

SLIS 5740 Introduction to Digital Libraries

Instructor

Jiangping Chen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Information Science Building, Room 214
School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Texas
P.O. Box 311068, Denton, TX 76203
Phone : (940) 369-8393
Fax : (940) 565-3101
Email : jpchen@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant

Erhan Erdonmez
Email: erhanerdonmez@gmail.com

Class Meetings and Website

This is a blended course. We will have two meetings in Denton

Location : Information Science Building, Room 201 and 203
Dates & Time : March 8 from 9 am to 5:00 pm
March 9 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

The course will have a website in Vista. The website will be available to students at the first day of the semester.

Office Hours

Students are welcomed to discuss concerns and questions regarding the class during office hours. You can also send emails to the instructor or the TA at anytime.

Date & Time : Tuesday 9:00 am- Noon
Location : Information Science Building, Room 214
Phone : 940-369-8393

Course Description

This course introduces the student to current research and the conceptual, practical, and technical issues in digital libraries. Theoretical foundations, technical infrastructures, knowledge organization, collection development, users & services, evaluation, as well as social, cultural, and policy issues are discussed. Students read papers and discuss related issues, evaluate a digital library of their choice, and write an in-depth term paper or conduct a class project.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the basic terminologies in digital libraries;
- Understand important issues and practical problems associated with digital libraries;
- Describe procedures and considerations for digital library planning and development;
- Evaluate a digital library with regard to its content and services;
- Achieve a thorough understanding of an aspect or a topic in digital libraries.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. Readings for each lesson will be specified.

Prerequisite(s)

Students should have completed all core courses, or be in concurrent enrollment of their last core course.

Assessment

A student's grade is composed of following:

<i>Class Participation</i>	<i>(30%)</i>
<i>Concept Briefing Paper</i>	<i>(20%)</i>
<i>Digital Library Review</i>	<i>(20%)</i>
<i>Term Project</i>	<i>(30%)</i>

The UNT scale for **grading** is as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

Class Participation (face-to-face meeting 6%; online discussion participation 24%)

This is a blended course with 2-day face-to-face meeting in Denton main campus in the middle of term. It is essential that you attend the face-to-face meeting and participate in online discussions. The participation in the face-to-face meeting includes attending the meetings and participating in the class presentation and discussion.

Satisfactory participation in the face-to-face meetings will count **6** points towards your final grade. **Every student is required to attend the face-to-face meetings.** The

meetings will include group activities, students' concept briefing presentations, and system demonstrations (talks) or hands-on digital library construction exercises in addition to lectures. The schedule of the face-to-face meeting will be posted at the class website three weeks prior to the meetings.

The course contains **TEN** lessons. In each lesson, you are given 3-6 questions for online class discussions. You are required to participate in the online discussion of at least **Six** lessons of your choice by the specified due dates listed in the table "[Recommended Study Schedule and Due Dates](#)". Your participation in one lesson should consist of at least two postings including: **1)** answering at least one discussion question; **and 2)** commenting on at least one answer posted by other students or the instructor/TA in the same lesson. The answers and the comments should be kept to **100-200** words. Together, the two postings for one lesson will be counted **4** points towards your final grade.

Concept Briefing Paper (20%)

This assignment requires that you thoroughly explore a concept of your choice related to digital libraries. A list of concepts will be provided to you in the beginning of the class. Here, you are required to select **one** from the list and write a concept briefing paper (If you prefer to work on a concept that is not in the list provided by the instructor, consult the instructor before you start the writing). The concept briefing paper should include at least following components: **1)** the origin of the concept (where it came from, or who or what field used it the first time); **2)** The evolution of the concept (How the meaning of the concept change over time or in different fields); **3)** The meaning and implication of the concept in the field of digital libraries; and **4)** References you use. At least 4 references should be cited in this paper. The citation should be in APA format.

The concept briefing paper should be about **600-800** words excluding the references.

Digital Library Review (20%)

Write a review of a digital library of your choice in no more than **2000 words**. A list of digital libraries will be provided to you for your convenience. If you want to work on a digital library that is not in the list, please get approval from the instructor beforehand. A specification will be provided to you regarding the basic issues and questions that should be addressed in your review paper.

Term Project (30%)

The term project can be a group project or an individual work. The purpose is for students to demonstrate thorough knowledge of a selected topic or sub field in digital libraries. You can choose one of the following for your project: **1)** An **in-depth term paper** discussing a specific issue or research question(s) of your choice in digital libraries (The instructor will provide a list of topics or you may work on a topic of your choice, as long as the instructor have approved your topic); Or **2)** A **design document** for a digital library for a defined community or for a specific organization selected by the student or group. The design document should involve suggestions on how to deal with issues, such as information organization, preservation or archiving, user services,

copyright, and evaluation. in a specific digital library context; or **3) A prototype digital library** implemented using a digital library system. Here, the final product should be a working web site for the prototype digital library with documentation describing the digital library for general users. This last choice is most suited for groups.

