Instructor
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Class meeting time and location
Thursday 6:00pm – 8:45 pm
Hornbake Bldg. Room 4115

Office Hours
Immediately after class or by appointment

Content of Course
This course compares and contrasts bibliographical systems, institutions, service arrangements, and professional patterns in developed and developing countries. Libraries, information organizations and international information systems are viewed against the backdrop of national cultures and diverging paths of development. Influences of social, political, and economic factors upon these paths are highlighted.

Participants will gain an overview of the myriad topics that make up international librarianship, and a survey of some specific topics in world affairs that make library and information work challenging in all parts of the globe. We will take an in-depth look at information environments in specific countries that are typical of their regions.

In this class, you will need to bring your energy, enthusiasm, openness, and willingness to share.

Academic Integrity: This course follows all University policies and procedures, including adherence to the Code of Academic Integrity (http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html).

Students with Disabilities: The University has a legal obligation to provide accommodations for students with disabilities. Please let me know at the beginning of the semester if you have any kind of physical or learning disability that will require accommodation. The staff at Disability Support Services is available to ensure that accommodations are made. Contact information: 301-314-7682 (http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/).

Attendance policy: The University’s attendance policy can be found at http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html. Students who for any reason cannot attend an examination or other required class activity should contact the instructor.
**Readings:** There will be at least one reading for each class session. Please come to class prepared to discuss the ideas you glean from them. The articles listed in the course outline are freely available Web sites, or are available on E-Reserve through Blackboard. There are also some books available on reserve in McKeldin Library. There are no required texts for the course, but there are few books that you should take a look at during the semester. They will help you get a handle on this field of study.

**Highly Recommended:**


**Recommended:**


**Assignments:**

**Weekly:**

Class sessions will start with a Week in Review.

1. Each week find one current (try to keep it to the last month) article from one of the following newspapers or magazines (online is fine) that relates to an aspect of information issues outside of the United States: The New York Times (including The New York Times Magazine), The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, Time, Newsweek, or The Economist. Because libraries, archives or other such institutions are not often mentioned, choose a substantive article that is related to information issues, institutions or policy. Write one paragraph to summarize the article.

2. In addition, search any newspaper, magazine, or blog (preferably local resources from your chosen country, but not necessary) for a current (keep it to the last month if possible) article related to any information/library issue in your country. Write one paragraph describing the issue. For the first class, you are only responsible for the paragraph on an international issue in any country outside of the United States. Hand in during class, and be prepared to give a brief readout. We will have time for five to six readouts during each class. Each item will be assessed. This exercise will help you understand more about information issues in countries outside the U.S. and in your chosen country.

**By Week Two:**

Choose a country you are interested in following for the semester, except for Australia, Canada, England, Ireland or New Zealand.  Read local newspapers, join listservs and other discussion groups, look at Web sites, blogs, contact librarians from the country or American librarians who have been there. You are your country’s “library ambassador” for LBSC 706. Contribute on the perspective of your country to whatever the topic of discussion we are having.

**For Week Seven: (March 11)**

Prepare a FIVE minute presentation on your country for the class and hand in a 12-15 page paper that highlights issues facing libraries and information institutions. Use the MLA style for citing resources. Research the library or archives community in that country, the library education
available, the variety of information institutions and the profession of librarianship in the country. Consider the overall economic, political and cultural influences on the information community. Also explore the information infrastructure, telecommunications and Internet profile of the country. Some examples will be provided.

If you choose a less developed country, try to discover any outside aid sources to the library community. If you choose a developed country, describe any aid given to developing country library communities around the world. Describe the country’s library community’s involvement in regional and international associations. Your paper should show evidence of having spoken (or written) to at least one librarian from the country or an American with experience in that country’s library community. Due: March 11.

