

**School of Library and Information Science  
University of Kentucky**

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**LIS 645 001 Public Libraries – Fall Semester 2007**

**Dates of Semester: August 22 – December 14**

**Class Meets Monday 3:00-5:30 LCLI 359**

I reserve the right to revise this syllabus in non-substantive ways to reply to student questions or to address an obvious need for clarification.

**Instructor: Dennis Carrigan**

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**Course Syllabus**

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The course description reads: LIS645 PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Examines historical development of the public library and its roles in society. Topics considered include the environment of public libraries; organization and management; information needs of client groups; information resources and services provided to clients; and trends and developments in public libraries.

**Format:** Although the course will be primarily lecture, it will be a better course if there is also discussion, and I encourage questions from students. Also, I hope to have a guest speaker or two or several.

**Objective:** Stated briefly, my objective in this survey course is to provide the student with an introduction to and overview of the public library in the US. I will deal with the inception and evolution of the institution, significant developments and issues in its history, the all-important context within which the public library exists and competes for resources, and the challenges facing the institution today. In any course that I teach, I ask myself, what should a student know at the end of the course? The way I answer that question guides how I go about the course.

**Integration of Syllabus with UK Educator Preparation Unit Themes:** The School's course of study includes the School Media Librarian P-12 Certification program, which will figure into this fall's College of Education teacher education unit program review, by the National Council on Accreditation for Teacher Education, Education Professional Standards Board. To meet Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board and the National Council for Accreditation of Teachers requirements, all UK professional education programs affirm the following: This course supports the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education unit: *research*, *reflection*, *learning*, and *leading*. The ultimate goal is to produce leaders who work together to improve service and learning among diverse populations in Kentucky and beyond.

**Text:** This book is required for the course: Kathleen de la Peña McCook, *Introduction to Public Librarianship* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2004). "McCook" in the class schedule refers to this book.

**Additional Readings:** In the class schedule I include readings in addition to the McCook text. Additional readings not marked optional (see below) are **required** and can be expected to show up in the form of questions on the exams. Others of the additional readings are **optional** and listed that way. I include them for the student whose interest in the subject leads her/him to want to read more. The additional required readings are articles and essays, some of which were not published recently. For instance, Mike Harris' essay was published in 1973. I include certain older articles and essays because I believe they deserve to be read and discussed in this class. Most of the articles and essays are available through University of Kentucky Libraries full text online journals databases.

**Examinations:** There will be two in-class exams and one take-home exam. Each in-class exam will be shorter-answer, up to a sentence or two. The second in-class exam will emphasize material introduced subsequent to the first in-class exam but very

likely will have questions from the first part of the course. The take-home exam, due after Thanksgiving, will require the student to write a short essay (I will set maximum length.) on the topic I assign (the same topic for everyone). I will provide the topic at one class; the essay will be due the following class. Dates for the three exams are in the class schedule, below. The three exams will weigh equally in course grade.

**Attendance:** The following information is excerpted from the University's online Student Code of Conduct.<sup>1</sup>

5.2.4 – Academic Standards

5.2.4.1 – Attendance and Completion of Assignments: For each course in which the student is enrolled, the student shall be expected to carry out all required work including laboratories and studios, and to take all examinations at the class period designated by the instructor.

Each instructor shall determine his/her policy regarding completion of assigned work, attendance in class, absences at announced or unannounced examinations, and excused absences in excess of one-fifth of class contact hours (see Rule V-5.2.4.2 below). This policy shall be presented in writing to each class at its first or second meeting. Students' failure to comply with the announced policy may result in appropriate reductions in grade as determined by the instructor. (US: 11/11/85; US 2/9/87)

If attendance is required or serves as a criterion for a grade in a course, and if a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, a student shall have the right to petition for a "W," and the faculty member may require the student to petition for a "W" or take an "I" in the course. (US: 2/9/87; RC: 11/20/87)

**Policy regarding completion of assigned work, attendance in class, etc.** All students will take in-class examinations at the same time and location. The student who misses all or a substantial part of three classes will have her/his grade for the course reduced by one letter; a student who misses all or a substantial part of four classes will be required to petition for a "W." A "substantial part" of a class is 30 minutes or more.

