

Digital Libraries

[17:610:553]

Online version - e553

Course overview

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mirror site for course materials:

<http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/~tefko/Courses/e553/index.htm>



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ToC of this Overview

- First a few mechanics
- Then description of the course – more or less as found in the syllabus
 - for details consult the syllabus and bibliography, as **main course documents**
 - syllabus includes, among others,
 - general description of assignments
 - your choices of the term project
 - detailed criteria for grading

When in doubt go to syllabus

How will we communicate?

- Through course site on [eCollege](#)
 - course email - whole class, groups, or one-on-one
 - discussion threads by unit or topic
 - simulates a live class discussion
 - you are **required** to participate in each week's discussion
 - class lounge (on course site) – sections:
 - Introduce Yourself
 - Matters of class: ask questions – provide answers
 - chat
 - whole class, groups, or one-on-one
- By phone – via PC to PC phone
 - through [Skype](#) – free, register
 - I will provide times when available
- Individual contacts made on your own

How will course work be done?

- **Course Home Page**
 - announcements
 - Course Checklist; downloads
- Each weekly unit has
 1. **Assignment** – read, digest, & then address questions to be turned in as an essay (critical review)
 2. **Exercise** – performed, reported
 3. **Threaded discussion** (simulates class discussion)
 - discuss, reply, comment...

ALL REQUIRED EVERY WEEK!

- **Dropbox**
 - submitting & retrieving assignments & exercises

coursework (cont.)

- **Journal**
 - place where you can make notes & record thoughts – not required but highly recommended
 - option of sharing
- **Doc sharing**
 - uploading & downloading documents by instructor & students
 - but other documents from RUL directly
- **Webliography**
 - relevant sites submitted by instructor & students; could be annotated
- **Calendar & schedule**
 - schedule of course events to be followed
 - assignments, exercises, project...
- **Gradebook**
 - providing grades & comments

Additional course sources

- [e553 course web site](#) in addition to eCollege
 - mirror site: posted are static course materials
 - syllabus, bibliography, lectures, assignments, exercises, etc

Student groups

- Idea: work together, help each other
- Groups of 4-5 students will be formed
 - you can form them on your own or I will assign group members – preferably you form them
 - cooperate as to exercises, assignments – you can work as a group
 - carry on own discussion
 - lead weekly discussion when scheduled
- Term project can be done as a group project
 - as an incentive, I grade the project without regard to how many people worked on it

Course objectives

Integrated understanding of:

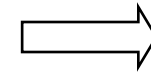
- **A. Concepts:** What are digital libraries? Differing conceptions & approaches
- **B. Content:** Changing nature of collection in a digital & networked environment
- **C. Organization:** Representation, metadata
- **D. Services:** Alternatives in access to digital libraries. User communities & use. Evaluation

Objectives ...

- **E. Research & development:** Research and developmental projects and initiatives. Future trends.
 - **F. Context:** Institutional effects. Management. Social, economic, ethical, and legal concerns.
-
- **Note: technology is NOT covered in this course because there are other courses doing that:**
 - *17:610:550 Information Technology for Libraries and Information Agencies*
 - *17:610:558 Digital Library Technology*
 - *17:610:552 Understanding Library Systems & Software Applications*
 - *17:610:554 Information Visualization and Presentation*

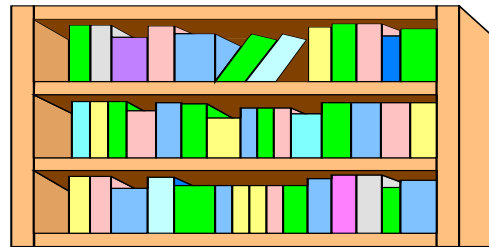
Symbolically ...

Concepts



assortment

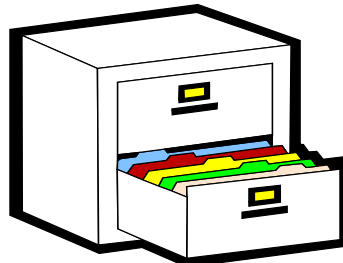
Content



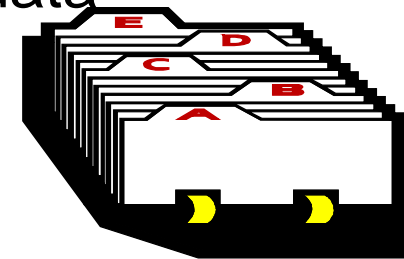
diversity



Organization

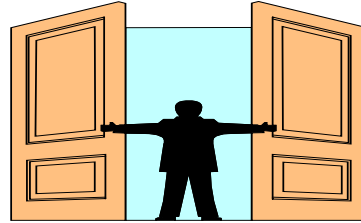


metadata

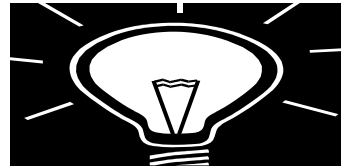


Symbolically ..

