COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Librarians, because of their knowledge and training in the identification, selection, organization and dissemination of information, play an important role in consumer health information services, but there are special issues that they must be familiar with. The course is designed for students interested in health information in public, school, and academic libraries, as well as medical libraries, with a focus on how to serve the health information needs in the community. We have witnessed a strong increase in the number of health questions that the consumers of health services are bringing to all types of libraries. This course will give you the knowledge required to plan for services and programs related to health information.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce the application of community health information to all types of library environments.
2. To define health informatics within the framework of the community and the consumers of health care service and resources.
3. To examine the information needs of the health care consumer and patients.
4. To understand the information seeking behavior of health care consumers and patients.
5. To introduce information resources in a variety of formats relevant to the delivery of consumer and patient information services.
6. To explore the public health issues as they relate to libraries providing community-based health information service.
7. To examine the medico-legal aspects of consumer health information.
**Course Requirements and Grading System**

Readings Assignments …..25%
Exercise Assignments …..25%
Mini Semester Project …..50%

100%

**General Information**

The course will be a combination of lectures, guest speakers, student reports, discussions, and lab sessions.

**Office hours:** I will be available one hour prior to class meetings. Also you may leave a message at the University Hilton Hotel (713) 741-2447.

**Office phone:** (940) 565-2445 (Denton)
**Fax:** (940) 565-3101 (Denton)
**E-mail address:** [ana@lis.admin.unt.edu](mailto:ana@lis.admin.unt.edu)
**Teaching Assistants:** Jodi Wilcoxen
Dr. Don Cleveland

**University Policies**

**Academic Misconduct**

Cheating and disciplinary action for cheating is defined by the UNT Policy Manual Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. Cheating is an act of academic dishonesty. It is defined and will be handled as follows: "Plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating, without authority, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty."

"Academic dishonesty matters may first be considered by the faculty member who may assign penalties such as failing, reduction or changing of a grade in a test, course, assignment, or other academic work, denial of a degree and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If the student does not accept the decision of the faculty member, he/she may have his/her case heard by the academic department chairperson or head for review of his/her case. If the student does not accept the decision of the academic department chairperson, he/she may then follow the normal appeal procedures listed in Disciplinary Procedures."
ADA Information

Any student with a disability that will require accommodation under the terms of federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor on or before the second week of class. Copies of the School’s ADA Compliance Policy are available through the School Office (ISB 205; phone: (940) 565-2445). It is also recommended that student register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (University Union 318-A; 940-565-4323) of the University of North Texas. Further information is available online at: http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.htm.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Readings Assignments (25%)

During selected class lab periods, articles will be assigned to the student groups. The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize the students with the literature related to community, consumer health, public health and medico/legal.

For each article assigned to your group, please do the following:

1. Provide a summary of the two or three (2-3) points of each article.

2. Briefly describe the strength and weakness of the applications or ideas proposed in the paper.

II. Exercise Assignments (25%)

During selected class periods, information resources will be assigned and questions will be distributed. The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize the students with information resources in a variety of formats related to the course content.

1. Evaluate resources related to the course content. Guidelines will be provided for the evaluations. The students will provide these evaluations as presentations to the class.

2. Questions will be provided and the students will go and find the answers. The students will discuss in class the path followed to find the answers.

III. Mini Semester Project (50%)

Each student will select a topic related to a disease. You may take a consumer health, patient education, public health or a legal perspective to your topic. I strongly suggest that you may want to choose the consumer health or patient education approach due to the timeframe limitations of
the class. If you choose one of the other approaches, please see me. The purpose of this assignment is to guide you through the process of selecting and delivering health information to health care consumers.

The project should include the following parts: Description of audience, Description of topic, Search terms, Diagnosis, Drug Therapy, Complementary Therapies and Additional Resources and Summary. Further explanation is given below:

1. For the selected disease. Describe your intended audience, (patients, family, a specific population) and give the objective(s) of your project.

2. Give a brief description of the disease. List two or three sources where your intended audience may find more information.

