FIS2135: Health Sciences Information Resources

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Course Web page: http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/programs/courses/LIS/2135.htm

Schedule: Wednesdays 9 am to 12 pm

Office Hours: 8 - 9 am Wednesdays or by appointment.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should:

1. be able to identify and apply the structure of medical terminology.

2. gain an appreciation for the various players within the Canadian health care system, as well as the health system's history and current trends, including the provision of health information services.

3. through readings and group discussions, be able to identify the types of literature and other resources related to health, including the major tools for the selection, acquisition, organization and dissemination

4. through readings, in-class practice, and an assignment, design and conduct basic searches on MEDLINE, including Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

5. through in-class practice and guest lectures, compare the various electronic information systems and databases providing access to health information and the Internet.

6. describe the information needs of health professionals and various types of health information services including, but not restricted to, libraries.

7. have completed a supervised practicum project or major paper.
## Schedule

All classes are held on Wednesdays 9 am to 12 pm. Class locations are listed in parentheses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Overview; Opening Panel (313/319)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reference Source Assignment Distributed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Practicum descriptions available</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Health Sciences Sources; History and Major Trends in Health Care (Gerstein)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practicum requests or State of Art Report topic due</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Understanding Medical Vocabulary; MeSH (313/319)</td>
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<td>Reference Source Assignment Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Search Assignment 1 Distributed</td>
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<td>Practicum assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Searching Part 1: MEDLINE (Inforum 417); Life Cycle of Publishing (313/319)</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>Searching Part 2: Advanced Techniques in Ovid, EMBASE; Questions about Searching, Assignment (Inforum 417)</td>
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<td>Practicum form due</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Searching Part 3: CINAHL, EBM (Clinical Trials) (Inforum 417)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Search Assignment 1 Due</td>
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<td>Search Assignment 2 Distributed</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Other Literature: IPA, Biosis, Web of Science, User Information Seeking Behaviour (Inforum 417)</td>
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<td>State of Art Report outline due (optional)</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Health on the Net (PubMed, BioEthicsLine &amp; MEDLINEPlus); Complementary and Alternative Health (Inforum 417)</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Collection Development and Access; Electronic Books (313/319, Inforum)</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>Consumer Health (Inforum 417)</td>
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<td>Search Assignment 2 due</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Informatics, Health Administration (313/319, Inforum)</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Health Statistics, Job Hunting (313/319, Inforum)</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
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<td>Practicum or State of the Art Report Due</td>
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Course Requirements

Students are expected to contribute to all weekly class discussions and to prepare themselves by reading the required texts. The following assignments are due by the date and time specified. Late assignments will receive a grade of zero unless prior arrangements are made with one of the instructors. Some flexibility is allowed due to personal circumstances, but advanced notice is required.

Vancouver style should be used in all assignments. Instructions available at: http://www.cma.ca/cma/common/displayPage.do?pageId=/staticContent/HTML/N0/l2/publications/mwc/uniform.htm.

Assignments

**General Information:** Completion of all assignments is mandatory. The following assignments are due by the start of class on the date assigned. Written work will receive a lower mark if, in the opinion of the instructors, it is deficient in English.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please read the Code of Behaviour on Academic matters http://www.utoronto.ca/govcnc/pap/policies/behaveac.html. Please consult the definition of plagiarism in Appendix A of that document.

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Worth</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Distributed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Participation And Weekly Critical Comment On Readings</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Beginning of each class Not Required for: Jan 7, Jan 21, Feb 4</td>
<td>Beginning of semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Source Assessment</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Jan 21 (Class 3)</td>
<td>Jan 7 (Class 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search Assignment 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Jan 21 (Class 3)</td>
<td>Feb 11 (Class 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search Assignment 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Feb 11 (Class 6)</td>
<td>Mar 17 (Class 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum or State of the Art Report.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Apr 7 (Class 13)</td>
<td>Jan 7 (Class 1)</td>
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CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION AND WEEKLY CRITICAL COMMENT ON READINGS

This will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

Due Dates: Beginning of each class. Not Required: Jan 7, Jan 21, Feb 4

The quality of the course depends on the quality of discussion in the classroom. All students are expected to participate in all sessions. This means that students must come to class fully prepared and ready to contribute to the discussion. Thus, the designated readings for each week must be completed before class. The readings identified as "supplemental" are not mandatory - they serve as a guide to related literature on the topic.

