
Sources of information in Library & Information Science

LIS 501B –Fall 2008

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Central themes of the course:

- **who uses information, how they use it, and what constraints shape their use of information;**
 - **how recorded knowledge can be organized and structured;**
 - **ways of providing access to the world's knowledge.**
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My goals for you:

- You'll understand the class themes not just in the abstract, but as they apply to your own information seeking and use.
- You'll be *information literate* in the discipline of LIS.

....What is information literacy?

The elements of information literacy = steps in information seeking:

- **Determine the extent [and type] of information needed**
- **Access the needed information effectively and efficiently**
- **Evaluate information and its sources critically**
- **Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base**
- **Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose**
- **Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally**

-- "Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education," ACRL

- **Determine the extent [and type] of information needed**

What questions will you ask?

- **Access the needed information effectively and efficiently**

**How do your information needs
map to available information
resources?**

- **Evaluate information and its sources critically**

**How do you evaluate information
once you find it?**

Sue's Hierarchy of evidence

Most impressive:	Published peer-reviewed research.
	Accepted standards.
	Authoritative synthesis (e.g. encyclopedia article).

	Published “how we done it good” reports.
	Best practices / benchmarks.

Least impressive:	Single models without analysis.
	Proposals.
	Inferences.
	Opinions.

Key sources for citations to published evidence:

- **Library Lit**
- **LISA**
- **LISTA**
- **Online catalog**
- **Other specialized indexes**

Library Literature & Information
Science Full Text

LISA

LISTA

Online catalog

Beyond published resources:

- **Digital libraries and repositories**
 - **Web sites**
 - **Email lists**
 - **Blogs**
 - **Organizations**
 - **Libraries/Information agencies**
 - **Virtual communities**
 - **Individual experts**
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Digital Libraries and Repositories in LIS

- CiteSeer
 - dLIST: Digital Library for Information Science and Technology
 - DoIS: Documents in Information Science
 - E-LIS: E-prints in Library and Information Science
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Web sites

- Librarians' Internet Index > Librarianship
 - Internet Library for Librarians
 - UNESCO Libraries Portal
 - Google Directory > Reference > Libraries > Library and Information Science
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Email lists:

- Internet Library for Librarians: Library Email Lists and Newsgroups
 - ALA Mailing Lists Service
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Blogs

- LibWorm
 - LISZEN
 - Library Weblogs
 - Google Directory: Reference > Libraries > Library and Information Science > Weblogs
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Organizations

- Professional Associations in the Information Sciences
 - *Sub-units, committees, SIGs, etc.*
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Libraries/Information agencies

- LIBWEB
- LIBDEX
- Museums in the USA
- American Library Directory (print ed. in LISL)
- World Guide to Special Libraries (print ed. in LISL)

Beyond published resources:

- **Individual experts**

- **Use published materials as guide to identifying experts:**

- **Books and articles.**

- **Research reports.**

- **Conference papers/posters.**

Virtual communities:

- WebJunction
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**These slides and links to other sources can
be found in LibGuides:**

<http://uiuc.libguides.com>
