LIS 5713 RESEARCH METHODS

Interpretation of the course description: Students will learn standard social science research methodology, the structure of writing for research, and how to read and interpret research articles in the literature. Course includes discussion of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

Audience: This is an advanced class for students who have completed all of their introductory requirements: Prerequisites include 5023, 5033, 5043, 5053. The course format depends upon the semester in which it is taught, it is sometimes an online and sometimes a face to face class. As a guided elective it may be selected in the Research, Discovery, and Evaluation category by MLIS and MSKM students. It is a required course for students who plan to do a thesis.

Expectations: Prior to the start of class students should be proficient in using standard technologies such as word processing, presentation software, and using OU’s Desire to Learn for discussions, submitting assignments, etc. They should also be able to cite correctly using Chicago Manual of Style. Additionally, students should have enough of a background in Library and Information Studies to be able to select appropriate areas of research interest.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:
Define and appropriately use the concepts and language of research
Understand and evaluate reported research in library and information studies
Identify and provide examples of major research methodologies
Define the issues of validity and reliability of measurement, and of the appropriate use and generalizability of research findings
Identify various data sources and techniques of data collection and analysis
Discuss ethical problems researchers confront at every juncture of the research process
Prepare a research proposal
Apply research principles to issues relevant to library and information studies

Topics: Students will propose a research topic with research questions and write a research proposal including an extensive literature review, proposed methodology, and proposed data analysis method. They will also write data collection instruments such as surveys, content analysis instruments, and focus group scripts. Additionally they will examine scholarly journals for paper requirements, engage in discussions of research method topics, and write a PowerPoint presentation.

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology: Students will be required to do literature searches in library databases, use word processing software, and use presentation software. They may also be introduced to data analysis software.

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Disclaimer: This summary represents the course as it has been taught in the past semesters and it provided for the convenience of students and advisors. No guarantees are expressed or implied about current and future course offerings.