

University of Tsukuba
School of Library, Information and Media Studies

International & Comparative Librarianship
01MB403
Fall 2017

Meeting time:	Mondays, 15:15-18:00
Location:	TBA
Instructor:	Hermina G.B. Anghelescu, Ph.D. Visiting Professor from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
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Office hours:	Mondays, 13:00-15:00

Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum

International librarianship focuses on the role of information in society, and the methods of its acquisition, processing, retrieval, and dissemination across national boundaries by means of international library cooperation through the formulation and development of common standards, policies, and practices. Comparative librarianship studies library systems within the context of geographical areas, regions, or individual countries in order to improve libraries and library services throughout the world. This course is a comparison of American and foreign library and information systems and services by placing them within various socio-economic, educational, and cultural contexts. The course addresses the investigation of fundamental concepts concerning international communication and cooperation in library and information science as a global profession through the study of international professional organizations and associations, international programs, inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies in the information field that are working together to achieve library development worldwide. The course will highlight national differences in library and information science philosophy, objectives, practices, and policies as well as local endeavors that led to the growth of librarianship in its global dimensions in the past two centuries.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the current literature, research and studies involving international and comparative librarianship
- To recognize the vital need for international communication and cooperation in our global profession
- To become acquainted with current developments in the area of worldwide library cooperation
- To enable students to acquire an understanding of library and information services in other countries
- To acquaint students with the major issues and problems impacting the development and management of libraries worldwide
- To provide students with a knowledge of outstanding and famous world libraries and library leaders

- To provide international students with an opportunity to share library service experiences in their homelands
- To enable students to analyze library and information services and systems and specific problems in the other national, cultural, and societal environments
- To become familiar with the activities and contributions of professional organizations, inter-governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies in the information field that are working to achieve international library cooperation and the development of library and information services

Competencies Expected

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the philosophical and theoretical principles and concepts of international and comparative librarianship
- Have an in-depth familiarity with the development and growth of librarianship in its global dimensions
- Identify current trends and major factors that have produced similarities and differences in library development in various regions and nations over time
- Reflect on key library and information science issues and questions on a transnational basis
- Critically assess the functions and roles of international endeavors that foster worldwide cooperation among various types of libraries and information agencies
- Use the comparative method in evaluating library development in the USA and abroad
- Understand library traditions and cultural values outside of the United States
- Be aware of existing printed and online resources on international librarianship
- Clarify personal career goals and identify job opportunities abroad

Content

An in-depth view of library and information science development worldwide, concentrating on its relationship to:

- Professional national and international associations and organizations
- Provision of library services in various types of libraries worldwide
- Library and information science education in various countries
- Impact of information revolution and globalization on libraries and information agencies
- Information policies, free vs. restricted access to information, copyright issues in a global environment

Course Methodology

Lectures, readings, class discussions, group and individual presentations, guest speaker(s), videos and, whenever possible, field trips, tours of libraries/museum libraries and/or archives.

Textbooks

There is no required textbook. The materials indicated on the reading list will be the items used for the course. Students will also recommend readings while preparing the sessions they will lead.

Required Style Manual

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. Washington DC, American Psychological Association, 2010.

Basis for Evaluation of Student Performance

Regular attendance, readings, leading class discussions, presentations, final paper, class participation.

Assignments

1. Analysis of a monograph on international librarianship

Select one monograph on international librarianship and write an overview, 750-1000 words/Double space/Times New Roman, point 12. You are expected to analyze the work, noting the coverage, the methodology used, and the conclusions reached by contributors, with comments about the main aspects of the work. You should be prepared to present and discuss it in class. Share your analysis with your classmates.

20 points (paper) + 5 points (presentation)

Due: see date on sign up sheet

2. International Issues Research—Lead class discussions

Depending the class enrollment, you will be expected to lead or co-lead a class session. Select an issue from the list of topics to be discussed in class during the semester and prepare an overview of this particular topic. The goal here is for the student to propose and present specific library and information research in international librarianship from a comparative perspective. Become acquainted with the literature on your topic and then select, discuss, and investigate a problem. Prepare a list of readings for the class. Your list should include full-text articles that you will share ahead of time with your classmates. You will be leading the class discussion. The entire class is expected to have covered the readings and participate.

