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# **A Introduction to SI 645: Use of Information in Communities**

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Week 1-Sept 14, 2009

# The 645 Fit Within the SI Curriculum

- Community Informatics—emerging field
- CI Specialization interests
  - Geographic Community in 645 provides the basic context
  - Civil society focus, especially civic engagement
  - ICT in service of the public good
- LIS Specialization interests
  - Provision of relevant resources
  - Facilitation of access to information
  - Anticipating information needs

# 645 Frames Information Use in Communities within the Following:

- Community Context/History (immigration)
- Situations/problems that result in need for info and thus can benefit from information acquisition/use (spouse abuse, job loss, new immigrant, etc)
- Civic engagement, e.g., working to improve community, as an example of situations/problems (hurricane disruption, NIMBY issues, toxic water, etc)
- Nature of community engagement by institutions
- Emerging models
- Relevant theories

# NYT Article on Toxic Water

- Sept 13, 2009
- Clean Water Laws Neglected, at a Cost
  - By Charles Duhigg
  - <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/13/us/13water.html>