Syllabus

Syllabus  LBSC 750
Information Access in an Electronic Environment
Fall 2011  Tuesday 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.
Hornbake Library, South Wing, Room 0105

Anne Caputo
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW
Suite 1103
Washington, DC 20036
202-862-6632 office
703-629-1747 mobile
anne.caputo@dowjones.com

Martha Reifschneider
8600 Milford Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-928-3954 cell
E-mail: mreifsch2@gmail.com or mreifsch@umd.edu

Mailbox: 15 (Adjuncts, outside of 4105)
Office Hours: 4:00 – 5:00 Tuesdays, and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will enable students to:

- Understand the development of electronic search tools and the environment in which they develop
- Understand the functions and features of search languages
- Understand the relationship between database structures and search strategies
- Understand issues of conducting reference interviews in a remote environment
- Develop search strategies using a variety of electronic sources
- Perform online searches using the DIALOG, Factiva and web-based search languages
- Evaluate online search output
- Understand issues of access in an electronic environment
- Understand how adding value to search output helps patrons, searchers, client and library organizations, and the information sciences profession
TEXT AND READINGS

There is no textbook for this course. The course reading list is posted on the BlackBoard homepage and is available from the Course Menu. Links are provided for articles that are available online for free. Students are expected to retrieve articles found in commercial databases that are identified available through the University of Maryland.

Students will need to refer to the following material:

- Dialog Pocket Guide -- Available in hardcopy and in both PDF and HTML at http://gep.dialog.com/instruction/
- Factiva Inside Out Guide (provided)
- Dialog Blue sheets -- Available at http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/
- Dialog Database Guide

Class session notes are available in the Course Content sections on BlackBoard. Course content sections will be released during the semester before we cover the various topics. Example searches are included in the course content and heavily annotated model searches for each set of exercises will be released the day after they are discussed in class.

SOFTWARE AND SUPPLIES

Connecting to Dialog

When searching Dialog in this class, it is necessary to capture your entire search – including all commands and output. Through an analysis of your commands and output, you will learn how to improve your search. Use Dialog Classic to perform your searches; the log-in page is www.DialogClassic.com. While Dialog has other interfaces, Dialog Classic enables you to maintain a search log that can be saved, annotated, and printed. User IDs and passwords will be provided in class, as will instructions.

BlackBoard

The course BlackBoard site at https://elms.umd.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp will be used extensively in this class. Students should check the site on a daily basis for important announcements and course materials. Rather than provide handouts, all lecture notes are available under various sections of Course Content. Students will it useful to read the notes prior to the class session.
TEACHING METHODS

The course will be primarily lecture/discussion and demonstration. Considerable hands-on time outside of class will be required for search exercises.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Syllabus, Course Requirements, and Schedule are included in the Course Overview and Requirements section of BlackBoard.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The University has approved a Code of Academic Integrity. Students are expected to follow it.

The University has a legal obligation to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. Individual instructors are advised to make accommodation only upon receiving a statement from Disability Support Services describing the appropriate accommodation for the student. Please inform us at the start of the semester if you have a physical or learning disability that will require accommodation. We will work with the staff at Disability Support Services to ensure that accommodations are made. Contact Information: 301-314-7682 or http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to thank Dr. Eileen Abels for the use of the course content she developed for earlier years when this course was presented. We have drawn heavily on her work.

EA 08/29/05; AC 09/01/06; AC&MKR 08/05/07; AC&MKR 05/25/08; AC&MKR 08/07/08; AC&MKR 09/08/11