomes (LO):
At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:
- Identify products that are standard information retrieval tools in a health sciences library
- Translate a request for health sciences information into a retrieval strategy
- Retrieve information using search strategies appropriate to the online product
- Evaluate the information retrieved for reliability, accuracy, and relevance
- Deliver the retrieved information to clients using appropriate formats
- Develop methods and activities for teaching online information retrieval skills to audiences that populate health sciences facilities

Textbook
Jankowski, T. A. 2008. *The Medical Library Association essential guide to becoming an expert searcher*. NY: Neal-Schuman. ISBN: 978-1-55570-622-7 (Paperback)
A copy of the textbook (listed above) is on Reserve for this semester in the Odum Library on the Valdosta State University campus. By mutual agreement between the MLIS Program and the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) office in the Odum Library, required textbooks for courses offered this semester will not be available for interlibrary loan. ILL staff in the Odum Library are **not** responsible for obtaining books that are required texts for any VSU student during any given semester. The complete MLIS Policy on Interlibrary Loan Requests for Textbooks is at:
http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/student_resources/documents/ILL_Textbooks.pdf

Instructor Availability & Support
For questions regarding the course, please communicate with me through the WebCT site for this course. If your question is personal, please use the WebCT course mail feature. If you have a general question whose answer may be of interest to your classmates, please post it to the "Questions" topic on the discussion boards.

Attendance
This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. The instructor reserves the option of scheduling live chat or WIMBA sessions for additional instruction if such instruction seems necessary and can be mutually arranged between him and the members of the class.

Graded Course Requirements (Based on the Points System)
As a student in this class, you are expected to: (1) read or view all assigned background materials; (2) participate in all assigned discussion groups; and (3) submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor.

Grading
Your final grade will be one of these letter grades:
90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
Below 60 F

Course Activities:
Article/ Chapter Summary 5 points
Discussions 10 points
Online Searching Exercises 40 points
Teaching Exercise 25 points
Product Profile/Comparison 20 points
Total 100 points

Overview of Course Activities
Chapter Summary
Students will have at least 1 chapter summary in this class. The suggested style manual for this assignment will be APA. Further instructions will be placed on WebCT.

Discussion Board Participation
Students are expected to participate in all discussions. You are also expected to comment on materials posted by fellow students. These discussions offer a means to communicate with each other and your instructor.

Online Searching Exercises
You will be asked to complete online searching exercises. When submitting these exercises either copy and paste or email the entire search strategy and/or search history along with the results. Complete instructions will be given on WebCT.

Teaching Exercise/Presentation
Each student will develop a teaching presentation on a select resource. Further instructions will be given on WebCT.

Product Profile/Comparison
You will be asked to complete a product profile of Medline via PubMed in comparison with another interface of Medline, (EBSCOHOST, MDConsult or Ovid). Complete instructions will be given on WebCT.

Distance Learning Support:
An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/revised_students.pdf. The IT Help Desk is at http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/ and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Academic Honesty:
"Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources." Please review VSU's full policy on student conduct and behavior at http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/troot/eced4300/Academic%20Dishonesty.doc.
Unless an assignment is specifically designated as a group or collaborative activity, anything submitted under your name should be solely your own work. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

Accommodations Statement:
Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or the handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

Student Agreement:
Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may

adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.
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Assignment Calendar
Assignments will be due at 2-week intervals.
Week 1-2 <u>Introduction to the National Library of Medicine</u>
Jan. 12 Review NLM's website (wkly module)
Jan. 19 **Answer questions on the discussion board by January 25, 2011**
"Introduce Yourself" on the discussion board and tell us a little about yourself.
Ready Article by Kent Smith on NLM (wkly. module)

Week 3-4 <u>Introduction to Role of the Expert Searcher</u>
Jan. 26 Read Jankowski text: Chapter 1
Feb. 2 Read article on the Role of Expert Searcher located in Content file.
Answer questions on the discussion board by Feb. 2, 2011.
Read chapter on Medline by Brian Katcher (wkly. module)
Assignment write 1-2 page summary on Medline (from the chapter by Katcher), using the APA style manual

Week 5-6 <u>How to Begin the Search Process</u>
Feb. 9 Read Jankowski text: Chapter 2, & 5.
Feb. 16 Answer questions on the discussion board by Feb. 16, 2011
Complete the PubMed tutorial
Read and review PubMed Central & My NCBI (online help)
Use search strategy worksheet from pg. 48 Jankowski text.
Online exercise #1 (Wkly module) Due Feb. 22, 2011

Week 7-8 <u>Understanding the structure of Health Sciences databases</u>
Feb. 23 Read Jankowski text: Chapter 3, 4, 6, & 7.
Mar. 2 Answer questions on the discussion board by Mar. 2, 2011.
Online exercise #2 (Wkly module) Due Mar. 2, 2011 extended to March 9, 2011.

Week 9-10 <u>A Closer Look at other Interfaces of Medline</u>
Mar. 9 Review Ovid online help & database search guide.
Mar. 23 Review EBSCOhost online help.
Review MDConsult online help.
Answer questions on the discussion board by Mar. 23, 2011
Product Profile and Comparison Due by Mar. 22, 2011

Week 11-12 <u>Other Health Sciences Databases, Pt. 1</u>
Mar. 30 & Review select Entrez databases (NCBI) online help.
Apr. 6 Review of Current Content Connect or Scopus online help.
Answer questions on the discussion board by Apr. 6, 2011
Online exercise #3 (Wkly module) Due Apr. 6, 2011

Week 13-14 <u>Other Health Sciences Databases, Pt. 2 & how to disseminate the results</u>
Apr. 13 Review Medlineplus, EBM , CINAHL, Social Sciences, & Psychology
Apr. 20 Bibliographic software - Endnote, Reference Manager
Answer questions on the discussion board by Apr. 19, 2011 Online exercise #4 (Wkly module) Due Apr. 20, 2011

Week 15-16 <u>How to Teach the User</u>
Apr. 27 Review the National Network of Libraries of Medicine website
May 4 Select a Distance Learning Module to review.
Learning style and strategies (will be uploaded)
Prepare teaching exercise Due May 4, 2011
Answer questions on the discussion board Due May 4, 2011