

School of Library and Information Science
University of Kentucky
<<http://www.uky.edu/CIS/SLIS/>>

LIS 659 001 Collection Development
FH 215 Wednesdays 6:00-8:30

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Fall Semester 2007
Course Syllabus

The description for LIS 659, Collection Development, reads:

Intellectual and administrative aspects of building, maintaining, and evaluating library collections. Topics include: library cooperation, national standards, writing and implementing collection policies, strategies of selection and evaluation, contemporary publishing and book trade, electronic information resources.

What is “collection development”? According to the *ALA Glossary*, it is

A term which encompasses a number of activities related to the development of the library collection, including the determination and coordination of selection policy, assessment of needs of users and potential users, collection use studies, collection evaluation, identification of collection needs, selection of materials, planning for resource sharing, collection maintenance, and weeding.

LIS 659 is an introductory course in collection development. In the course I intend to:

- Offer a blend of the theoretical and practical, but emphasize the practical. I believe there is important theoretical underpinning for collection development, and I also believe that the individual with collection development responsibilities is in a better position to perform the practical aspects of the work if s/he has been exposed to, and takes seriously, the theoretical underpinning. However, the course will have a practical orientation, which I believe is appropriate at the master's level.
- Discuss collection development, and related activities and issues, in academic, school, and public libraries.
- Have professionals from the field talk to the class.

Textbook: Johnson, Peggy. *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management*, Chicago: ALA, 2004.

Additional reading: In addition to the textbook, we will read and discuss several articles.

Exams: There will be two in-class short-answer/essay exams. Questions will pertain to (a) class lectures, including what guest lecturers say to the class, (b) the Johnson text, and (c) other readings that are discussed in class. Each one of these exams will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Term paper: The term paper will represent 35% of your final grade. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Minimum length is 3,000 words. (Do not include bibliography and notes in your word count.). This paper will be due the last day of class. Use the APA style manual. Please submit an electronic copy (Word) to me via e-mail.

Class participation and attendance: The extent to which you participate in class discussions will represent 15% of your final grade. Please plan to attend every class. Missing more than one class may adversely affect your grade.

Terms: The glossary of terms in Johnson, (beginning on page 307) contains a number of terms that will come up in the course. The student who has completed a course in collection development should be familiar with these terms and be able to define them. Some of these terms will certainly show up in the exams.

Grading: The Graduate School *Bulletin* has this to say about grading:

The grading in graduate courses is done according to the following scale:

- A-High achievement
- B-Satisfactory achievement
- C-Minimum passing grade
- E-Failure
- I-Incomplete

Grade of I (incomplete): The incomplete grade is intended only for students who are not able to complete the assigned course work on schedule due to serious illness or other unusual personal circumstances.

Grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

- A-90-100
- B-80-89
- C-70-79
- E- 0-69

Class schedule:

Class 1 August 22 Distribute and discuss syllabus, discuss course objectives, content, method. At our first session we will discuss which functions of librarianship interest you most: (public services, cataloging, collection development, management, electronic resources, etc) and in what kind of library you would most like to work (public, school, special, academic, etc). In this way I will become better acquainted with you. I, in turn, will discuss my background.

Class 2 August 29 Read chapter 1 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover the history of the concept of collection development in libraries, theories of material selection, the nature of library users, and some current trends in collection development.

Class 3 September 5 Read chapter 2 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover various roles librarians play in collection development in various types of libraries. We will also discuss ethical issues that pertain to collection development librarians. We will look at ACQweb <http://www.acqweb.org> I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 4 September 12 Read chapter 3 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Also bring to class a printout of a collection development policy you have found for any kind of library (via the web) and be prepared to discuss what you believe are its strengths and weaknesses. Discussion and lecture will cover environmental scanning and collection development policies. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 5 September 19 We will discuss allocation formulas (covered in Johnson's chapter 3) and other budget issues. TERM PAPER TOPICS DUE.

Class 6 September 26 Read chapter 4 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover the selection process and various selection criteria, selection tools, and approval plans. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 7 October 3 Discussion and lecture will cover acquisitions, donations, retrospective selection (covered in Johnson's chapter 4), and censorship issues. Bring to class a printout of an article or web site you've found that discusses a censorship case.

Class 8 October 10 In class exam. Guest speaker, Jason Buydos, Cincinnati Public Library.

Class 9 October 17 Read Chapter 5 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover weeding, journal retention, and preservation and storage issues. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 10 October 24 Read Chapter 6 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover serials cancellation projects (covered in Chapter 5), and issues of marketing and outreach. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 11 October 31 Guest speaker, . Read Chapter 7 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover collection development issues of electronic resources. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 12 November 7 Read Chapter 8 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover cooperative collection development. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

Class 13 November 14 Read Chapter 9 in Johnson to prepare for this class. Discussion and lecture will cover collection analysis. I will seek your feedback on the Case Study at the end of the chapter.

November 21 NO CLASS.

Class 14 November 28 Guest speaker, _____ from _____ Library.

Class 15 December 5 Term paper due. General wrap-up.

Final Exam will be held during Finals Week.

Possible Term Paper topics:

Approval Plans
Allocation Formulas
Collection Assessment/Evaluation Methods
Cooperative Collection Development
Faculty vs Librarian Material Selection
The Future of Scholarly Publishing
Selection of Electronic Materials

You are free to propose anything else. Just make sure you get the topic approved by me.