

MLIS 7220 Public Libraries

Summer 2008

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Required Text:

Introduction to Public Librarianship by Kathleen de la Pena McCook, New York, Neal-Schuman, 2004.

This course offers a critical examination of public librarianship. It also covers the role of state and federal government in library development. Community building as an important activity for all public librarians is an emphasis.

The course will cover:

1. The history of public librarianship within the broader historical and cultural movements of the times.
2. The landmark literature of the field's development.
3. The evolution of standards and planning for public library service.
4. The role of the political process in the growth of libraries and library services.
5. Public libraries' adult and youth services as reflections of changing societal trends.
6. The current status of library services and the tools for evaluating and describing services.
7. The overarching ideas, principles, and goals that drive public librarianship and the necessity of continuing to work towards these goals.

COURSE GOALS

- To understand the history and philosophy of U.S. public librarianship
- To identify library services in the context of community building and comprehensive community initiatives.
- To examine the political process as it impacts on library development
- To analyze the role of state library agencies vis-à-vis public libraries

EVALUATION

Governance Assignment -15% . [post by June 29; I will be flexible if this is not possible given your different government situations].

1. Attend the official meeting of the governing body to which the public library you use reports (Orange County BOCC, Seminole County BOCC, Osceola BOCC, Lake County BOCC, Volusia County BOCC, Brevard County BOCC, Indian River County BOCC, Hillsborough County BOCC, Manatee County, BOCC, Pinellas BOCC, etc., or a municipal entity if your public library is in a municipal setting).
2. Summarize key issues of “the day.” Identify those that relate to the library that you use (there may not be any).
3. Describe how the public library fits in local government.
4. What is the basis of taxation for your local public library? What is per capita funding? (remember where we looked in week 1-Statistics).
5. What is the annual operating budget of your local library?
6. Describe the friends group and its activities on behalf of your local library.

Community Assignment- 15%

Report on Community Group.

Identify a community agency or organization with which your local library has a natural alliance and you have an interest.. Do not select any Library support groups, like Library Friends or Foundations. Week of July 6 post responses to the following questions.

1. ATTEND at least one meetings or event held by the agency.
2. Summarize the agency’s mission, purpose and goals. What public library roles fit this agency’s purpose?
3. If the library already has a linkage with this agency, describe the nature of this connection.
4. If the library is not linked to the agency describe what kind of linkages could or might take place once contact is made.

Seminar Paper-30%

Public librarianship is a rapidly changing field of practice. Identify a current topic of concern and explore it in a 2500-3000 word paper **DOUBLE SPACED** --using a consistent bibliographic style.

Topics suggested:

Privacy issues & the USAPATRIOT Act

- Planning procedures

- **Adult Education and Adult Literacy**

Youth Services (children, young adults)

- Effect of new technologies

- The future of adult programming

- **Library Services to special groups**

(many possibilities here--older adults, genealogists, people with disabilities, services to ethnic groups (Somalians, Haitians, Spanish-Speaking), labor, career seekers.

- Library use as a quality of life indicator

- The role of staff in the political process

- The role of friends groups

- Public relations and marketing

- Any topic that you think is interesting (please pre-approve).

Weekly posting & discussion-40%

[Please note: I am now revising the course to accommodate the summer format and I will be supplementing the readings listed below with new ones online from journals, etc.]

June 11

Introduction & Overview

Readings: McCook, pp. vii-xvi. And "The Landscape of Public Libraries at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century" in *Introduction to Public Librarianship* (our text), pp.1-11.

Compare PUBLIC LIBRARIES <http://harvester.census.gov/imls/compare/index.asp>

June 22

U.S. Public Library History.

"Brahmins, Bequests, and Determined Women: The Beginnings to 1918."
TEXT. Chapter 2.

Public Library Growth and Values: 1918–2004.
TEXT. Chapter 3.

June 29

Libraries and Community; Governance

A PLACE AT THE TABLE by Kathleen de la Peña McCook, ALA, 2000
"Libraries build community." See if you can find a copy to read. Not necessary to purchase. I will provide sections in the online class format.

See the website "A Librarian at Every Table,"

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/lis/a-librarian-at-every-table/>

See the blog "A Librarian at the Kitchen Table."

<http://librarianoutreach.blogspot.com/>

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July 6

Statistics, Standards, Planning, and Results

From our text, *Introduction to Public Librarianship* please read chapter 4. Statistics, Standards, Planning, and Results 83-106; additional readings: 315-320; Statistics Bibliography: 371-380.

Nelson, S. *Strategic Planning for Results*. [PLA Results Series] American Library Association: Chicago, 2008, 143-217. YOU NEED NOT PURCHASE.

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July 13

Organization, Law, Funding, and Policies; Administration

Organization, Law, Funding, and Politics (Text-chapter 5)

Administration and Staffing. (Text. Chapter 6)

Also go to

<http://www.ala-apa.org/certification/certfaq.html>

you can see all the requirements for the public library certification program.

July 20

Adult Services, Youth Services, Structures & Infrastructures

Read Text chapters 7, 8 and 9

July 27

Connections, Global Perspectives, and Future Trends

Read Text chapters 10, 11, 12

Final Paper Post by July 28.

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If you would like your paper marked and returned you need to mail it to me with a postmark of on or before July 25. Otherwise submit online at the Discussion Board site when you post (in the box) your abstract and bibliography. I will not mark papers submitted online (I will grade them, of course).

SPECIAL ADDRESS FOR MAILING ASSIGNMENTS; I HAVE A DESIGNATED BOX TO CUT DOWN ON THE TIME THAT CAMPUS MAIL TAKES. ALL I NEED IS THE DUE DATE POSTMARK. PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED RETURN MAILER.

K.McCook

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