**Grading:** Each exam will be worth the same number of points, and the three exams will weigh equally in course grade. I will grade the essay exams comparatively. At the end of the course I will convert points to course grade on the basis of :

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 90% and above | = | A |
| 80% to 90%    | = | B |
| 70% to 80%    | = | C |
| below 70%     | = | E |

**I assign the grade of I (incomplete) only when I am convinced the student's circumstances warrant it.**

## Class Schedule

**Week 1 Aug 27:** Introduction to and overview of the course; format; expectations;  
lecture: forerunners to the public library

**Week 2 Sept 3** Labor Day, no class

**Week 3 Sept 10:** Public library defined; number of public libraries in the US, total and by population served; contrasting views of the public library today

**McCook chapter 1:** The Landscape of Public Libraries at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century (1-12)

"New Study Reveals Growth in Library Usage," *American Libraries* April 2006, 4.<sup>2</sup>

Sallie Tisdale, "Silence, Please: The Public Library as Entertainment Center," *Harper's Magazine*, March 1997, 65-74; Susan Goldberg Kent, "American Public Libraries: A Long Transformative Moment," *Daedalus*, Fall 1996, 207-220. (This issue of *Daedalus* has the title *Books, Bricks, and Bytes*. According to the opening sentence in the Preface, "This issue ... celebrates a centennial, that of the New York Public Library...." Other essays in the issue are also worthwhile.)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/> (accessed August 27, 2007)

<sup>2</sup> The 13-page report is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/reports/2006KRCReport.pdf> (accessed August 27, 2007)

Optional: Geoffrey Nunberg, "Will Libraries Survive?" *The American Prospect* November 1998; Redmond Kathleen Molz & Phyllis Dain, *Civic Space/Cyberspace: The American Public Library in the Information Age* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999).

**Week 4 Sept 17:** History of the public library in the US (I): from the "first" public library through 1876; the important precedent of school district libraries; the public library as a "public good" (McCook p. 49); state enabling legislation; the education role; the significance of 1876

**McCook chapter 2:** Brahmins, Bequests, and Determined Women: The Beginnings to 1918 (13-60)

*Upon the Objects to be Attained by the Establishment of a Public Library: Report of the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston (1852)*; Michael Harris, "The Purpose of the American Public Library: A Revisionist Interpretation of History," *Library Journal* September 15, 1973, 2509-2514.

Optional: Sidney Ditzion, *Arsenals of a Democratic Culture: A Social History of the American Public Library ... 1850 to 1900* (Chicago: ALA, 1947); Dee Garrison, *Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003).

**Week 5 Sept 24:** History of the public library in the US (II): 1876 through World War I; Carnegie's contribution

William F Poole, "Some Popular Objections to Public Libraries," *Library Journal* July 1993, S5-S6 (originally published in November 1876); Zanne Jefferies, "Instant Landmarks," *Kentucky Humanities* April 2006, 21-27 (Carnegie Library Program, with particular reference to Kentucky); Joseph C Rizzo, "Preserving the Past by Looking into the Future," *American Libraries* April 2006, 58-60 (the Carnegie legacy).

Optional: George S Bobinski, *Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development* (Chicago: ALA, 1969); Abigail A Van Slyck, *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries & American Culture 1890-1920* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1995); Wayne A Wiegand, "An Active Instrument of Propaganda": *The American Public Library During World War I* (New York: Greenwood, 1989).

**Week 6 Oct 1:** History of the public library in the US (III): end of World War I to the present; Public Library Inquiry; "evolution of the public library message" (McCook pp. 70-75) (Although the syllabus entry reads "end of World War I to the present," this is just an introduction to that topic, which will be elaborated throughout the rest of the course.)

**McCook chapter 3:** Public Library Growth and Values: 1918-2004 (61-82)

Douglas Raber, "Everything Old Is New Again," *American Libraries* September 1999, 52-54 (on *The Public Library Inquiry*)

Optional: Douglas Raber, *Librarianship and Legitimacy: The Ideology of the Public Library Inquiry* (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1997). The Public Library Inquiry led to the publication of seven books, listed at the end of the Raber article. The one to start with is Robert D Leigh, *The Public Library in the United States: The General Report of the Public Library Inquiry* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1950).

