

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science  
MLIS 7000: Foundations of Library and Information Science  
Syllabus--Fall 2008  
Three Credit Hours

Bill Meehan  
Odum Library -- 4640  
1500 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, Georgia 31698-0150

Phone: (229) 249-2726  
Fax: (229) 259-5055  
E-mail: wfmeehan@valdosta.edu  
Office Hours: T-TH 1-3; and in Macon on  
class days

### Description

The course is an introduction to library and information science, with a focus on the history, concepts, and technological development of the discipline. It seeks to provide a familiarity with library and information science theory as well as an understanding of the discipline and sub-disciplines within the information sciences, including ethical practices and standards, key terms and concepts, and current trends and future prospects in the profession.

### Objectives

1. To provide an introduction to library and information science for students anticipating careers as librarians or information professionals
2. To identify and discuss major topics and issues in library and information science, particularly in the United States
3. To foster an awareness of library and information science ethics and standards
4. To encourage an appreciation for role and importance of libraries, librarians, and information professionals
5. To further the scholarly study of library and information science and to stress the importance of citation/documentation style
6. To promote individual and group efforts
7. To provide an opportunity to explore library and information science subjects that might contribute to a student's portfolio
8. To create an awareness of LIS job requirements and employment trends

## Textbooks

Richard Rubin. (2004). *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. Second Edition.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Fifth Edition.

## Class Meetings

Macon State College, Student Life Center (SLC) Room 254. Saturdays 10:00-5:00 and Sundays 10:00-3:00. Class will meet on the following weekends: August 23-24; September 20-21; October 18-19; December 6-7.

## Graded Assignments

The following course requirements are graded

Four tests (10% each)	40%
Group Presentation 1	15%
Group Presentation 2	15%
Annotated Bibliography	30%

## Tests

Except for the first one, tests will be taken in-class at the end of each weekend meeting, and they are designed to provide timely evaluation of and constructive feedback on the material in the Ruben textbook. Test 1 is a take-home assignment. Questions will consist of short-answer identifications, short paragraph-length responses, or short essays. If needed, reviews will take place before each test. Essay sections of tests are open-book. Missed tests can not be made up.

## Group Presentation 1

Aspects of and trends in career opportunities in library and information science advertised on a Web site to be assigned. 15-minute presentation. Examine one-month's worth of ads and draw some qualitative and quantitative conclusions based on the evidence. Look at the site features in general in addition to its scope, currency, and potential audience as well as number, types, and locations of jobs, types of institutions, required and preferred qualifications, job descriptions, salaries, etc., then determine some aspects of and trends in the employment opportunities.

Incorporate at least one current source--such as *Library Journal*, *American Libraries*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, association newsletter, or professional presentation--that supports/questions the findings. Web sites will be selected from the following:

ALA job list <http://joblist.ala.org/>

ARL <http://careers.arl.org/>

The Chronicle of Higher Education <http://chronicle.com/jobs/browse/position/>

Administrative: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/300/100/>

Faculty/research <http://chronicle.com/jobs/100/600/>

[www.LISjobs.com](http://www.LISjobs.com)

HigherEdJobs.com: Library administration:

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/admin/search.cfm?JobCat=34>

Georgia and Southeast <http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/jobs/index.php>

## Group Presentation 2

Aspects of a library Web site. 15-minute presentation. From the patron's perspective, examine an assigned library Web site and draw some conclusions based on criteria developed from the Rubin text and class discussion (home page features, user interface design, ease of use, OPAC efficiency, special collections, program publicity, digital presentations, etc.). Web sites will be selected from the following institutions: Boston Public Library, New York Public Library, Free Library of Philadelphia, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Denver Public Library, Seattle Public Library, Laramie County (WY) Library System, Library Company of Philadelphia, Harvard University Library, Rhodes College (TN), and The Newberry Library.

## Annotated Bibliography

Annotations of ten to fifteen current sources on an approved topic related to the course material and of research interest to the student. The topic is due in writing by October 1. Sources should consist mostly of essays in scholarly journals and edited collections, articles in professional publications, and a couple of relevant books, particularly significant ones on the topic. Each annotation should summarize and briefly assess the source in about 150-200 words. Short sources, such as a one-page article in *American Libraries*, might be annotated in 50-100 words. In addition to the APA style manual, here are some helpful electronic resources:

<http://www.lesley.edu/library/guides/citation/APAanno.pdf>

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

## Final Grade Scale

A = Excellent

B = Satisfactory, above average

C = Average, needs revisions to be satisfactory

D = Perfunctory or missing work, below average

F = Unacceptable

## Point Equivalent

93-100

85-92

77-84

69-76

below 69

## Syllabus

August 23-24	Introductory. Read Rubin Chapters 9 and 10; Appendix A and B; <i>Library Journal</i> article "Report Slams Sacramento PL" at <a href="http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6566454.html">http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6566454.html</a> Test 1 (take home) due on August 31 by 11:59 p.m.
September 20-21	Read Rubin Chapters 3, 7, and 8; Basbanes' "The Once and Future Library" Group presentation 1 Test 2
October 18-19	Read Rubin Chapters 1 and 2 Group presentation 2 Test 3

December 6-7            Read Rubin Chapters 4, 5, and 6  
                                 Annotated Bibliography due beginning of class December 6.  
                                 Test 4

**Attendance**

Attendance is required. Students, however, are permitted to miss a half-day without penalty. Each half-day missed beyond the minimum will lower the final grade by one letter.

**Academic Honesty**

“Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.”

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>

**Special Needs**

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the instructor at the first class meeting. Students not registered with Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.