

Ph. D. COURSE WORK SYLLABUS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Course Title: Advanced Research Perspectives in Library and Information Science (LIS)

Course Code: LIS-600 | **Credits:** 02 | **Duration:** 30 Hours

Course Description

Introduction:

This course provides a rigorous foundation in research design, focusing on the intersection of information behavior, digital infrastructures, and scholarly communication. It aims to equip doctoral candidates with the tools to critique existing literature and design robust, ethical research projects.

Module 1: Foundations & Theoretical Frameworks (7 Hours)

- Epistemology in LIS: The study of how knowledge is created, structured, justified, and organized within information systems. Positivism, Interpretivism, and Critical Theory in information science.
- Evolution of LIS Research: From bibliometrics to iSchools and data science.
- Theoretical Modeling: Applying and adapting theories (e.g., Information Foraging, TAM (Technology Acceptance Model), Diffusion of Innovations) to LIS research.
- Problem Identification: Formulating research questions and hypotheses in a digital-first environment.

Module 2: Research Design & Quantitative Methods (8 Hours)

- Experimental & Quasi-experimental Designs: User studies and interfaces testing.
- Survey Research: Advanced sampling techniques and questionnaire validation.
- Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, & Altmetrics: Measuring scholarly impact and mapping knowledge domains.
- Statistical Analysis: Introduction to inferential statistics, correlation, and regression using tools like R or SPSS.

Module 3: Qualitative & Mixed Methods (8 Hours)

- Ethnographic Studies: Observing user behavior in physical and digital libraries.
- Content & Discourse Analysis: Analyzing policy documents, web content, and social media.
- Case Study Methodology: Deep dives into institutional repositories or library systems.
- Digital Research Methods: Web scraping for LIS, virtual focus groups, and usability testing.

Module 4: Ethics, Tools, & Academic Writing (7 Hours)

- Research Ethics: Human subjects protection, data privacy (GDPR/CCPA), and AI ethics in research.
 - Reference Management: Advanced use of Zotero/Mendeley and LaTeX for thesis formatting.
 - Publication Ethics: Avoiding predatory journals, understanding H-index/i10-index, and the peer-review process.
 - Grant Writing: Identifying funding agencies (ICSSR, UGC, and NSF) and drafting proposals.
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Evaluation Scheme

Component	Assessment Method	Weightage
Internal Assessment	Literature Review of 10-15 ‘Classic’ Papers	20%
Practical	Data Analysis Exercise (using R/SPSS/Python)	30%
Term Paper	Draft Research Proposal (Chapter 1/Equivalent)	50%
Total		100%

Suggested Reading List

1. Bates, M. J., & Maack, M. N. (Eds.). (2010). Encyclopedia of library and information sciences (3rd ed.). CRC Press.
2. Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). The craft of research (4th ed.). University of Chicago Press.
3. Connaway, L. S., & Radford, M. L. (2021). Research methods in library and information science (7th ed.). Libraries Unlimited.
4. Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approach (5th ed.). Sage Publications.
5. Cronin, B., & Sugimoto, C. R. (Eds.). (2014). Beyond bibliometrics: Harnessing multidimensional indicators of scholarly impact. MIT Press.
6. Pickard, A. J. (2017). Research methods in information (2nd ed.). Facet Publishing.
7. Pryor, G., Jones, S., & Whyte, A. (2014). Delivering research data management services: Fundamentals of good practice. Facet Publishing.