

Dr. Peter Jacso

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Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. and on appointment

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Class hours: 663-A: Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.; 663-B: Thursdays 1:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m., **Classroom:** 2K

This course is meant to empower students to use subscription-based professional bibliographic, factographic directory, and full-text database systems competently, and to appreciate their diversity. It analyzes the role of electronic database services in reference work. It educates the students about the features of a variety of database search systems. These include several professional online information services which are the most widely used in college, public and school libraries such as EBSCO, ProQuest and Web of Science.

Prerequisite: LIS 601 Introduction to Reference and Information Services.

LIS Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1) Understand, apply and articulate the history, philosophy, principles and ethics of library and information science and the related professions

- a) Apply LIS theory and principles to diverse information contexts
- c) Develop and apply critical thinking skills in preparation for professional practice

SLO 2) Develop, administrate, assess and advocate for information services by exercising principled communication, teamwork and leadership skills

- b) Work effectively in teams
- c) Develop, manage, and assess information services for specific users and communities

SLO 3) Organize, create, archive, preserve, retrieve, manage, evaluate and disseminate information resources in a variety of formats

- c) Search, retrieve and synthesize information from a variety of systems and sources

SLO 4) Evaluate and use the latest information technologies, research findings and methods

- a) Evaluate systems and technologies in terms of quality, functionality, cost-effectiveness and adherence to professional standards
- b) Integrate emerging technologies into professional practice
- c) Apply current research findings to professional practice

SLO 5) Engage in projects and assignments dealing with multicultural communities and representing diverse points of view

- a) Communicate and collaborate with diverse colleagues, information seekers and community stakeholders

Course Learning Objectives

- Learn about the state-of-the-art in online database searching, with emphasis on their use as part of reference service and collection development in libraries and information/media centers;
- Become acquainted with the characteristics of bibliographic, factographic, directory and full text databases from a professional searcher's point of view;
- Learn the concept and practice of interactive searching, and the basics of searching the most widely used professional online information services in college, public and school libraries;
- Understand the role and functions of the search intermediary and search instructor;
- Raise awareness of the deficiencies in the expensive professional online information systems.

Professional Expectations

All students in the Program are expected to become familiar with and adhere to the Professional Expectations posted at <http://www.hawaii.edu/lis/students/professional-expectations-notice/>

Teaching Methods

- The course applies a combination of lectures, students' exercises and class-room activities.
- The lectures allow the instructor to impart the key concepts and practices of effective online information

retrieval, and share prevailing views about related issues.

- The exercises take students to jaunts and journeys of discovery to learn and appreciate the diversity offered by traditional, professional online systems and databases to serve the information needs of users with diverse educational and cultural heritage. The exercises provide the opportunity for immersive learning of database searching and for demonstrating the students' level of professional search abilities.

Research Methods

- Action Research
- Case Study
- Experiment
- Heuristic Evaluation
- Information Retrieval

Required Readings

No text-book is required. The comprehensive Help files and video tutorials of the Ebsco, ProQuest and Web of Science services <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~jacso/663-A/663-readings/> Read the Help files. Read them again to see if they are accurate.

Assignments and Grading

Students shall form a group of 3-4 persons for the assignments and submit one joint paper per group before the class starts on the due date. Term Paper (Assignment 3) will be done individually.

Please see the page about the [General Guidelines for the Assignments](#).

The assignments include test searches, questions about the browsing, search strategy development, query formulation, output options. They are based on the class-room presentations and discussions, the readings, and the MLIS graduate level use of databases by the students.

Assignment 1	30 points
Assignment 2	30 points
Assignment 3	30 points
Classroom performance	10 points

Content Outlines

Introduction and course overview. Googling AND/OR/NOT professional searching

Search flow: result set creation and combination

Indexing using controlled vocabulary and database thesauri.

Menu-driven, command-driven and natural language searching

Students' presentations of Initial assignment

Advanced search operations, Query refinement

Citation-based searching

Sorting, ranking and enhancing search results

Students' presentations of Midterm assignment

Resource discovery

Selecting software platform and databases

Evaluating and improving research results

Students' presentations of Term assignment (each students individually)

Alternatives for document delivery

The future of database searching