Before Week Seven:

Choose a topic in international librarianship that has global reach or global impact, and that challenges the information profession. Here are some possible topics:

- Initiatives for children, youth, aged, minority language speakers, special needs, refugees or immigrants
- Open source software pros and cons for libraries
- Computer donations / training programs for less developed countries
- Global integration of uniform record formats
- Cooperative trans-border digital library services
- Censorship challenges in libraries around the world
- Book donation programs – supporting or hindering development?
- Indigenous knowledge systems and libraries
- Disaster planning for libraries
- Information literacy initiatives around the world (IFLA and others)
- Freedom of information challenges (including Internet freedom) around the world
- Differences in library education priorities in countries around the world
- Using mobile technology, including SMS, for library services
- Trans-border library services
- Libraries and cultural preservation
- Using digitization to preserve cultural histories

You may work alone or in pairs. Prepare a 15-20 page paper that describes and analyzes the topic. Use the MLA style for citing resources. Then make a convincing proposal or set of proposals for U.S. action or policy, for government or non-governmental organizations, related to that topic. Make a presentation for the class and be prepared for questions and discussion. Due: May 6.

Grading

Classroom participation: 30%
Country paper: 20%
Final paper/presentation: 30%
Weekly assignments: 20%

Note: Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code of the University of Maryland related to plagiarism, to cite resources used for written papers, and not to infringe copyrights of authors or publishers in any publication or electronic resources.

Late weekly assignments are not allowed without prior consent of the instructor; late papers and projects are not allowed.

CLASS OUTLINE (PROVISIONAL)
January 28, Week 1: Introduction to the course

February 4, Week 2 PICK YOUR COUNTRY!

Week in Review

**Topic: Globalization**

**Readings (on e-reserve via Blackboard):**

**Recommended:**

February 11, Week 3

Week in Review

**Topic: The Digital Divide**

**Readings:**

February 18, Week 4

Week in Review

**Topic: The Digital Divide, continued**

**Readings:**
**February 25, Week 5**

**Week in Review**

**Topic: Comparative Librarianship: General Issues**

**Week in Review**

**Readings:**

- OCLC Environmental Scan 2003, Pattern Recognition: Executive Summary
  

- OCLC Environmental Scan 2003, Chapter 2: “The Economic Landscape” (skim)
  
  [http://www.oclc.org/reports/escan/economic/default.htm](http://www.oclc.org/reports/escan/economic/default.htm)

- Asheim, Lester. “Some Overarching Problems,” in Librarianship in Developing Countries, Chapter 2, pp. 33-61 (At the Reserve Desk in McKeldin Library and on e-reserve)

- “Comparative Librarianship,” in Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, 1st edition. (on e-reserve)

**March 4, Week 6**

**Week in Review**

**Topic: International Librarianship**

**Readings:**

- Stueart, Robert (2007) “Trends and Issues in International Librarianship,” in International Librarianship, Chapter 1, pp. 1-12 (At the Reserve Desk in McKeldin Library and on e-reserve)


  
  [http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue46/lynch/](http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue46/lynch/)


**March 11, Week 7**

Country papers due

**Topic: Country Papers Presentations**

**March 18, Week 8**

SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
March 25, Week 9

**Guest Speaker:** Meaghan O’Connor, International Development Librarian, IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board)

Week in Review

**Topic:** International Publishing or “The Print Divide”

**Readings:**
- Ahmad, A’Watif, “Publishing in the Two Economies,”
  [http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/bitstream/2142/6980/1/librarytrendsv26i4c_opt.pdf](http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/bitstream/2142/6980/1/librarytrendsv26i4c_opt.pdf)

April 1, Week 10

Week in Review

**Guest speaker:** Donna Scheeder, Deputy CIO at Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Donna is currently serving her second term on the IFLA governing board, and was deeply involved with the Global Legal Information Network. She will speak to us about successful global knowledge management projects.

**Topic:** Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Intellectual Property

**Readings:**

April 8, Week 11

Week in Review

**Topic:** Global Information Infrastructure/ International Information Policy/ World Summit on the Information Society

**Readings:**
- World Summit on the Information Society
  [http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html](http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html)

**Recommended:**


April 15, Week 12

Week in Review

Topic: Library Associations and National Libraries

Readings:


Skim:


April 22, Week 13

Week in Review

Topic: Library and Information Science Education

Readings:


Johnson, Catherine A. “Library and Information Science Education in Developing Countries,” in The International Information & Library Review, Volume 39, Issue


April 29, Week 14

Week in Review

**Topic: American Librarians Overseas**

**Guest Panel:** Information Resource Officers, U.S. State Department

**Readings:**


May 6, Week 15

**Topic: Challenges in the Library & Information World: Wrap-Up**

**Student Presentations**