

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7999 Health Sciences Librarianship
Syllabus—Fall Semester 2007
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

Anita Ondrusek, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
MLIS Program
Valdosta State University
Office Phone: 229-333-5860
E-mail: alondrus@valdosta.edu

Catalog Description

An overview of information resources and services managed by librarians in health sciences settings. Topics will include electronic information access, collection development, administrative issues, facilities planning, client services, and alliances with public libraries and consumer health agencies.

Course Outcomes

Each student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify those aspects of information delivery that are unique to the operations of a health sciences library
- Recognize formats commonly employed to furnish health sciences information
- Locate key sources of, and access points to, reliable health sciences information
- Use standard tools available for finding the medical terms needed for assisting clients in a health sciences library
- Relate opportunities for librarians specializing in health sciences services to personal skills and goals

About This Course . . .

This course presents a survey of the basic sources and services with which librarians in settings that support health sciences education or health care services should be familiar. For students who are candidates in the VSU MLIS Program considering the proposed Health Sciences Librarianship track, this course is a pre-requisite for the other courses in that track. The course is also an appropriate elective for MLIS students interested in information sources and services related to health and medicine. It also lays the foundation for those practicing librarians who are considering career moves to health sciences librarianship or librarians in the process of making a transition to a position related to the delivery of health information.

Textbooks

Holst, Ruth, Ed. *The Medical Library Association Guide to Managing Health Care Libraries*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2000. ISBN: 1-55570-397-6 (Paperback)

Sacks, Oliver. *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* (any edition).

A copy of the Holst 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.

Instructor Availability & Support

Dr. Ondrusek checks her e-mail and telephone messages at least once daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5). By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (WebCT/Vista and BlazeNet e-mail). If you are registered for the course as a non-degree student, a BlazeNet account will be assigned to you for this semester. Your BlazeNet login and password serve as your WebCT/Vista login and password. All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be sent via WebCT/Vista.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. The instructor reserves the option of scheduling live chat or Live Classroom (a product that allows voice over the Internet) sessions for additional instruction if such instruction seems necessary and can be mutually arranged between her and the members of the class.

Course Activities Overview

Discussion Board Posts

Three postings are required (two will be graded). Guidelines will be given on the WebCT site.

Exercises

A total of four exercises are to be completed. Background materials and guidelines for completing each assignment will be given on the WebCT site.

Administrative Issue Summary

This final assignment is meant to allow you to select and explore a specific administrative issue that relates directly to a health sciences library service, program, resource, or management concern. You are strongly encouraged to draw upon a particular aspect of health sciences librarianship that has been discussed on the MEDLIB-L listserv, in the supplemental readings, or in the textbook. Chapter topics **not** assigned for class discussions may be used (e.g., chapters 4 through 8). Plan to present your findings as a slide show (10-20 Powerpoint slides) or in outline form (3-4 single-spaced pages). This is **not** a term paper. Guidelines will be posted on the WebCT site.

Assignment Calendar

Weekly activities begin on Wednesdays each week or every other week in the course calendar. Assignments will generally be due by the close of the teaching day (5 PM) on a Wednesday.

<i>Week:</i>	<i>Activities:</i>
Weeks 1 & 2 (8/15-8/28)	<p><u>Getting to Know You Discussion Board</u> Tell us about what interests, skills, or personal goals led you to take this course. Post this introduction to yourself ASAP in these first two weeks.</p> <p>Required preparation: Read chapters 1 and 2 in the Holst text and obtain a copy of the Sacks book. If you plan to read ahead, check the Sacks book activities that you will be expected to complete for Exercise 1.</p> <p>Required activity: Subscribe to the MEDLIB-L listserv using the instructions provided on the WebCT course site. Plan to monitor the listserv on a weekly basis.</p>
Weeks 3 & 4 (8/29-9/11)	<p><u>Medical Terminology and Classification Schemes</u> Familiarize yourself with the vocabulary used in medical libraries.</p> <p>Required preparation: Read the beginning of chapter 13 in Holst (pp. 261-274). Study the medical terminology materials identified on the WebCT course site. Finish the Sachs book.</p>
Week 5 (9/12-9/18)	<p>Complete Exercise 1 Submit Exercise 1 via WebCT e-mail. Due Wed., 9/19.</p>
Weeks 6 & 7 (9/19-10/2)	<p><u>Collection Development Topics</u> Learn about the unique process of collecting materials for health sciences “communities” that includes the formats in which health sciences information is published along with selection and acquisitions practices.</p> <p>Required preparation: Read Holst’s chapters 3 (all pages), 9 (pp. 186-189), and 12 (pp. 275-290). Read the supplementary chapter identified on the WebCT course site.</p> <p>Submit a posting to the Discussion Board 1 that addresses the issues spelled out on the discussion post instructions for this assignment. Due Wed., 10/3.</p>
Week 8 (10/3-10/12)	<p><u>Health Sciences Reference Sources</u> Learn about the resources that are commonly consulted to answer questions from various health or medical library user populations – researchers, physicians, practitioners, students, patients, and the lay public.</p>

