SI 626 - Management of Libraries and Information Services, Winter 2009

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Information practice demands knowledge of all aspects of management and service delivery. This course introduces selected theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behaviour and their application to libraries and information services. Students develop skills in the planning, organizing, personnel and financial management, leading, marketing, stakeholder management and coordinating functions in libraries and information services. Students will also have the opportunity to think critically about, and reflect upon, contemporary management practice in information organizations. Through classroom instruction, workshops on specific management skills, assignments, readings, discussion and guest lecturers, this course will help to prepare students to assume managerial responsibilities in their work.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an understanding of theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services.

2. To develop skills in the planning, organizing, personnel and financial management, leading, marketing, stakeholder management and coordinating functions in libraries and information services.

3. To promote critical thinking and reflexivity about professional practice as managers of libraries and information services.

COURSE RESOURCES

There is a text book for this course, which is available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore:


In addition to the course text, there are assigned readings drawn from a range of sources. Course readings and other resources are delivered via the University of Michigan CTools course management system (or in a few cases, the World Wide Web). The Resources folder in CTools contains copies of the weekly course readings, located in subfolders labelled by week number.

Separate CTools folders include tools for submitting assignments, a discussion board and other facilities. The most current copy of this document, the Course Syllabus, also resides
on the CTools site. CTools maintains an archive of all email messages sent to the entire class.

All course materials are provided in electronic form under the "fair use" copyright exemption. This means that you may not redistribute copies of class readings outside the class. For more information see "Copyright at the University of Michigan: For Students."

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due (Class #)</th>
<th>Value (% of final grade)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Case Study</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Design Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Case Study</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity**

Unless otherwise specified in an assignment, all submitted work must be your own, original work. Any excerpts from the work of others must be clearly identified as a quotation, and a proper citation provided. Any violation of the School's policy on Academic and Professional Integrity (stated in the Master's and Doctoral Student Handbooks) will result in severe penalties, which might range from failing an assignment, to failing a course, to being expelled from the program, at the discretion of the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way we teach may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; http://www.umich.edu/sswd/) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. I will treat any information you provide as private and confidential.

**Written Assignments**

Assignments should be written in a 12 point font on letter-sized paper with one inch margins. All papers should be double-spaced. Please use American Psychological Association (APA) style guidelines for citing materials used in your assignments. The style guide can be found online at: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/).
COURSE SCHEDULE

Class 1 (Jan. 12) – An Introduction to Management
We examine the role of managers and the work that managers do. We also survey some of the key classical and contemporary theories of management practice.

READINGS
Required


Recommended

Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King Day – NO CLASS

Class 2 (Jan. 26) – Planning in Libraries and Information Services
We discuss the importance of planning in libraries and information services, and examine approaches to short-term and long-term planning. In particular, we explore the processes of strategic, scenario and operational planning.

READINGS
Required


Recommended
Library strategic plan examples – http://lu.com/management/examples.cfm [skim]

**Class 3 (Feb. 2) – Organizational Design (Max Chen)**

This week, we examine the nature of libraries as organizations and the different ways of structuring work in libraries. We assess different organizational designs with respect to their strengths and weaknesses, as well as the principles of specialization and coordination. We also specifically examine ways to encourage organizational learning through organizational design choices.

**Planning Case Study Due (20%) – 5 pm sharp**

**READINGS**

*Required*


*Recommended*


**Class 4 (Feb. 9) – Stakeholder Management, Collaboration and Partnerships**

This week, we examine strategies for identifying and managing stakeholders with an interest in the library/information service and the power to influence it. We also explore the rationale for library participation in inter-organizational collaborations, and approaches to developing and managing collaborative initiatives.

**Guest Speaker: Ellen Stross, Adult Services Librarian, Plymouth District Library**

**READINGS**

*Required*


*Recommended*


**Class 5 (Feb. 16) – Human Resources Management I: Staffing and Hiring**
This week, we examine approaches to hiring appropriate staff for libraries and information services, including development of job descriptions, job analysis/evaluation and approaches to recruitment and hiring. Additionally, we outline key legislative frameworks surrounding hiring.

**Organizational Design Case Study (20%) – due at 5 pm sharp**

**READINGS**

*Required*


*Recommended*

Library job description examples - [http://lu.com/management/examples.cfm](http://lu.com/management/examples.cfm)


Feb. 23 – STUDY BREAK – NO CLASS

Class 6 (Mar. 2) – Human Resources Management II: Training, Supervision and Performance Management
We examine the organizational human resources functions required for employees, including training, performance management and employee compensation. Additionally, we discuss important issues in supervision of individual employees, such as appropriate delegation, coaching, and enhancing employee motivation.

READINGS
Required


Recommended


Class 7 (Mar. 9) – Communication and Team Work
This week, we consider communication as an essential responsibility for managers, and reflect upon strategies for engaging in effective communication in both the workplace in general and work groups in particular. As a special case, we also examine communication in situations of conflict. We also discuss participatory managerial practices that support the development and effective functioning of teams in libraries and information services.

READINGS
Required


**Recommended**

**Class 8 (Mar. 16) – Leadership and Organizational Change**
We reflect on the nature of leadership, from the roles that leaders play in organizations, to the traits that leaders exhibit to the specific work of leadership. We also consider the status of leadership in the field of libraries and information services. In the context of leadership, we also consider models for decision making within organizations – particularly approaches to making challenging decisions in turbulent environments.

