UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
School of Library and Information Sciences

SLIS 5960.080 Deborah Halsted and Helena VonVille
Community-based Health Information

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

Librarians of all types must be prepared to provide accurate, quality public health and consumer health information. News sources report on current outbreaks of diseases such as SARS and West Nile as though each of us can expect to catch the disease with the next handshake or mosquito bite. Shortened visits to doctors’ offices due to quotas imposed by HMO’s, PPO’s and insurance companies have forced patients and caregivers to look for information wherever they can find it. While these consumers of health information are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their use of the Internet, they are not always so sophisticated when it comes to evaluating the information they find. Public health researchers are also becoming more savvy using the Internet as they work to meet the demands of an increased role in improving the health of their communities, their state, and even the country or the world. Due to the increasing number of online health information providers—both good and bad—librarians must be aware of quality health information, evaluation of health information, information malpractice, and where and how to find the right information at the appropriate level for the person requiring the information.

The course will provide students with basic skills to provide public and consumer health information services and programs, and it 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.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce basic medical terminology related to public and consumer health information.

2. To examine the information needs of health consumers, patients, caregivers and public health researchers.

3. To explore public health issues as they relate to libraries providing community health information services.

4. To introduce major public and consumer health resources, both print and electronic.

5. To define information malpractice and understand the implications for librarians.

6. To introduce multiple types of libraries providing health information, including public health, public and patient libraries.
Course Requirements and Grading System

Reading Assignments .................... 25%
Class Project .............................. 60%
Class Attendance/Participation ......... 15%

100%

General Information

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

Office Hours: You may email or call either of the instructors; contact information is listed below.

Contact Information:

Deborah Halsted, MLS, MA
Associate Director of Public Services and Operations
HAM-TMC Library
713.799.7163
deborahh@library.tmc.edu

Helena VonVille, MLS
Director
UT School of Public Health Library
713.500.9131
hvonville@sph.uth.tmc.edu

Technical Assistance: If you have any technical problems regarding WebCT, contact Dr. Ana D. Cleveland at ana@lis.admin.unt.edu or Jodi Philbrick at wilcoxen@lis.admin.unt.edu

University Policies

The School fully subscribes to the University's codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct, grievances, sexual and ethnic harassment, and discrimination based upon physical handicap. You should acquaint yourself with both your responsibilities and your protections.

Academic Misconduct

According to the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline (Revised Spring 2001) found in the UNT Policy Manual, academic dishonesty refers to cheating and plagiarism. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
   a. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
b. the acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;

c. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s);

d. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:

a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and

b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

The University of North Texas has disciplinary procedures in place that can be found in the UNT Policy Manual Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

Statement on ADA Compliance Policy

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.


It is also recommended that the student register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (University Union 318-A; 940-565-4323) - or http://www.unt.edu/oda/index.htm.

For more information see Student With A Disability in the Classroom - A Faculty Guide at http://www.unt.edu/oda/oda-facq.htm#top
# COURSE CALENDAR

| May 31       | Introduction to the Course  
|             | Introduction to Consumer Health  
|             | **Tours**  
|             | - The Learning Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center - Linda Yarger, Librarian  
|             | - HAM-TMC Library - Deborah Halsted  
|             | - Research Medical Library, MD Anderson Cancer Center - April Bennington, Librarian  
|             | Medical Terminology  
|             | Discussion of Class Projects and Team Selection  
| University of Texas  
| M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Research Medical Library Classroom  
| 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
| (Halsted) | 

| June 7      | Introduction to Public Health  
|            | Introduction to Major Public Health Organizations  
|            | - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)  
|            | - National Center for Health Statistics  
|            | - World Health Organization (WHO & WHOIS)  
|            | Hands-on Training Using Public Health Resources  
|            | **Tour**  
|            | - School of Public Health Library – Helena Vonville  
| University of Texas  
| School of Public Health Computer Lab, Room 015  
| 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
| (VonVille) | 

| June 8      | Health Information in a Public Library  
|            | Consumer Health Databases  
|            | Searching for Consumer Health Information  
|            | **Guest Speaker**  
|            | - Merry Sue Nolen, Senior Reference Librarian, Houston Public Library  
|            | **Tour**  
|            | - HPL Consumer Collection – Merry Sue Nolen  
| Houston Public Library- Central  
| 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
| (Halsted and VonVille) | 

| June 28     | Discussion of Textbook Chapters 7-10  
|            | In-class Presentations  
| University of Texas  
| M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Research Medical Library Classroom  
| 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
| (Halsted and VonVille) | 

Note: Lunch Provided
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings Assignments (25%)

Purpose

The purpose of the readings is to provide background information on consumer and public health information. The readings will also help you to complete class project.

