Long Island University
Palmer School of Library and Information Science
Humanities Sources and Services
LIS #603-01
Summer 2010

Instructor: Nancy E. Friedland
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Reading:

- Hock, Randolph. The Exteme Searcher's Internet Handbook : a guide for the serious searcher. 3rd edition. New Jersey : Cyber Age Books, 2010.

- Mann, Thomas. The Oxford Guide to Library Research. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Introduction

The Humanities as a field of study consists of literature, language, fine arts, architecture, music, performing arts, film, religion and philosophy. This course is intended to be an introduction to the kinds of materials, print, electronic and other non-print, in the humanities that are likely to be used in libraries. Throughout the course, students are given the opportunity to examine print and electronic humanities reference sources. This course also provides insight into the practices, procedures, and problems of humanities libraries.

The course will consist of the following major units:
Language and Literature
Art and Architecture; Music; Dance, Theatre and Film
Religion and Philosophy
Internet
Primary Source Content
Biography

Bulletin Description

This course focuses on the study and application of reference, bibliographic and other information sources—print and non-print—in the humanities. Criteria for evaluating these sources and services and for developing appropriate collections are discussed.

Goals

The major goal of this course is to provide the student with a working knowledge of the humanities reference tools needed to function proficiently in an information environment. Second, provide an understanding of the evaluation and collection development techniques needed to start, maintain and update a humanities reference collection. Third, discuss communication theory and customer service basics.

<u>Objectives</u>

Understand the information needs of various clienteles in the humanities.

Comprehend the bibliographic organization and major problems of collections.

Identify and describe the core collections of humanities reference materials available in the libraries.

Describe the scope, arrangement, use and inter-relationship of humanities reference materials.

Show how the various forms and formats of humanities reference materials fit into the reference process.

Evaluate reference sources and engage in collection development.

Speak knowledgeably about humanities reference sources to individuals and groups.

Write descriptive and evaluative annotations on specific topics.

Acquire information on specific topics from the Internet—understand Google and Google Scholar. Evaluate Internet sites.

<u>Grading</u>

10%	Attendance (mandatory) and Class Participation
25%	Assignment #1
25%	Assignment #2
40%	Final Project

June 10
9:30am – 4:30 pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
- Introduction
- Overview of the Humanities
- Research Methodologies
- General Resources
- Computing in the Humanities
- Online resources – e-collections
- Internet and Google "Everything"
- Web 2.0
- Wikipedia.

June 11
9:30am – 1:30pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
- Newspapers
- Language and Literature
- Review Sources

2:00pm – 4:30pm
Computer Lab

Assignment
- Comparative research study

June 12
10:00am – 1:00pm
Computer Lab

Major Topics
- Music, Dance, Film and Theatre
- Popular Culture
- Non-print resources
- Image databases

1:30pm – 5:00pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Reference and services
- Role of the Library
- Collection Building

June 13
10:00am – 1:00pm
Classroom – not AFC

Assignment
- Booknote

1:30pm – 5:00pm
Computer Lab

Major Topics
- Biographical sources
- Interdisciplinary research
- Federated searching

June 14
9:30am – 1:00pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
- Fine Arts
- Primary Sources and Special Collections

1:30pm – 4:30pm
Computer Lab

Major Topics
- Computing and the Humanities
- Digital Commons

Instructional Methods

The course will consist of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions and engage in discussion based upon readings, lectures and search findings.

Assignments and General Information

No hand written assignments! Only word-processed papers will be accepted. Assignments must be handed in on time. Grades will be effected for late assignments. Make-up work cannot be assigned to supplement grades. Attendance is mandatory. Any absence will result in a failing grade.

Assignment
Comparative Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences
15%
Select a topic and complete searches in two databases from each of the major subject disciplines (identify 2 humanities, 2 social sciences, 2 science). Avoid complex theoretical subjects rather pick a basic subject. For example, *flowers*. Search each database for your topic. Note the following:

- Number of citations
- Related subject terms if provided
- Briefly summarize the nature of the articles.
- Compare how the subject is treated in each discipline and record two citations from each database.

Assignment
Booknote
15%
Following in the tradition established by the late Constance M. Winchell of Columbia University Libraries, this assignment requires you to write a "booknote" for a selected reference work. Columbia continues to publish a column entitled *Selected Reference Works* in *College and Research Libraries*.

A booknote is a short review in which you focus on describing the work. Highlight the strengths and, if necessary, weaknesses. For example, the description should include the types of entries, does it include an index and what type, are the entries signed – long or short, is there a bibliography, etc.
The content of the review should be no more than 500 words, approximately 3-4 short paragraphs.

The format should include the following information:

- General subject category
- Author or editor
- *Title*
- Publisher name and location
- Date
- Number of pages or number of volumes
- Note if illustrated
- ISBN

- Content of review

- Recommendation for purchase

Final Project

Develop an annotated bibliography including at least 20 resources.

You will be given adequate time to walk around Washington Square Park area as a curious observer. Identify a building, sculpture, street name – of interest. You will then proceed to research this object, person or thing. Identify relevant disciplines and explore others.

Organize your bibliography in a way that makes the most sense to you. Chronologically, by topic, by resource format.

Provide full citations for your resources. Write a 1-3 line annotation for each resource.

Example:
Asch Building located at 23-29 Washington Place
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

Secondary Readings:

Barnett, "The Information-Seeking Habits of Graduate Student Researchers in the Humanities" The Journal of Academic Librarianship 31(4), July 2005, p. 324-331.

Barzun, Jaxques. "The Insoluble Problem: Supporting Art." The Culture We Deserve, Middleton, CT. : Wesleyan University Press, 1989.

Benjamin, Walter. "Unpacking My Library: A Talk about Book Collecting." Illuminations, New York: Schocken Books, 1969.

Cobbledick, Susie. "The Information Seeking Behavior of Artists:Exploratory Interviews." Library Quarterly 66(4), October 1996, p. 343-

Hart, Michael S. "History and Philosophy of Project Gutenberg." August 1992, www.gutuenberg.org/about/history

Hesse, Carla. "Humanities and the Library in the Digital Age." What's Happened to the Humanities? Edited by Alvin Kernan, Princeton University Press,

Hockey, S. "The rendering of humanities information in a digital context. Current trends and future development". ASLIB Proceedings, 58, no. ½ (2006), 89-101.

Kaufmann, Walter Arnold. "The Politics of Reviewing and the Ethics of Translating and Editing." The Future of the Humanities. New Brunswick, Transaction Publishers, 1995.

Reed, Bonnie and Donald R. Tanner. "Information Needs and Library Services for the Fine Arts Faculty." Journal of Academic Librarianship 27(3), May 2001, p 229-

Robertson, Jack. "The Exhibition Catalog as Source of Artists' Primary Documents." Art Libraries Journal 14/2, 1989, p. 32-36.

Watson-Boone, Rebecca. "The Information Needs and Habits of Humanities Scholars." Research Quarterly, 34(2), Winter 1994, p. 203-216.