

Bibliographic Instruction — Credit Courses

by

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Barbara Wittkopf, in a summary of her survey of ARL Libraries ["A Look at the State of BI Credit Courses in ARL-Member Libraries." *Research Strategies* 9 (Fall 1991): 162-163] states that "there has been a positive shift away from library orientation tours and tool-specific instruction toward the development of research skills and strategies." Some academic libraries have offered a credit course in library research skills for years, while others have recently added a course to cope with the need for information literacy education. In addition to decisions about what and how to teach, the procedures for offering such a credit course vary greatly from institution to institution.

Participants in this discussion from Indiana University-Bloomington, Indiana University-South Bend, and Purdue University (IN) all have eight-week one-credit courses that are taught by librarians. Since the libraries do not grant degrees, these courses are offered through entities such as a School of Library and Information Science, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Liberal Arts. At IU-Bloomington, teaching a credit course is considered as "overload," and librarians are paid additional salary, while at IU-South Bend and Purdue, teaching is considered part of faculty librarians' jobs. All three schools require a final course project, most often an annotated bibliography.

Mary Jane Vakili, in another article ["Revamping a Required BI Course for Adult Students." *Research Strategies* 11 (Winter, 1993) : 24-32] describes how Iowa State University offers a weekend option for their required course for adult students. IU-South Bend is considering offering a similar intensive workshop over two weekends for credit. They have already decided to change their term from eight to sixteen weeks due to students'

concerns about the workload (i.e. their lack of time to complete assignments in too short a time period). IU-South Bend and Purdue are hoping to develop materials that will enable them to offer their courses on an independent study basis. Purdue has a "test-out" option.

Carla List, [in "Branching Out: A Required Library Research Course Targets Disciplines and Programs." *Reference Librarian* 51-52 (1995): 385-398] describes a concept-based course in which some sections are focused on information research in a specific field of study.

A list of basic credit courses in library use (1990-1995) for which syllabi may be borrowed from LOEX is available at <http://www.emich.edu/public/library/credcour.html>.

The syllabus for Information Strategies taught at Purdue University can be viewed at http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/library_info/instruction/gs175/index.html. Contact Judy Pask (jmpask@purdue.edu) for more information.

The syllabus for Library Skills and Resources offered at Indiana University-South Bend is available at <http://www.iusb.edu/~libg/1161/syllabus.htm>. Contact Rosanne Cordell (rcordell@vines.iusb.edu) for additional information.

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