For classes 2,4,6,7-12 (not classes 1,3,5) students will submit a very short critical commentary on the readings - maximum 250 words. This must be submitted at the start of each class or by email before class. The papers will be returned the following week.

This is an exercise in writing concisely, and with insight, about theory and practice. When you graduate, no one will ask you to write a term paper. You will be asked (and you should want) to write, for work and the community, short, insightful, analytic commentaries on important issues. This weekly exercise aims to help prepare you for this kind of contribution - that is, practical, plain-language communication on complex ideas, for an audience made up not only of colleagues, but also of people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The following questions should help you organize your thoughts:

A) THEME & KEY IDEAS: What is the overall theme and what are the key ideas in the week's readings? There will often be many possible themes and key ideas. For you, from your perspective, what stands out as significant?

B) ANALYSIS & ARGUMENTS: Which arguments and what analysis on the theme / key ideas did you find fitted in most with your own beliefs or ideas? Why? Did you disagree with any of the ideas presented? Why?

C) CONNECTIONS: Do the key ideas relate to ideas presented in other courses you have taken or are currently taking? Do the ideas reflect any situations or experiences in your own experience and practice?

Please note: You do not have to address all the points above in a single summary. Indeed there will be cases where only one perspective e.g. connections will be appropriate. Don't bury yourself in details or dwell on any one point. Reflect on what you have read, note down the important points you want to make, and revise your writing to keep it concise. There are no right or wrong answers. This is preparation for professional practice where speed, clarity and tight deadlines are the norm. Assignments that merely summarize the readings will fail.

FORMAT:

- double-spaced. 12-point type. 1-inch margins.

- Use the word count feature of your word processor and place the number of words at the end of the paper. Stay within 250 words.

- Your comments must cover all readings.

GRADING: Comments will be graded Fail, Pass or Honours.

If all your comments receive a Pass, (the expected norm), you will receive 10% towards your final grade. Comments receiving Honours will be given added weight. So, if all your comments receive Honours, you will get a bonus 5%. 
REFERENCE SOURCE ASSESSMENT

This will be worth 5% of your overall grade.

Due: Monday January 21, 9am (before Class 3)
Length: 500 to 750 words; 2 to 3 pages;

Please send your assessment as an email to the class distribution list by Monday January 21, 9am. Please include the text in the body of the message and as attachment in 1) the word processing program of your choice and 2) as a rich text file (rtf). The assessments will be compiled and redistributed to you by the end of term. Your assessment must include the points outlined below. Content should be clearly organized.

Bibliographic Description:
- U of T, local hospital location, or Toronto Reference Library call number and/or url
- Current price (if available)

Description:
- What is the scope of the resource?
- What's covered in a typical section or entry?
- How would you assess the authority of the resource?
- How current is the title? How often is it updated?
- Is the information presented also as current?

Comparison:
- What's provided in this resource that isn't found in others?
- What's missing in this resource that can be found in others?
- Is there an electronic equivalent? Does the content vary between formats?
- n.b. Provide a bibliographic citation and the appropriate U of T or a downtown hospital library location for any "comparators."

Evaluation
- What are the strengths of this resource?
- What are the limitations of this resource?
- For what types of questions would this source be useful?
- What types of libraries should consider purchasing this source?

FIS 2135 Search Assignment 1

Worth: 15%

Due: Wednesday February 11th, 2004 (Class 6)

Resource to be used: OVID MEDLINE

You are given the following scenario to use as the basis for your search. Below the scenario are the details of what you need to hand into the instructors. Your search will be assessed for appropriateness of search terms, search strategy development, use of system features and end result.

