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

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

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


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
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