Required preparation:

View the study materials identified on the WebCT course site.

Read Holst's chapter 11.

NOTE: These sections of chapter 11 contain outdated content and will be updated with additional fact sheets supplied by the instructor in Week 9:

“Guides to the Literature” (pp. 215-216)

“Indexing Services and Electronic Bibliographic Databases” (pp. 217-218)

Fall Break (Sat., 10/13, to Tues., 10/16)

Dr. Ondrusek will be at GA COMO (Wed., 10/17, to Fri., 10/19)

Week 9 Complete Exercise 2
(10/17-10/23) Submit Exercise 2 via WebCT e-mail. Due Wed., 10/24.

Week 10 Exploring Health Sciences Databases
(10/24-10/30) Review the study materials and tutorials identified on the WebCT course site.

Week 11 Complete Exercise 3
(10/31-11/6) Submit Exercise 3 via WebCT e-mail. Due Wed., 11/7.

Week 12 End-user Education and Consumer Health Programs
(11/7-11/13) Familiarize yourself with how these services fit into a health sciences setting.

Required preparation:

Read Holst's chapter 10 (the entire chapter).

View background materials posted on the WebCT course site.

Read and heed guidelines for your upcoming User Group Analysis.

Week 13 User Group Analysis Project
(11/14-11/20) Conduct your User Group Analysis (Exercise 4).

Submit Exercise 4 via WebCT e-mail. Due Wed., 11/21.

Thanksgiving Holiday (11/22-11/25)

Weeks 14 & 15 Health Sciences Library Administration
(11/26-12/5) Select one specific topic that caught your interest either in class discussions, from supplemental readings, on the MEDLIB-L listserv, or from the Holst book.
Read and heed guidelines for your Administrative Issue Summary.

Share your findings with the class as a Powerpoint show or as a written
“Executive Summary.” All projects due no later than Wed., 12/5.

Graded Course Requirements

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.

Opening discussion post (required but not graded)	
Exercise 1 (Medical Terminology)	15%
Exercise 2 (Reference Sources Analysis)	20%
Exercise 3 (Database Exploration)	20%
Exercise 4 (User Group Analysis)	15%
Discussion Board 1 (Collection Development)	10%
Discussion Board 2 (Professional Reflections)	10%
Administrative Issue Summary	10%

Grading

Your final grade will be one of these letter grades:

Exceptionally exceeds minimum standards	A
Exceeds minimum standards	B
Meets minimum standards	C
Barely meets minimum standards	D
Fails to meet minimum standards	F

On individual course requirements, the instructor may assign plus and minus grades using this numerical scale:

A = 4.0 A minus = 3.7 B plus = 3.5 B = 3.0 B minus = 2.7 C plus = 2.5 C = 2.0

Technical Requirements

All class materials will be placed on a password-protected Web site using the Vista/WebCT course management program. If you are a new Vista user, go to the Vista help pages at <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/>. On the right margin are “Self Help” links. View the “Getting Started” tutorial first. Then return to the Vista page and login using your BlazeNet email ID and password.

The university’s Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU’s email and other sources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/> and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Distance Learning Support

A VSU reference librarian, Ms. Shiloh Smith, is responsible for coordinating library services for off-campus VSU students. She may be reached by email at shismith@valdosta.edu or by phone at 229-245-3717. An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/revised_students.pdf.

Academic Dishonesty

"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."

Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the *Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics*. Please acquaint yourself with the full policy at <http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/trout/eced4300/Academic%20Dishonesty.doc>.

Special Needs 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 not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498 (ttv).

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.