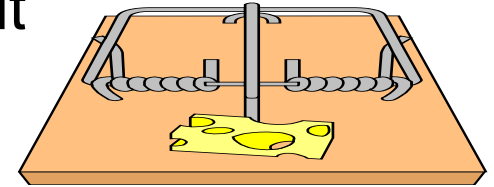
Service



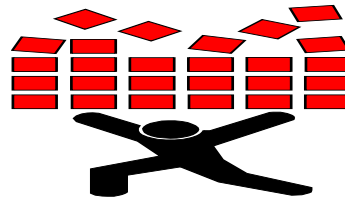
Research



about



Context



issues



Mix

- The course is a mix of
 - issues
 - practice
 - research
- Why research?
 - Base for further institutional & professional development
 - need to incorporate & evaluate

Organization

- Course is organized around the six themes outlined
- Each of the themes has two or three units – one unit per week
 - 15 weeks = 15 units
- Follow course schedule

Topics covered - units

0. Overview

Theme A. Concepts

1. What is a digital library?

2. History

3. Keeping up

Theme B. Collection

4. Diverse digital libraries

5. Collections in digital libraries

Theme C. Organization

6. Representation. Metadata

7. Digitization

Topics (cont.)

Theme D: Services

- 8. Variety of services. Access
- 9. Evaluation

Theme E: Research & development

- 10. Research projects
- 11. Preservation

Theme F: Context

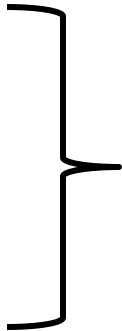
- 12. Economic issues
- 13. Legal issues. Copyright
- 14. Trends. Future?
- 15. Course evaluation

Units 14 & 15 are also student presentation of term project & course evaluation

What will go on? Grading?

Each unit has:

- 1. Lecture**
- 2. Assignment – required weekly - per schedule**
- 3. Exercises – required weekly - per schedule**
- 4. Discussion – required weekly participation**



60% of grade

Semester long:

Term project (40% of grade)

For grading criteria see syllabus

Assignments:

(1) Read, (2) Digest & (3) then Write

- **Readings:** listed in assignment; can be substituted – your choice; there is an art of reading scholarly & professional articles
- **Digest:** identify main points, methods, conclusions

On the basis of that your deliverable is an:

- **Essay:** answer questions in a critical review; follow style of articles in selected journal
 - questions can be substituted, but had to be clearly stated
 - MUST follow APA format (described in syllabus)
 - MUST have prescribed filename
 - content is much more important than length

Exercises

- Designed to provide practical experiences:
 - examination, evaluation & comparison of various features of digital libraries and related areas, or
 - practical assignments related to either data handling, creating a display, or providing access
- Deliverables given
- **MUST** have prescribed filename

Discussion

- Student driven dialog about given questions, readings, issues
- Each student responsible to contribute to discussion every week & whenever possible engage with colleagues
- Weekly participation required
 - graded four times in semester

Assignments, exercises, and discussion are done on a weekly basis per schedule and all are required

When in doubt go to schedule

Term project – semester long

- Choice of one of three:
 1. critical **evaluation & comparison** of digital libraries, research, issues - final product (deliverable): report
 2. or: **design proposal** for a specific digital library or service, or aspect - final product: design document
 3. or: **a digital library prototype** for a small digital library or function
 - final product: online prototype & description
- Requires a proposal, interim report, and final report/result
 - per schedule
 - each MUST have prescribed filename
- For the term project you can work cooperatively in groups
 - result is a group reports, as indicated

Note: if selecting evaluation see materials in unit 9, Evaluation

Term project ...

- Designed for students to
 - get into depth on a chosen topic
 - gain practical experiences
 - gain background knowledge and competencies
- Can be done as group project
- Suggest to “double dip:” **use this semester to create a digital library project that may help your career, or further your existing interests**

What will the course NOT do?

- Create professional digital or systems librarians out of you
- Make you an expert on digital libraries & networks
- Get you to become a D-Lib whiz
 - but it will start you on the way
 - “whizness” should also be picked up from other courses and from learning & practice on your own

What will the course DO?

- Provide you with a practical & theoretical **foundation and framework** on basis of which you can then:
 - start your development toward a professional with expertise in digital libraries
 - grow & evolve with the field
 - adjust to inevitable changes in the world of digital libraries
 - eventually, depending on your other courses & life-long learning, become an expert

Challenging?

- You bet!
- Lots of work!
 - think it over right at the beginning whether ...
- But also highly rewarding –

you will learn a lot!

Wordle representation of the syllabus