**Week 7 Oct 8:** Efforts to measure performance/define success: from national standards to local determination; from inputs to outcomes via outputs; from *Standards for Public Libraries* (1933) to *The New Planning for Results* (2001)

**McCook chapter 4:** Statistics, Standards, Planning, and Results (83-106)

"Standards for Public Libraries," *Bulletin of the American Library Association* November, 1933, 513-514 (the first national standards); Lowell A Martin, "The Public Library: Middle-age Crisis or Old Age?" *Library Journal* January 1, 1983, 17-22; Edward J Elsner, "The Evolution of PLA's Planning Model," *Public Libraries* July/August 2002, 209-215; Thomas J Hennen, "Hennen's American Public Library Ratings 2006," *American Libraries* November 2006, 40-42; Thomas J Hennen, "Great American Public Libraries: The 2005 HAPLR Rankings," *American Libraries* October 2005, 42-48.<sup>3</sup>

Optional: Charles McClure, et al, *Planning & Role Setting for Public Libraries* ALA 1987; Nancy Van House, et al, *Output Measures for Public Libraries*, 2d ed, ALA, 1987; *Public Library Data Service Statistical Report* ALA, published annually since 1988; Ethel Himmel, et al, *Planning for Results: A Public Library Transformation Process*, 2 vols, ALA, 1998; Sandra Nelson, et al, *Managing for Results: Effective Resource Allocation for Public Libraries* ALA, 2000; Sandra Nelson, *The New*

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Hennen is a public librarian who devised a method for rating public libraries and who, beginning in 1999, has published a series of articles on Hennen's American Public Library Ratings.

*Planning for Results: A Streamlined Approach* ALA 2001; *Worth Their Weight: An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation* Americans for Libraries Council, 2007.<sup>4</sup>

## Monday, October 15 – Midterm of fall semester

### Week 8 Oct 15: First exam

**Week 9 Oct 22:** Public library and the competition for resources (I): public library and politics; funding; “referenda”

**McCook chapter 5:** Organization, Law, Funding, and Politics (107-134)

Norman Oder, “Keeping Pace,” *Library Journal* January 2007, 55-57 (*LJ*'s annual report on public library budgets); Norman Oder, “Ripple Effects,” *Library Journal* January 2006, 59-61 (*LJ*'s annual report on public library budgets); Charity Cree and Mijung Yoon, “Public Library Circulation and Expenditures Increase in 2005,” *American Libraries* November 2006, 38-39 (reports the results of *AL*'s annual survey); Nann Blaine Hilyard, “The Public Library Funding Crunch: A Decennial Event?” *Public Libraries* September/October 2003, 284-287; Anne Marie Gold, “Thumbs Up, and Down,” *Library Journal* March 15, 2007, 36-40 (report on public library “referenda” during 2006); Anne Marie Gold, “By the People,” *Library Journal* March 15, 2006, 40-44 (report on public library “referenda” during 2005); Marilyn Gell Mason, “Politics and the Public Library: A Management Guide,” *Library Journal* March 15, 1989, 27-32 (especially good on the public library competing for resources in the local political process).

**Week 10 Oct 29:** Public library and the competition for resources (II): marketing; return on investment; stimulus to investment; Helen Ruth Fleming, “Library CPR: Savvy Marketing Can Save Your Library,” *Library Journal* September 15, 1993, 32-35 (This excellent article is about how one public library, that serving Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, developed and implemented a marketing program. It was the Gale Research/*Library Journal* Library of the Year for 1995.); Glen E Holt, Donald Elliott, & Amonia Moore, “Placing a Value on Public Library Services,” *Public Libraries* March/April 1999, 98-108; Adele Kostiak, “Valuing your public library: the experience of the Barrie Public Library, Ontario, Canada,” *The Bottom Line* 15, 4 (2002): 159-162; “OH Study: PLs Worth Fourfold,” *Library Journal* January 2007, 18. (“Library services at nine library systems in southwest Ohio are valued at nearly four times the dollars spent on them....”).

