

IS40030: People, Information & Communication

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Office Hours Semester II: *to be confirmed in Blackboard*

Notes

All queries will be answered during office hours, unless otherwise advised. Please check Blackboard-Announcements for updated information. Queries outside term time should be sent by email. Remember lectures, office hours, and other activities generally begin on the hour and conclude at 10 minutes to the hour to facilitate students & staff moving between activities around campus.

Seminar Time / Location: Semester II, Wednesdays, 4-6pm; Online via Blackboard's Elluminate, unless otherwise specified. Note: You will find Elluminate links to attend virtual seminars posted weekly in Blackboard.

Module Description:

In this seminar module, students explore theoretical foundations and research regarding how people interact with information, including how they identify, access, create, share and use information. In addition, they consider how theories and research results apply to the design of effective information services and information systems in a variety of contexts, including workplace, educational, health care, personal, and leisure settings.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- a) Because this module is offered online, students must ensure they have access to a computer with audio set up for effective online participation.
- b) Registration to this module by undergraduate students is subject to the module coordinator's permission.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this module students should be able to:

1. Apply models of information and communication behaviour to a variety of contexts;
2. Identify critical information issues for particular groups and in particular contexts;
3. Identify and implement best practices for information services in different environments;
4. Analyse methodological approaches to information behaviour research in various contexts;
5. Actualize a research exploration into the information and communication behaviour of a particular group.

Workload:

- 24 hours - Online Seminars
- 36 hours - Specified Learning Activities
- 40 hours - Autonomous Student Learning
- 100 hours - Total Hours

Module Credits: 5 credits

Schedule of Weekly Activities & Learning Objectives:

Week	Topic(s)	Weekly Learning Objectives
Week 1	Introduction. Information & the Information Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore foundations of information • Consider the importance of context • Discuss critical terms used
Week 2	Conceptualizing Information Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore major theoretical underpinnings of IB
Week 3	Information in Practice – Case Studies in IB Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore information and the communication process, including formal and informal information sharing and exchange • Consider serendipitous acquisition of information • To explore normative behaviour and its impact on information behaviour
Week 4	Investigating Our Information Behaviour and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss methodological approaches to investigating IB • Understand the relationships among theory, practice, and research approaches
Week 5	<i>In the field</i> – Observation in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore approaches to understanding IB in context • Practise unobtrusive observation techniques
Week 6	Information in Practice - Case Studies in IB Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the impact of information in different work contexts
Week 7	Information in Practice - Case Studies in IB Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore information behaviour in unique circumstances, including special situations and special populations. •
*** 2 week March Break***		
Week 8	Blending Contexts: Social Media & Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider social networking in different contexts, including social media technologies • Analyse the potential information pitfalls and benefits associated with blending contexts in networking activities
Week 9	Managing with Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider information processes and provision in a given real life context
Week 10	Exploring Models & Frameworks of Information Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore modelling of IB in different contexts • Consider the changing role of the information professional in different contexts

Week 11	Reflecting on Information Behaviour & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on communication and information behaviour practices, research and information professions • Consider communities of practice in information services
Week 12	Project Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share findings about information behaviour experiences • Practise “boardroom” presentation skills

Readings:

The core text for this module is as follows:

Fisher, K.E., S. Erdelez, and E.F. McKechnie, eds. (2005). *Theories of Information Behavior*. ASIS&T Monograph Series. Medford, N.J.: Information Today. Available for purchase the Campus Bookshop.

Detailed bibliographic references for readings are provided in Blackboard.

Assessment:

This module has been designed to build a strong foundation in information behaviour research and application. To facilitate continuous learning, weekly readings and active seminar participation are essential. Students will also lead class discussion for a given week.

Assessment for the course is based on

- *Seminar Participation & Leadership* (40%); and
- *Information Behaviour Unobtrusive Observation Research Project* (60%), in which students explore the information behaviour of a particular group in a small research venture.