Scenario

I (a clinician) would like to use the following drug ____ for the treatment of _________. Before prescribing the drug, I need to explain the condition to the patient, and I need to know some background about the drug to answer any patient questions. Specifically, I am interested in knowing the following:

- A definition of the condition from a medical dictionary (Be sure to cite the dictionary used) and translate the definition into layman's English for me
- All the possible names of the drug
- When did articles discussing this drug first appear in medical journals?
- Are there any reported side effects for the drug?
- Are there any reported contraindications?
- Are there any evaluative studies on the use of this drug?
- Are there any evaluative studies on the use of this drug in middle-aged females?

Write-up – 2-3 pages, double spaced, maximum

You should include the following elements in your report:

List your original set of search terms

Show how you would combine these different terms to create a search strategy

Discuss your search strategy using these points as guides:

- Did you have to change your initial search terms?
- How did you find new search terms to use?
- Why did you choose to use the search terms listed in your strategy?
- Were there other terms you could have used for searching? Why did you choose not to use them?

Include the following with your write-up:

1. A copy of your search strategy
2. Citations, abstracts, and MeSH terms for a maximum of 4-5 evaluative studies. If there are none, then provide a printout with 4-5 citations, abstracts and MeSH terms for references reporting side effects or contraindications.
FIS 2135 Search Assignment 2

Worth: 20%

Due: Wednesday, March 17th, 2004 (Class 10)

You are given the following scenario to use as the basis for your search. Below the scenario and resource listings are the details of what you need to hand into the instructors. Your search will be assessed for appropriateness of resources chosen, search strategy development, use of system features and end result.

Scenario

Using the drug you were assigned in Search 1, provide me (a clinician) with information about the following:

- Pharmacological action of the drug
- Uses of the drug
- Citations to a few recent conference presentations about the drug
- Citations for a few European studies involving the drug
- Patient information about the drug

Resources to be used:
- EMBASE
- BIOSIS
- Web of Science
- and one (1) of the following: IPA, CINAHL, LocatorPlus
- Drug reference resources (see reviews posted on class distribution list for resources to that could be used)

Write-up – 4-5 pages, double spaced, maximum

Discuss your search strategy. Points of discussion for each database searched:

- Why did you use the search terms that are listed in your strategy?
- Were there other terms you could have used for searching? Why did you choose not to use the other terms?
- Were the search terms you used in this database different from those you used in MEDLINE? If they were different, then explain why there is a difference.

Discuss any overlap in references from the database resources used in this assignment and those found in your MEDLINE search.

- Are there duplicate references? Why or why not?

Include the following with your write-up:

1. A photocopy or printout of information about pharmacological action and uses.
2. A copy of your search strategies, including citations, abstracts (if available) and keywords or subject headings for a maximum of 4-5 references from each database searched.
PRACTICUM OR STATE OF THE ART REPORT FOR A HEALTH SUBJECT AREA

This will be worth 50% of your overall grade.

Both practicum reports and state of the art reports are expected to include references to relevant literature and classroom lectures.

Due: April 7th (Class 13)

Practicum

A list of practicums is available in class and the course t-space site. You will see that there are more students than practicum projects available. The projects will be distributed based on the instructor's ability to meet any of your 3 choices - this may mean you will not get your 1st or 2nd choice. Otherwise, practicums will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The practicum will be in a health sciences setting. It must result in a written report suitable for grading. The practicum should take about 40 hours of the student's time plus some time for report writing.

State of the Art Report

If you are not successful in getting a practicum, or do not want to do one, select a health topic from the list on the course website, and write a state of the art review. Your report should consist of 2 parts:

1. Report: This report is intended for another health science librarian. Its' purpose is to inform decision making on key issues facing health science libraries. As some of the issues in the list are broader trends, your report should focus on the implications for the library

   Include a synthesis of your reading of the literature in a specific area and a set of recommendations, if appropriate. Practical "real life" examples can be used to illustrate major points. These can be taken from class discussion, the literature, visits to other health libraries, or discussions with librarians. Length: 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced. Footnotes and bibliography should be in Vancouver Style.

2. Pathfinder or webpage.

   The pathfinder or webpage should include the following:
   - a definition of the topic
   - selected recommended resources with evaluative annotations (8 to 12)

To help focus your topic, you may provide an outline to the instructors for feedback prior to writing (optional). Please discuss any specific research interests with the instructors for approval prior to writing.