**Week 11 Nov 5:** Delivering service (I): a labor-intensive organization; public library and the digital divide (Digital divide is an example of a topic to be addressed in the course that has multiple entries in the McCook index, to several chapters. Because of this, where I place the topic in the syllabus is somewhat arbitrary.)

**McCook chapter 6:** Administration and Staffing (135-162)

**McCook chapter 7:** Structure and Infrastructure (163-182)<sup>5</sup>

John Carlo Bertot et al, “Impact of External Technology Funding Programs for Public Libraries: A Case Study of LSTA, E-Rate, Gates, and Others,” *Public Libraries* May/June 2002, 166-171; Brian Kenny, “After Seattle,” *Library Journal* August 2005, 34-37 (Seattle Public Library's central library, which opened in May 2004 to rave architectural reviews, is referred to as “the first 21<sup>st</sup>-century library”)

Optional: *E-Rate and the Digital Divide* [http://www.urban.org/pdfs/erate\\_FR921.pdf](http://www.urban.org/pdfs/erate_FR921.pdf)

ALA, E-Rate and Universal Service <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techinttele/erate/erate.htm>

*Toward Equality of Access: The Role of Public Libraries in Addressing the Digital Divide*, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (February 2004) <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/nr/Downloads/libraries/uslibraries/reports/TowardEqualityofAccess.pdf>

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.actforlibraries.org/alcreports.php> (accessed July 21, 2007, and again August 18, 2007)

<sup>5</sup> In chapter 7 McCook discusses public library buildings. Each year *American Libraries* and *Library Journal* dedicate an issue to library buildings – new buildings, additions, renovations. In *American Libraries* it's the April issue; in *Library Journal* it's the December issue.

**Week 12 Nov 12:** Delivering service (II): audiences served; what remains of the education role? McCook and “abdication of responsibility” (McCook p. 192); readers advisory; the public library and the public sphere

**McCook chapter 8:** Adult Services (183-210)

**McCook chapter 9:** Youth Services (211-240)

John A Berry III, “The Library Haines Built,” *Library Journal* February 1, 2005, 38-41 (on Haines Borough, Alaska, Public Library, *Library Journal* Best Small Library in America 2005); John A Berry III, “Five Steps to Excellence,” *Library Journal* June 15, 2005, 33-35 (on Fayetteville, Arkansas, Public Library, Gale/*Library Journal* Library of the Year); Beth Dempsey, “What Boomers Want,” *Library Journal* July 2007, 36-39; Barbara Hoffert, “The Book Club Exploded,” *Library Journal* July 2006, 34-37.

[Friday, November 16 – School’s final written exam for December 2007 graduates]

**Monday Nov 19: take-home exam distributed**

**Week 13 Nov 19:** Associations and organizations; American Library Association; Public Library Association; state library agencies; consortia; the public library in the broader arena

**McCook chapter 10:** Connections (241-264)

Helen Ruth Fleming, “Library CPR: Savvy Marketing Can Save Your Library,” *Library Journal* September 15, 1993, 32-35 (This excellent article is about how one public library, that serving Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, went about making connections. It was the Gale Research/*Library Journal* Library of the Year for 1995.)

[Wednesday, Nov 21-Sat Nov 24 – Thanksgiving break]

**Monday Nov 26: take-home exam due**

**Week 14 Nov 26:** Public library and federal legislation; censorship; intellectual freedom

**McCook chapter 11:** Global Perspectives on Public Libraries (265-292)

**Week 15 Dec 3:** Public library as place, as community center, as cultural center, as commons; the notion of “third places”:

**McCook chapter 12:** Twenty-First Century Trends in Public Librarianship (293-306)

John A Berry III, “The Library Haines Built,” *Library Journal* February 1, 2005, 38-41 (“The big room and even the whole library can be rented for wedding receptions and other festivities. The Haines Homecoming Dance is held there as well.”); Brian Kenny, “After Seattle,” *Library Journal* August 2005, 34-37 (The author says that in the Central Library’s Living Room Seattle Public Library “created a center for its community.”).

Jean Preer, “Where Are Libraries in *Bowling Alone*?” *American Libraries* September 2001, 60-62.

