

Syllabus  
MLIS Program  
Valdosta State University  
Cataloging the Web  
MLIS 7330 summer 2002

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Electronic: I will respond to e-mail within 48 hours of receipt.

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Web libraries proliferate

Web libraries can be defined as Internet resident resources that point to, collect, categorize, and/or catalog other Web resources. These can be distinguished from "libraries on the Web," like the US Library of Congress' National Digital Library Initiative, Project Gutenberg, or the many Internet interfaces to "brick and mortar" library collections. Libraries on the Web use the Internet as an access tool and as a pointer to their "traditional" resources, Web libraries not only use the Web as an access tool but also as the source of their collections.

Web libraries range in size, scope, quality, and depth from rudimentary jump pages linking to pages with similar content to sophisticated, monitored, and specialized collections like the Social Science Information Gateway or the Virtual Library collections. Library selection and de-selection may be performed by the Web author alone, by teams of subject specialists and librarians, or by automated procedures. The smaller libraries typically organize material by subject, author, or some other criterion, and provide links to the collected document. The larger libraries often provide site maps as well as limited area search engines to facilitate access and retrieval functions.

MLIS 7330 is designed to address means and methods to manage Web documents in the library and information science context. This includes a wide range of skills and techniques. We will

Develop selection criteria for Web library creation

- Can the WWW be managed

- What are the quality issues
- Is the WWW different

Explore existing and proposed techniques for Web page management, indexing, and cataloging

- Use of search engines as indexing applications
- Metadata approaches to Web management
- Creating and maintaining a Web "library"
- Archiving issues

We will consider, examine, and apply various author-based and indexer-applied systems and technologies. We will consider problems unique to the Web environment and look to metadata applications that may provide some control for those elements.

Be aware that the bibliographic management of the Web is a new art. But also remember that it has been the role of librarians since time immemorial to store, categorize, manage, distribute, and organize the information legacy of our societies and cultures. If there are any surprises arising from the new approaches, it is not how complex they are, but how new they are not. In fact, as you will gather throughout this course, I believe that as an information medium, the WWW is less advanced in concept than what we have "traditionally" employed. In some ways it is closer to the oral tradition than to the written.

### Expectations and Outcomes

Students in MLIS 7330 will become conversant with the major metadata and "metametadata" systems for the markup of digital documents. Students will develop an understanding of what each of the systems does and does not do as a cataloging and indexing utility. Students will be introduced to document markup and are expected to apply each of the major systems to a Web document of their own creation.

### Course Structure

This is a Web based course. All instruction, assignments, discussion, and other communication are designed for the electronic environment. There are necessarily certain assumptions that follow. All students must be conversant with a minimum set of electronic skills. These include use of email, discussion and chat groups, ftp, email attachments, etc. Students must also have or have available Internet technology and connectivity.

### Course Deliverables

#### Deliverables

Exams -- There are no examinations or quizzes for this course as such.

Written Work -- There are several periodic written assignments. These are described in the end section and dates are posted to the course calendar.

Discussion -- Extensive on-line discussion of the current issues of the day are encouraged, promoted, and required. Each page has learning objectives and assignments to guide the discussion.

There are extensive readings assigned for this course. Because of the nature of the course, many of our readings can be found on-line. Others will be placed on electronic reserve. Still others can be found in academic libraries or through Interlibrary Loan. I will do what I can to make finding the readings as easy as possible, but ... well ... we all have library skills ...