Issues in Work:

Information Literacy for Research about Work

37:575:392:02 Spring 2014

Professor: Julie Moscinski

Office: LEC, Carey Library, Cook Campus

Office Hours: By appointment Office Phone: 848-932-9608

Email: jmoscinski@smlr.rutgers.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

To assist in conducting research in the field of labor and employment studies, the course provides an overview of the research strategies and techniques used to determine an information need, to access and evaluate information critically, to incorporate information into one's research, and to use and understand the information effectively and appropriately. Information literacy concepts such as research methods, scholarly resources, source evaluation, citation creation, intellectual property, and copyright will be covered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1. Determine the nature and extent of an information need;
- 2. Access needed information effectively and efficiently;
- 3. Evaluate information and its sources critically;
- 4. Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; and
- 5. Understand the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding the use of information.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings 25% Class Attendance & Participation 25% Research Project 50%

Readings

For each class, two readings will be required. You will use the Rutgers Libraries System to find the reading within one of the library's online databases.

Class Attendance and Participation

Students are highly encouraged to attend all five sessions of the course. Class attendance points will be deducted for absences. Participation will include actively discussing the topics covered and the assigned readings.

Research Project

A three page research paper will be due on the last day of class. Choose a current issue in labor and employment relations and locate a news article online on that issue. Conduct research using the methods and techniques discussed in class to either support or refute the arguments made in the news article. Answer questions such as: Does the news article have merit? What sort of conclusions did the news article make? Are such conclusions credible? Why are these conclusions credible or not credible? A bibliography of at least 3 scholarly sources is required to support your argument.

COURSE SCHEDULE

March 28: Determining the Nature and Extent of an Information Need

Topics Covered

What is information Literacy?
Beginning the Research Process
Identifying Information Needs
Organizing Information/Types of Information

Required Readings

Sharkey, J. (2013). Establishing twenty-first-century information fluency. *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, *53*(1), 33-39.

April 4: Accessing Needed Information Effectively and Efficiently

Topics Covered

Identifying Key Terms and Subjects Search Strategies Database Techniques Retrieving Sources Managing and Organizing Sources Citation Creation

Required Readings

Colón-Aguirre, M. & Fleming-May, R. A. (2012). 'You just type in what you are looking for': undergraduates' use of library resources vs. Wikipedia. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 38(6), 391-399.

Rand, A. D. (2010). Mediating at the student-Wikipedia intersection. *Journal of Library Administration*, *50*(7/8), 923-932.

Assignments Due

Locate a news article on a current issue in labor and employment relations and bring it to class.

April 11: Evaluating Information and Its Sources Critically

Topics Covered

Evaluating Information

In-Text Citations

Plagiarism

Synthesizing Evidence and Formulating an Argument

Re-evaluating the Information Need

Required Readings

Evering, L. C. & Moorman, G. (2012). Rethinking plagiarism in the digital age. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *56*(1), 35-44.

Mandalios, J. (2013). RADAR: An approach for helping students evaluate Internet sources. *Journal of Information Science*, *39*(4), 470-478.

Assignments Due

Submit research project proposal with identified key terms and subjects, and possible search strategies. (Minimum of half a page)

April 25: Using Information Effectively and Understanding Various Issues around Its Use

Topics Covered

Organizing Evidence into an Original Argument Integrating Information Communicating Information Gathered Copyright, Fair Use, and Intellectual Property

Required Readings

Head, A. J., Van Hoeck, M., Eschler, J., & Fullerton, S. (2013). What information competencies matter in today's workplace? *Library and Information Research*, *37*(114), 74-104.

Assignments Due

Submit one to two possible scholarly sources to use in your research paper and brief explanation as to why they are credible. (Minimum of half a page)

May 2 Information Literacy in Labor and Employment Relations

Topics Covered

Resources at the SMLR Library and other Rutgers Libraries Current Research in the Field

Assignments Due

Research Project