Optional: Robert D Putnam, “Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital,” *Journal of Democracy* January 1995, 65-78; Robert D Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Renewal of American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000); Robert D Putnam and Lewis M Feldstein, *Better Together: Restoring the American Community* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003) (chapter 2, “Branch Libraries: The Heartbeat of the Community,” looks at Chicago Public Library’s branch libraries); Ray Oldenburg, *The Great Good Place* (New York: Paragon House, 1989); Ray Oldenburg, ed, *Celebrating the Third Place* (New York: Marlowe, 2001).

**Week 16: Final exam Monday, December 10, 1:00 PM**

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I want to make you aware of several organizations and several publications that are relevant to public libraries.

#### Organizations

The organizations are the Public Library Association, the Americans for Libraries Council and the Urban Libraries Council.

If you go to the Web site of the Americans for Libraries Council, you learn that “On September 17, ALC will return to its original name, “Libraries for the Future.” This is the ALC mission:

Americans for Libraries Council (ALC) is a national nonprofit that advocates for libraries at the national level and develops and promotes programs aimed at realizing the potential of libraries in the 21st century. The Council believes that a national agenda is needed to help leverage the vast, varied and rapidly evolving capabilities of America's libraries and to reinvest in libraries as key assets for information literacy, opportunity and democracy.<sup>6</sup>

According to its Web site,

The Public Library Association (PLA), with more than 11,000 members is one of the fastest growing divisions of the American Library Association (ALA), the oldest and largest library association in the world. PLA's core purpose is to strengthen public libraries and their contribution to the communities they serve.<sup>7</sup>

The Urban Libraries Council core purpose is to “Strengthen the Public Library as an Essential Part of Urban Life.” The ULC Web site also has this information:

For more than 30 years the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) has worked to strengthen public libraries as an essential part of urban life. A membership organization of North America's premier public library systems and the corporations that serve them, the ULC serves as a forum for sharing best practices resulting from targeted research, education and forecasting. The ULC's programs are acclaimed for inspiring new organizational models that invigorate urban libraries and enrich the areas surrounding them. The ULC is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.<sup>8</sup>

#### Publications

The Public Library Association publishes the magazine *Public Libraries* six times a year.

According to its Web site, the Americans for Libraries Council has produced a number of publications, and I want to make you aware of two of them:

*Worth Their Weight: An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation* (New York: ALC, 2007).

*Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes About Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (New York: ALC, 2006).

The Urban Libraries Council also produces publications, and I want to make you aware of:

*Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development* (Evanston, IL: ULC, 2007).

According to its Web site, EBSCO Industries, Inc., “has diversified into more than 40 businesses, including” services to libraries, in particular academic libraries. I want to make you aware of a volume from EBSCO Publishing:

Dr Leslie Edmonds Holt, et al, *Library Success: A Celebration of Library Innovation, Adaptation and Problem Solving* (EBSCO, 2007) (public libraries figure prominently among the case studies, which include other types of libraries as well).

OCLC has an active publishing program, and I want to call your attention to two volumes published in recent years. Although the discussion in the volumes is not limited to public libraries, nevertheless public libraries are included in the discussion.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.lff.org/> (accessed August 21, 2007)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ala.org/pla> (accessed August 22, 2007)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/> (accessed August 21, 2007)

Cathy De Rosa, et al, *Perception of Libraries and Information Resources* (Dublin, OH: OCLC, 2005). The volume reports the findings of a survey conducted by Harris Interactive, Inc, on behalf of OCLC. In the introduction Ms De Rosa writes:

We wanted to know more about people's information-seeking behaviors, how familiar people are with the variety of e-resources libraries provide for their users and how libraries fit into the lives of the respondents. One of the most important goals of the project as a whole was to collect information that would help us build a better understanding of the "Library" brand. (viii)

In a way, the volume can be seen as a sequel to the following publication.

Cathy De Rosa, et al, *The 2003 OCLC Environmental Scan: Pattern Recognition* (Dublin, OH: OCLC, 2004). The purpose of the report

is the identification and description of issues and trends that are impacting and will impact OCLC, libraries, museums, archives and other allied organizations, positively and negatively. (1)

I think of *Pattern Recognition* as having this subtitle: libraries in the age of Google.