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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7180 Library Services for Patrons with Special Needs
Spring 2012
Three Credit Hours

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Instructor:
Ravonne Green
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Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of accessibility issues and assistive technologies that are available for library patrons.

Program Objectives:

PO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers by demonstrating skills in

- Information Resources
- Reference and User Services
- Administration and Management
- Organization of Recorded Knowledge and information

PO 2. Use existing and emerging technologies to meet needs in libraries and information centers.

PO 3. Integrate relevant research to enhance their work in libraries and information centers.

PO 4. Demonstrate professionalism as librarians or information specialists.

American Library Association Core Competencies:

1G. The legal framework within which libraries and information agencies operate.

That framework includes laws relating to copyright, privacy, freedom of expression,

equal rights (e.g., the Americans with Disabilities Act), and intellectual property.

1H. The importance of effective advocacy for libraries, librarians, other library

workers, and library services.

1I. The techniques used to analyze complex problems and create appropriate solutions.

1J. Effective communication techniques (verbal and written).

4A. Information, communication, assistive, and related technologies as they affect the resources, service delivery, and uses of libraries and other information agencies.

4B. The application of information, communication, assistive, and related technology and tools consistent with professional ethics and prevailing service norms and applications.

4C. The methods of assessing and evaluating the specifications, efficacy, and cost efficiency of technology-based products and services.

4D. The principles and techniques necessary to identify and analyze emerging technologies and innovations in order to recognize and implement relevant technological improvements.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Discuss various print disabilities.

- Identify the appropriate assistive technologies for individuals with disabilities.

- Examine accessibility issues.

- Develop a staff training product for accessibility and/or disability services.

- Develop an action plan for serving individuals with disabilities.

Required Text:
Green, R. & Blair, V. (2011). Keep it Simple: A Guide to Assistive Technologies. Libraries Unlimited: Santa Barbara, CA.

Attendance:
This is a web-based course, with no required face-to-face meetings It is the responsibility of the students to monitor the Discussion Board and to submit work by the assigned deadlines.

Discussion Board Assignments:
Students will be responsible for submitting projects to the Discussion Board for class review. Students will not be responsible for weekly class discussions. Students are responsible for reading the text and for applying appropriate skills and technologies within their course projects.

Course Projects:

The purpose of the course projects is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about disability issues and to develop skills for utilizing assistive technologies in a library setting. Each student must choose a library (public, academic, or special library) for the course project. Contact the director or librarian who manages the library and confirm that he or she is willing to allow you to develop the following projects at that library. You will apply knowledge gained from the text and other sources, as well as information from the librarians at the library where you have selected to serve.

    Project 1:
    A. Develop a staff training product for accessibility and/or disability services.
Due Week 6 (40 points)

    You will develop a staff training program about accessibility issues or some area of disability services. This should be approximately a 45-minute presentation. You may work either individually, in pairs, or in groups for this project. You should prepare a Word document or a PowerPoint presentation. You may have both however, it is not necessary to use both formats. Attach your file(s) to the discussion board for your classmates to review.

    B. Critique a classmates' project. **Due Week 7 (10 points)**

    You will critique another classmate or groups' staff training program.
If you have worked individually on your training project, you should critique an individual's project. If you worked in pairs, critique another pairs' project. If you worked as a group, critique another group's project.

Project 2:
    A. Develop an action plan for serving individuals with disabilities. **Due Week 12 (40 points)**
    B. You will develop a library action plan for serving individuals with disabilities. This should include the seven elements that are discussed starting on page 133 of the text. You may work either individually, in pairs, or in groups for this project. You should prepare a Word document or a PowerPoint presentation. You may

have both, however, both are not required. It is not necessary to use both formats. Attach your file(s) to the discussion board for your classmates to review.

C. Critique a classmates' project. **Due Week 13 (10 points)**

General Grading Scale:
A – 90-100 Points-- Excellent work
B—80-89 Points-- Satisfactory work
C—70-79 Points-- Honest attempt
D—60-69 Points-Some work submitted, late or incomplete assignments.
F – Fewer than 60 points-Little if any evidence of completing assignments.

Note: All assignments are due by Friday of the week that is indicated. I do not check the time, just the date. Assignments submitted one week past the due date will be dropped one letter grade. Assignments submitted more than one week after the due date will be declined unless I have given prior permission to submit a late assignment or there is an extenuating circumstance.

Technical Requirements:

All assignments must be submitted using computer programs that are compatible with VSU supported products. *MS Word* is the preferred format for document processing.

When your assignment requires posting into a BlazeVeiw message box, compose your work in your word processor, then copy and paste it into BlazeVeiw. This prevents the loss of your work if you are „timed-out." Remember to use spell check, and be sure your work is grammatically correct. Points will be deducted for poor grammar and/or spelling.

BlazeView It Help: http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/
Phone: 229-245-4357

Distance Learning Support: Odum Library web site:
http://www/valdosta.edu/library/services/distanceeducation .shtml

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 acknowledgment of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behaviors are contained in the *Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.* See
http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml . It is your responsibility to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches of academic integrity. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.
If you need help with citations and research resources and techniques, the university provides extensive resources for students. For help please start at the Odum Library s "how to" page: http://www.valdosta.edu/library/learn/howto.shtml

Accommodations Statement

Valdosta State University complies fully with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Access Office for Students with Disabilities (Access Office) serves students who have documented disabilities, have met the Valdosta State University (VSU) admission criteria, and are otherwise qualified. Students requesting accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V/VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). The website is http://www.valdosta.edu/access/