

Louisiana State University**School of Library and Information Science****Cavan McCarthy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor****LIS 7410 Digital Libraries course****Spring 2008****SYLLABUS**

LIS 7410 Digital Libraries. Spring semester, 2008. Web based course; Jan. 15 - May 6, 2008. All work will be submitted electronically. There will be no formal class meetings, and it will not be necessary to be online at specific times. Class notes will be posted by 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Assignments will also be due by 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. The activities of this course do not clash with the schedule of any other course.

Prerequisite: LIS 7008 Information Technologies or permission of the instructor; participants who have not taken LIS 7008 will be expected to have had some experience of web site creation. Three credit course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Current digital library activities; models, methods and tools for digital library creation and support.

GENERAL NATURE OF THE COURSE

This course aims to familiarize students with both theoretical and practical aspects of digital library activities, familiarizing them with a variety of different formats and approaches. It will demonstrate and exemplify current activities in the digital library field. The course will give them up-to-date, hands-on experience in a rapidly developing field, so that they will be able to relate to digital library applications with confidence during their professional lives. Students will plan and create fully operational models for real-life digital library activities. Attention will be paid to the contribution of digital libraries to increasing access to information and awareness of minorities and different cultures.

COURSE GOALS

Offer students an overview of current digital library programs and activities, both in North America and internationally.

Familiarize students with the major techniques and software used in the creation and maintenance of digital libraries.

Permit students to obtain hands-on experience in the planning and creation of a small-scale, but useful and functional, digital library.

Enable students to evaluate and compare different data presentations, user interfaces and search facilities adopted by digital libraries.

Discuss the role of librarians and information professionals in the planning, creation and management of digital libraries.

Analyze and exemplify the role of digital libraries in widening access to information and in promoting diversity and minority cultures.

SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: CONCEPTS OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

Jan. 15: Introduction; read Lesk, chap. 1: Evolution of libraries; featured software: Photoshop pt. 1.

Jan. 22: An overview of digital library activities, part 1; read Lesk, chap. 3: Images of pages; featured software: Luna Insight.

Jan. 29: An overview of digital library activities, part 2; read Lesk, chap. 4: Multimedia storage and retrieval; featured software: Adobe Acrobat.

UNIT 2: DIGITAL LIBRARY CREATION

(Feb 5: Mardi Gras: no class)

Feb. 12: Selecting materials for Digital Libraries; read Lesk, chap. 12: A world tour of digital libraries; featured software: Dreamweaver.

DELIVERABLE: Feb. 12: Case study: an image-oriented digital library

Feb 19: User interfaces to digital libraries; read Lesk chap. 6: Distribution; featured software: Photoshop pt. 2.

Feb. 26: Scanning images for digital libraries; OCR; read Lesk chap. 7: Usability and retrieval evaluation; featured software: OmniPage Pro.

DELIVERABLE: Feb. 26: Case study: a book-oriented digital library

Mar. 4: Digital library projects and standards; read Lesk chap. 8: User needs; featured software: CONTENTdm.

Mar. 11: Metadata; Codifying data in digital libraries: TEI, EAD etc.; read Lesk chap. 5 Knowledge representation schemes; featured software: Greenstone.

DELIVERABLE: Mar. 11: Case study: other materials: an archive, ephemera or multimedia-oriented digital library

UNIT 3: ADVANCED FEATURES OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES

(Mar. 18: Spring Break: no class)

Mar. 25: Indexing; read Lesk chap. 2: Text documents; featured software: Open Source software; Digital repositories; OAI.

DELIVERABLE: Mar. 25: Digitization sampler

Apr. 1 : Presenting audio and film in digital libraries; Read Ubois, Jeff. **New approaches to television archiving.** *First Monday*. 2005 Mar.; 10(3).

http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_3/ubois/index.html

Featured software: Commercial Digital Library software.

Apr. 8: XML; read Arms, ch. 11: Distributed Information Discovery. Featured software: Xmetal; eXist.

DELIVERABLE: Apr. 8: Digital Library project document

Apr. 15: Databases on the Web; read Rhyno, Art. **Open Source Relational Databases for Digital Libraries.** In: Rhyno, Art. Using open source systems for digital libraries. Westport, Conn.; London: *Libraries Unlimited*; 2004; pp. 59-67 (Chap. 5). ZA4080 .R48 2004. Featured software: **TBA.**

UNIT 4: DIGITAL LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

Apr. 22: Copyright; Disclaimers; Accessibility; read Lesk, chap. 11: Intellectual property rights; featured software: Olive.

Apr. 29: (final class): Security; Preservation; Management and economics; Evaluation; Future; read Lesk, chap. 9: Collections and preservation; read Lesk chap. 10, Economics; chap. 13: Scope of digital Libraries, chap. 14: Future; featured systems: Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs); VALET.

May 6: Exam week; no formal exam, but:

DELIVERABLES: May 6: Sample Digital Library must be fully functional by 5:30 pm.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments have been designed to give students a solid general overview of the field, plus practical, hands-on experience of major Digital Library activities and software.

Students are encouraged to select subjects for case studies relevant to their specific interests. They are also encouraged to work with digital library materials of interest to them.

Detailed instructions for assignments are available in "Assignment Instructions" in the Assignments area of Blackboard.

GRADING SCHEME

Case studies (three assignments at 10% each): 30%

Digitization Sampler: 10%;

Digital Library Project Document: 20%;

Sample Digital Library: 30%;

Participation: 10%

REQUIRED TEXT

Lesk, Michael. **Understanding digital libraries.** 2nd ed. *San Francisco: Morgan Kaufmann; Boston: Elsevier*; 2005. 424 p. (The Morgan Kaufmann Series in Multimedia and Information Systems). \$54.95. ISBN: 1558609245.

<http://books.elsevier.com/us/mk/us/subindex.asp?isbn=1558609245&country=United+States&community=mk>

"This fully revised and updated second edition of Understanding Digital Libraries focuses on the challenges faced by both librarians and computer scientists in a field that has been dramatically altered by the growth of the Web. At every turn, the goal is practical: to show you how things you might need to do are already being done, or how they can be done. The first part of the book is devoted to technology and examines issues such as varying media requirements, indexing and classification, networks and distribution, and presentation. The second part of

the book is concerned with the human contexts in which digital libraries function. Here you'll find specific and useful information on usability, preservation, scientific applications, and thorny legal and economic questions" (Publisher).

This book is also available via NetLibrary:

<http://libezp.lib.lsu.edu/login?url=http://www.netLibrary.com/urlapi.asp?action=summary&v=1&bookid=123435>

BLACKBOARD

Course materials will be made available via the LSU "Blackboard" system. The Blackboard site will be inaugurated on the first day of class.

Students should become familiar with the "General Orientation for Students" in the Blackboard "Course Information" area. This includes important information for students with disabilities.

The "Course Information" area also contains a "Grading Scale". Suggested readings, lists of reserved books, etc. can be found in the "Bibliography" area of Blackboard. Additional notes on assignments are in the "Assignments" area of Blackboard. Course materials will be posted to the "Course Documents" area.

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