Description

The readings for the course are from both the textbook and journal articles.

Textbook


Note: Chapters 2-6 and 10 will help student teams locate information and resources on selected topics. Chapter 10 and the attached CD will help students design a Web page if chosen for the class project.

Journal Articles

The journal articles are listed in Journal Articles Reading List.

Instructions

Textbook

Students are expected to read the entire textbook prior to the end of the course.

Journal Articles

Each student will select 4 articles from the Journal Articles Reading List to read and summarize. For each article, write a summary of 400-500 words discussing 3 major points presented in the article. Students will be writing a total of 4 summaries, 1 summary per article.

Submission

Textbook

Chapters 7 through 10 will be discussed in class. Be prepared for the class discussion.

Journal Articles

Submit summaries to D. Halsted via WebCT email.
Class Project (60%)

Purpose

The purpose of the class project is to provide students with an experience searching for health information through two points of view, as a consumer and as a public health professional. This project will illustrate the nature of public and consumer health information.

Description

Students will select a project partner and agree upon a disease/health condition from the list below.

Topics

Heart Disease  
Breast Cancer  
Prostate Cancer  
Lung Cancer  
Oral Cancer  
Skin Cancer  
Leukemia  
Stroke  
Emphysema  
Asthma  
Accidents  
Diabetes  
Pneumonia/Influenza (NOT SARS)  
Alzheimer's Disease  
Liver Disease  
Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Suicide

Once a topic has been selected, the students will approach it from the consumer health perspective and the public health perspective.

Instructions

Create a PowerPoint or Web presentation that includes the following points:

Consumer Health Perspective

1. Define your patron in terms of age, gender, race/ethnicity, and educational level as best as you can determine. Explain how you have decided on their educational level in a sensitive manner. For example, you might select a 25-year-old Hispanic female with college education.
2. Identify 10 appropriate print or electronic sources of information for your defined patron on the topic selected. Write a brief annotation of each of the resources selected.
3. Discuss the following:
   a. How did you identify the best sources?
   b. What are some of the bad sources of information that you found?
   c. How would you avoid providing medical advice, e.g. information malpractice?
   (Refer to your textbook for guidelines for how to evaluate resources.)
4. Outline an outreach campaign for a type of library of your choice (e.g. a small public library, a medical library, or a rural school library) to inform your patron group about your selected topic. Include prevention, health resources, and other information sources. For example, you might select Hispanic females 25 and older as your patron group.

Public Health Perspective

1. Define your public health practitioner. Describe where the practitioner works. For instance, do they work for a university and have a current grant project? Or do they work for a city, county, state, or federal health department?

2. Provide morbidity/mortality data on the topic selected. Identify 10 appropriate print or electronic sources of information for your defined practitioner, including critical Web sources; key journal article citations; and books.

Submission

Each project pair will have a total of 30 minutes to present both the consumer health and public health perspectives. An additional 15 minutes will be allotted for questions. The presentations should be in PowerPoint or online as a Web presentation. A paper copy of the presentation should be provided to the instructors and students.

Projects will be graded by thoroughness of the information provided. You will also be expected to grade both yourself and your partner with respect to the amount of work each of you did to complete the project. This grade will be taken into account when determining the final grade for the project for each person.

The class project is due in class as specified by the instructors.

Class Attendance/Participation (15%)

Purpose

The purpose of class attendance/participation is to engage the students in course activities and to foster a sense of community within the course.

Description

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance is required for all of the face-to-face class meetings.
The readings will be available on the first day of class, and some of your readings are available full-text from the UNT Library Electronic Resources (http://irservices.library.unt.edu) as indicated below.


