

IST 618 Public Libraries (3) -- Held at the Guilderland Public Library

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Office hours: By appointment

Description: This course focuses on current issues, practices and trends in public library organizations, planning, and service delivery. Topics include levels of governance in public libraries; the role of state charters, systems, and trustees; public, technical and administrative services; and professional development, including career paths, continuing education, and compensation.

Course Design:

The course will consist of lectures, assigned readings, class presentations, group discussions, case studies and/or site visit observations.

Goal:

To familiarize students with the role of the public library in American Society including the history, concepts, philosophy, politics and ethics of public library service.

Objectives:

- To understand the roles of public libraries in the United States
- To become familiar with the organizations that support public libraries
- To understand the core values and professional ethics of public librarianship
- To understand the relationship between library staff, lay leadership and volunteers in identifying and providing community information and programmatic needs
- To understand career possibilities in public libraries

Textbook: Introduction to Public Librarianship (Paperback) by Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Neal-Schumann Publishers, 2004. ISBN 1-55570-475-1

Expectations

All students will have access to an Internet enabled computer and a printer.

All students will have an email account.

All classes will be attended and students will arrive on time.

All assignments will be handed in, checked for accuracy and typed.

Student Performance Evaluation

Grade will be determined by:

Assignments	20%
Attendance	20%
Class presentation	20%
Mid-term	15%
Term Project	25%

GRADE SCALE USED:

100-95	A
90-94	A-
86-89	B+
81-85	B
76-80	B-
75-71	C+
70-66	C
65-61	D
60 or lower	F

Take Home Mid-term:

1. Sign up for the Public Libraries listserv at webjunction

Follow one discussion thread with postings by five to nine different librarians. Choose a discussion about an issue related to enhancing customer service (no library profession discussion or vendor product discussions). Summarize the discussion. What is your opinion? Include a copy of the discussion with your paper.

2. Choose one subject area to do a collection development exercise. What is the Dewey number for your collection area? What is the LC assigned subject heading?

Using your assigned library search the catalog/and/or website and determine:

- 1) how many books your library owns on the subject,
- 2) what additional materials (books, databases, etc.) should be included in the collection,
- 3) what the library will gain by putting resources into developing this collection
- 4) Determine if there are funding opportunities for developing the collection.

Term Project

Five-Eight page paper by each student.

Using the library assigned to you, write a paper describing the library. Include information gleaned through homework assignments. A list of additional questions will be supplied that must be answered in the paper.

Classes:

Jan. 24 History of public libraries

Jan. 31 Role of the Public Library in American life

Feb. 7 Traditional Library Services

Feb. 14* The Electronic Public Library (Automated Services)

Feb. 21 Outreach and specialized services

Feb. 28 Customers or Patrons

Mar. 6 Organizational Strategies/Networking/Policies Take Home Mid-term due

Mar. 13 * Funding the Public Library

Mar. 20 Public Library as public space

Mar. 27 No Class

Apr. 3 Intellectual Freedom

Apr. 10 Guilderland Public Library Board Meeting

Apr. 17 Public Library as Community Resource

Apr. 24 Politics & the Public Library

May 1 Careers in Public Librarianship -- Term project due.