3. List the search terms used to find information on your topic.

4. Present the etiology of the disease. You may want a paragraph on the etiology and progression of the disease. You may use standard reference resources. List two or three sources where you may find this type of information.

5. For the selected disease, discuss how the disease is mainly diagnosed. (Be brief). List two or three resources that will help your intended audience understand the diagnosis and/or diagnostic procedures.

6. Identify drugs used to treat the disease. Be selected. If several drugs are used, limit yourself to three. Cite the sources where you found the information. Select two or three resources you will give your intended audience. If clinical trials are available, include at least one.

7. Identify possible complementary therapies. Cite the sources where you found the information. List two or three resources you may give to your intended audience.

8. Identify additional resources such as journals, magazines, newsletters, listservs, hotlines.

9. Summary: Give an overall reaction to the project. Include any difficulties you encountered in gathering information for your topic.

**READINGS ASSIGNMENTS**

**I. Community Health**


II. Consumer Health


III. Public Health


IV. Medico-Legal


V. Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[http://www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Cleveland, Ana D. and Stacia Gibson. “Finding Medical Information on the Web: Consumer Health Web Sites.”

Consumer and Patient Health Information Section-Medical Library Association


Consumer Health: An Online Manual


The Consumer Health Information Service: Health-Related Internet Sites

Doctor Relations
http://doctorrelation.com/home.html

FanaFana

FindLaw
http://www.findlaw.com

Houston HealthWays
http://hhw.library.tmc.edu/

Lyman Maynard Stowe Library at the University of Connecticut Health Center: Farmington, Connecticut: Consumer Health Resources on the Internet
http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/inters.html

Main Health Science Libraries Information Consortium
http://nnlmner.uchc.edu/hslic/consumer/consumer.html

MEDLINEplus
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/


National Institutes of Health: Health Information
http://health.nih.gov/

Public Health Partner

Public Health Resources-UT Southwestern
http://www3.utsouthwestern.edu/library/public_health/allresources.htm

The Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Women's Health Information Resources
http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/rosenthal/Women.html


Texas Legal Resources (See Handout)

UT - School of Public Health- Houston: Public Health Internet Resources
(Has link to Associations)

WashLaw WEB
http://www.washlaw.edu

VI. Other


COURSE CALENDAR

May 12
Hoffman 211
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Introduction to the Course
Basic Definitions
Relevance of Community-Based Health Information to Libraries
Information Specialist in the Process of Community-Based Health Information
Evaluation of Consumer Health Resources
Lab: Readings and Resources

May 14
University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Research Library
5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
The Community, Public Health, and Libraries
Basic Concepts
Guest Speaker
Helena VonVille, Assistant Library Director-UT School of Public Health Library
Lab: Readings and Resources

May 15
HAM/TMC Library
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Consumer Health Information in the Medical Center
The Role of Government in Community Health Information Programs
Guest Speakers
Marsha Sullivan, Consumer Health Librarian - HAM/TMC
Gretchen Schweiger, Consumer Health Coordinator-NN/LM SCR
Lab: Readings

May 16
University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Research Library
5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Consumer and Patient Information in the Hospital Environment
Guest Speakers
Elaina Cundiff, Manager of Health Education
Linda Yarger, Librarian
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Learning Resource Center
Lab: Readings
**May 17**
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Lab: Work on Mini Semester Project

**May 19**
UH Library
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Law Reference and Community Health Information
Demonstration of LEXIS-NEXIS Products
Susan Skyzinski
Lab: Legal Resources

**May 20**
UH Law Library
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Medico-Legal Issues in the 21st Century: Implications for Librarians Delivering Health Information
**Guest Speaker**
Joseph Wang, Health Law Research Professor-
University of Houston, Health Law Center Institute
A Law Librarian Delivering Health Information
**Guest Speaker**
Cathryn E. Bowie, Head of Library Services-
Winstead Sechrest & Minick PC
Lab: Readings

**May 21**
University Hilton
5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Presentation of Mini Semester Projects

**May 22**
Final Exam