You need to submit **a proposal** and **a final report** regarding the term project. The specific requirements for each submission will be released to you in a separate document attached to their drop boxes at the beginning of the semester. The due dates for the submissions are specified in the class schedule. Drop boxes will be created in Vista class website for your submissions.

Academic Misconduct

The School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Texas has passed an "Academic Misconduct Policy" on April 15, 2005. All students should have signed the form "Student Acknowledgement of Academic Misconduct Policy" prior to enrollment in their SLIS course or as part of their application to the School. Below are extracts from the policy for your convenience.

The School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS) expects all students to demonstrate both academic rigor and academic integrity. The purpose of this policy is to inform SLIS students of their responsibilities regarding the University of North Texas (UNT) Code of Student Conduct and Discipline and the procedures enforced by SLIS for cases of misconduct. The SLIS Academic Misconduct Policy is derived from the UNT Code, and some text in the SLIS policy is based on text in the Code.

The two categories of most relevance to SLIS are cheating and plagiarism. The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines these in its categories of misconduct:

A. Acts of Dishonesty, including but not limited to:

- 1. Academic dishonesty - cheating.** The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
 - (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
 - (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;
 - (d) 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).
 - (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

- 2. Academic dishonesty – plagiarism.** 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.

To address problems of academic integrity, SLIS has zero tolerance for violations of the SLIS Academic Misconduct Policy. The following apply:

- The SLIS Academic Misconduct Policy applies to any work submitted for SLIS courses or degree requirements, including the Capstone Experience.
- SLIS will retain students' signed statements acknowledging their understanding of the SLIS Academic Misconduct Policy. SLIS instructors will not accept students' claims that they were unaware of SLIS and UNT policies, including definitions of forms of academic misconduct.
- SLIS instructors will follow UNT regulations for reporting suspected violations to UNT, imposing academic sanctions, and recording sanctions for confirmed violations.
- An academic sanction is a penalty imposed on a student for academic misconduct. Sanctions may range from reduction of a test or assignment grade to revocation of an academic degree.
- SLIS instructors retain the right to determine specific sanctions for their courses and to set additional policies and procedures that do not conflict with SLIS or UNT policies.
- Students who have received academic sanctions are not eligible for SLIS awards, honors, or other benefits.

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement

The School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Texas is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the School of Library and Information Sciences will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

Lesson Release Schedule

Lesson	Topic	Release Date
1	Digital Libraries Overview and Definitions	January 14
2	Planning and Design	January 14
3	Technological Foundation	January 14
4	Knowledge Organization	February 04
5	Digitization and collection development	February 04
6	Users and Services	February 25
7	Evaluation and Assessment	February 25
8	Social, Cultural and Policy Issues	March 10
9	Digital Librarianship and Digital Libraries Future Trends	March 10
10	New Progress in Digital Library Research and Practices	April 7

[See next page for the “Recommended Study Schedule and Due Dates”](#)

Recommended Study Schedule and Due Dates

Week	Date	Lesson/Topic	What's Due and Due Date
1	Jan. 14 - 20	Start Here syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Survey • Self-introduction,
2	Jan. 21 -27	Lesson 1 Digital Libraries Overview and Definitions	
3	Jan. 28 – Feb. 3	Lesson 2 Planning and Design	Lesson 1 Postings (January 28)
4	Feb.4 - 10	Lesson 3 Technological Foundation (1)	Lesson 2 Postings (February 4)
5	Feb. 11 - 17	Lesson 4 Knowledge Organization	Term project proposal (February 11)
6	Feb. 18 – 24	Lesson 5 Digitization and collection development	Lesson 3 Postings (February 18)
7	Feb. 25 – Mar. 2	Preparing for F2F meeting	Lesson 4 Postings (February 25)
8	Mar. 3 - 09	Face to Face Meeting (March 8, 9. 9am-5pm)	Concept briefing paper Term project proposal & presentation (March 09)
9	Mar. 10 - 16	Lesson 6 Users and Services	Lesson 5 Postings (March 16)
10	Mar. 17 - 23	Spring Vacation	
11	Mar. 24 –30	Lesson 7 Evaluation and Assessment	Lesson 6 Postings (March 24)
12	Mar. 31 - April 6	Lesson 8 Social, Cultural and Policy Issues	Lesson 7 Postings (March 31)
13	April 7 - 13	DL review paper	Lesson 8 Postings (April 7)
14	April 14 - 20	Lesson 9 Digital Librarianship and Digital Libraries Future Trends	DL review paper (April 14)
15	April 21 - 27	Lesson 10 New Progress in Digital Library Research and Practices	Lesson 9 Postings (April 21) Lesson 10 Postings (April 27)
16	April 28 – May 4	Work on Final Project	Term project final report (May 4)
17	May 9	Grades submitted to the University	