SELECTED CONSUMER AND PUBLIC HEALTH WEB RESOURCES

National Institutes of Health: Health Information
Provides an alphabetical listing of health topics as well as links to other health related agencies
http://health.nih.gov/

MEDLINEplus
A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health that provides comprehensive health information to users
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/

ClinicalTrials.gov
A service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health through its National Library of Medicine that provides current information about clinical research studies to patients, family members, and members of the public
http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/

Genetics Home Reference
A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine that provides consumer information about genetic conditions and the genes responsible for those conditions

Consumer and Patient Health Information Section-Medical Library Association
Provides a resource for librarians that provide consumer health information
http://www.caphis.mlanet.org/

Consumer Health: An Online Manual
A site from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine-South Central Region that provides helpful information for anyone developing a consumer health collection of resources
http://nnlm.gov/scr/conhlth/manualidx.htm

NOAH: New York Online Access to Health
Established in 1995, this site provides consumer health information in both English and Spanish
http://www.noah-health.org/

Go Ask Alice
Developed by Columbia University’s Health Education Program, this site provides a health question and answer Internet service to users
http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu/

HealthAtoZ
Provides comprehensive health and medical information to consumers
http://www.healthatoz.com

Healthfinder
A service provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides reliable health information
http://www.healthfinder.gov/
MayoClinic
Owned by the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, this site aims to provide useful and current information for health care consumers
http://www.mayoclinic.com/

NetWellness
Created and evaluated by the faculty at the University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, and Case Western Reserve University, this site provides quality health information and educational services to its users
http://www.netwellness.org/

WebMD
Provides health information to consumers (WebMD Health) as well as health care professionals (MedScape from WebMD)
http://www.webmd.com/

Toronto Public Library: The Consumer Health Information Service: Health-Related Internet Sites
The Toronto Public Library Consumer Health Information Service provides users with an introduction on how to search for consumer health information using the Virtual Reference Library established by the TPL.
http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/uni_chi_vrl.jsp

Lyman Maynard Stowe Library at the University of Connecticut Health Center: Farmington, Connecticut: Consumer Health Resources on the Internet
This site provides a listing of selected quality consumer health resources on the Internet
http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/inters.html

The Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Women's Health Information Resources
This site provides a listing of women’s health information resources on the Internet, which are annotated and categorized
http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/rosenthal/Women.html

UT - School of Public Health- Houston: Public Health Internet Resources
A service of the UT School of Public Health Library that provides health Internet resources, which have been organized into categories, and also provides links to associations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The CDC is the leading federal agency in the protection of health and safety of people in the U.S. and abroad
http://www.cdc.gov

The World-Wide Web Virtual Library: Epidemiology
Maintained by the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California at San Francisco, this page provides many useful links on the topic of epidemiology
http://www.epibiostat.ucsf.edu/epidem/epidem.html
Houston Health Ways
A roadmap to public health information in Houston, Harris County, and surrounding areas
http://hhw.library.tmc.edu/

Tox Town
A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine that provides information about commonly encountered toxic substances
http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/
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<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Parking</th>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Research Medical Library 1515 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, Texas 77030-4009 713-792-2282</td>
<td>The best place to park is in Garage 10 located just off Holcombe Blvd on M. D. Anderson Blvd. Maximum cost is $9.00 a day.</td>
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<td>There is a sky bridge from Garage 10 to the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center on the 3rd and 4th levels of the parking garage.</td>
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<td>The Research Medical Library of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is on the second floor in the Yellow Zone. The Library's room number is Y2.6005.</td>
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<td>The Library's classroom room number is Y2.5727.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health Library 1200 Herman Pressler Dr. Houston, TX 77030 (713) 500-9121</td>
<td>Use Garage 2 or South Extension Lot for Visitor Parking. Maximum cost is $9.00 a day for Garage 2 parking.</td>
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<td>Central Library parking: Fee information will be given in class.</td>
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<td>Houston Public Library-Central 500 McKinney Houston, Texas 77002 832-393-1313</td>
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