LIS 508

This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive introduction to information management technologies, emphasizing computers but also including networking, video, facsimile, and document imaging products. The course will deal in a systematic manner with technical terms and concepts. The characteristics of particular systems and their current status in information management will be explained. Topics to be covered will include:

- Essential computer terms and concepts; structure of computer systems, types of computers and their markets
- Computer hardware: input peripherals and data entry concepts
- Computer hardware: output technologies and devices
- Computer hardware: auxiliary storage devices and media
- Computer software: definitions and concepts; systems vs. application software; computer operating systems
- Computer software: the software development process; programming languages and their applications
- Computer software: prewritten application programs
- Data organization, databases and related concepts
- Data communications: essential terminology, interactive terminals, modems and related telecommunication devices
- Computer networks: wide area networks, the Internet, intranets and extranets, local area networks, wireless networking
- Video technology: television standards, videotape and DVD systems, broadcast, cable, and satellite systems, HDTV
- Document reproduction technologies: photocopying, micrographics, electronic document imaging

Requirements: Students will be expected to complete a series of assignments that involve more detailed examination of topics that are only treated briefly in class. The assignments deal with practical issues that are likely to be encountered in professional practice. All of the assignments are due at the end of the semester. There is a take-home final exam. No mid-term or quizzes.

This course is relevant for students interested in any aspect of librarianship or information management work.