30 points

Due: the date the topic is covered in class; distribution of bibliography (list of readings): 2 weeks prior to the scheduled date.

3a. International Issues Research Paper

Select an issue in the field of comparative and international librarianship (not a country/area study or a particular library). Present your topic in the format of a research paper. This should be a thought paper, well supported with literature and well organized. The thought paper is not simply a recapitulation or synopsis of the readings. This is why it is called thought paper and not summary paper. Your thoughts on the matter should demonstrate that you completed the readings in your bibliography and have considered the content in a serious and critical manner. Papers should address questions in depth, utilize a variety of sources, and exhibit reflection on readings. The more organized and thoughtful the paper is, the higher the grade. The paper should be not less than 4,000 words not more than 5,000 words. This is a rather large length range. Papers that are not within this range will be graded down. The paper has to be of publishable quality.

40 points

Due: 11 December

3b. Presentation

Based on your paper, prepare a 5-minute presentation (Power Point, Prezi or other software) that you will deliver in class.

5 points

Due: 18 December

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar depends on the way the class develops during the semester, our critical views, and interests. For each class I might also assign some readings in addition to those assigned by the class leader. I am strongly interested in promoting the dialogue through journal articles, current literature, research, and personal experience and interests.

Module 1—Introduction

1. Introductions (professor and students)
2. Introduction to the Course, course logistics
3. Definition of International & Comparative Librarianship
4. Methodology for Study of the Discipline
5. Information Sources

Module 2—International Cooperation and Funding of International Projects in the Library and Information Fields

1. The Role of International Organizations and Cooperative Agencies (e.g., UNESCO, IFLA, etc.)
2. The Role of Professional International Associations and Institutions (e.g., IFLA, ICA, etc.)
3. American International Activities:
 - a. Role of Professional Associations (e.g., ALA, SLA, ASIS&T, ALISE, SAA, etc.)
 - b. Government Agencies (e.g., AID, US State Department), etc.
 - c. Non-Governmental Agencies (CLR, IREX)
4. European Union
5. Professional Exchanges (e.g., ALA Book Fellows Program, IREX)
6. Foundations and Funding Agencies (e.g., Carnegie, Mellon, Ford, Soros, Gates, IMLS)

Module 3— Information, Libraries and Research during Wartime

1. Political Conflict and International Librarianship
2. WWI
3. WWII
4. Cold War Librarianship and Post-cold War Librarianship

Module 4—National Libraries around the World

1. The concept of National Libraries.
2. Why do we need them? Cultural factors in the promotion of National Libraries.

Module 5—Main Library and Information Traditions and Influences (I)

1. UK and its relation with Anglophone Africa; India, Australia, New Zealand
2. Germany
3. USA and its relation with Japan and S. Korea
4. Canada
5. Russia and its relation to Eastern Europe

Module 6—Main library and information traditions and influences (II)

1. France and its relation to Francophone Africa
2. Italy
3. Spain and its relation with Latin America
4. Northern Europe
5. Middle East
6. Asia

Module 7—Library types/systems

1. Public libraries
2. Academic libraries/research libraries
3. University libraries
4. School libraries
5. Special libraries
6. Presidential libraries

Module 8—Comparative Topics and Areas of International Cooperation

1. National Planning for Library/Information Systems and Services
2. Professional Education
3. Library Technology, Automated Systems, Networks
4. Library Management
5. Preservation Planning
6. Classification Systems
7. Shared Cataloging, WorldCat (OCLC)

Module 9—Information Technology in International Contexts

1. Online Networks for International Information
2. Global Information Infrastructure
3. Digital Libraries in the International Arena
4. Is there a Digital Divide? What are its main components?
5. Information policies: why are they needed now more than ever?
6. Libraries & E-Government

Module 10—Library architecture around the World

Due: Final Paper & Student Presentations
Course Wrap-up

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