

IRLS 587: Information Seeking Behaviors

Requirements - Fall 2002

Instructor: Anita S. Coleman

Office: #21, SIRLS

Class Meets: Thurs., 3:30 – 6:00 pm

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Classroom: SIRLS Multipurpose Room

Office Hours: W: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Required Text: Case, Donald O. *Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking Needs and Behavior*. San Diego: Academic Press, 2002.

Deliverable # 2: Final Paper on An Information Behavior User Study

Brief Description: For the final paper you will conduct an informal information behavior user study. This is a research proposal where you will design the study and then investigate with one user. The actual study must be conducted individually; also, this paper is not a group project. You can discuss and work together on similar problems and topics but must not share same ‘user’ for observation, or design identical instruments.

Products submitted for grading:

There are two items that must be submitted for grading as part of Deliverable #2.

1. 2-page summary/proposal presentation – Nov. 7 & Nov. 14 – submit paper
2. Final Paper – Due Dec. 5 (early) or Dec. 12 (deadline) – submit paper + disk (Word format)
3. Poster session – cancelled (however, if everyone wants this reinstated, it can be rescheduled; we have to cancel this date because of AzLA which runs Dec. 4-6). Most potential attendees of our class presentations will be going to that.

Description Of 2-page summary:

Organize a 2-page overview of a research study that you would like to conduct. In your summary include:

- a) the problem (or issue) you plan to study
- b) the major research question you plan to ask
- c) the data you wish to collect and analyze
- d) the significance of your study, and
- e) your relationship to the topic and participants being studied

The classic and recommended reference to use for help with this part of the assignment is *Designing Qualitative Research*. 3rd edition. Catherine B. Marshall and Gretchen B. Rossman. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage Publications, 1999. Use our text, Case, too. On the date your presentation is scheduled, bring copies of handout to share with classmates and one to submit for grading.

Information Behavior User Study Proposal:

See example proposal distributed

Optional Early Submission: 5 Dec. 2002; Last Due Date: Dec. 12, 2002, 4:00 pm.