**Human Resources Case Study (25%) – due at 5 pm sharp**

**READINGS**

*Required*


*Recommended*


**Class 9 (Mar. 23) – Financial Management I: Budgeting**
This week, we examine the role of budgets as a planning tool, and explore various budgeting methods. As a part of this, we discuss approaches to cost analysis in libraries.

**READINGS**
*Required*


*Recommended*

**Class 10 (Mar. 30) – Financial Management II: Financial Statement Analysis**
This week, we explore basic concepts of financial accounting and introduce skills for analyzing financial statements.

**Guest Speaker: Josie Parker, Director, Ann Arbor District Library**

**READINGS**
*Required*


**Class 11 (Apr. 6) – Accountability, Measurement and Reporting**
This week, we examine quantitative approaches to monitoring and assessing organizational performance, including use of program statistics, key performance indicators and economic evaluation of library and information services.
READINGS
Required


Recommended


Class 12 (Apr. 13) – Marketing and Promotion
We examine the importance of marketing and promotion in library and information services, and introduce marketing strategies, including: market segmentation, promotion, advertising and branding.

Guest Speaker: Elaine Didier, Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
Budget Case Study (25%) – due at 5 pm sharp

READINGS
Required


Recommended

**Class 13 (Apr. 20) – Winning Support and Resources**
We introduce fundraising and advocacy skills as applied to libraries and information services.

**Guest Speaker: Anne Beaubien, Director, Cooperative Access Services, University of Michigan Library**

**READINGS**

*Required*


*Recommended*

http://www.cla.ca/divisions/capl/advocacy/lanworkbook.pdf
Assignments

1) Planning Case Study – 20%

Purpose:
To develop an understanding of theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services.

To develop skills in the planning function in libraries and information services.

Procedure:
Scenario
You are the new director of a small, liberal arts college library with 100 faculty members and approximately 1,300 students. Your library focuses on serving undergraduate students through a collection stored in one library building and through digital services. Your library staff includes five information professionals (one of whom is also your Associate Director), a line manager and five full-time support staff members, a part-time support staff member and a number of part-time, seasonal student assistants. You report directly to an associate provost.

Your staff members complain that they feel like they are in constant organizational crisis, overwhelmed with work and exhausted from trying to do everything all at once. Some staff members also complain that they don’t know what the priorities are for their work. You think that an important reason for these problems is that your library has no formal plan, either strategic or operational. This is despite the fact that the college in which your library operates has a strategic plan. To address these problems, you want to embark on a planning exercise within your library.

Analysis
Write a short paper (4-5 pages, plus references) in which you outline and justify how you will manage a planning process in your library. What kind of planning will you engage in? Who will be involved in the planning, and in what roles? What activities will you undertake as a part of your planning process? What document(s) would emerge from the planning process, and what major sections would they contain? What would be the next steps in implementing the plan(s)? Briefly justify each of your major decisions with reference to the planning course readings.

Due Date: Feb. 2, 2009 (Class 3) – 5 pm sharp

2) Organizational Design Case Study – 20%

Purpose:
To develop an understanding of theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services.

To develop skills in the organizing function in libraries and information services.
**Procedure:**

**Scenario**
You are an information professional who is responsible for recommending an organizational design for a public library with a main branch and two branch libraries. The suburban library serves an economically and racially diverse population of 75,000 in a community close to a large metropolitan area. The library has 64 staff members (FTE), with 16 librarians and 48 other staff members. The library's annual budget is $4.5 million. The library collection contains approximately 500,000 volumes, 900 subscriptions and 20,000 audiovisual items. The library had a circulation of approximately 900,000 items in the past year, responded to 150,000 reference questions, provided 3,000 interlibrary loans and offered well-attended children, teen and adult programs. For example, the library offers book clubs for adults, reader's advisory services, storytime for preschoolers and gaming events for teens. The library also offers free Internet access through 35 public terminals, Internet training classes and free space to use for meetings and events. One the web, the library offers services such as an online catalogue, access to digital magazine and newspaper collections, automated renewal and Internet research guides.

**Analysis**
Write a short paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced, plus references) in which you draw, describe and justify an organizational chart for this library. In order to do this, your paper should identify the main products/services of the library, how production of these products/services is organized and the tasks involved in each the production of each product/service. Please state clearly any assumptions which you have made in order to develop this organizational chart.

Based on this background analysis, draw and describe an organizational chart that shows the staff units and number of people involved in each unit, lines of authority and levels of management. Justify your major decisions in terms of organizational design principles described in the course readings, including: vertical and horizontal specialization, centralization/decentralization, unity of command, span of control, coordinating mechanisms and organizational flexibility.

**Due Date:** Feb. 16, 2009 (Class 5) – 5 pm sharp

3) Human Resources Case Study—25%

**Purpose:**
To develop an understanding of theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services.

To develop skills in the human resources function in libraries and information services.

**Procedure:**

**Scenario**
You are a manager at the Kresge Business Administration Library at the University of Michigan (http://www.bus.umich.edu/KresgeLibrary/), an independent library which serves The Ross Business School (http://www.bus.umich.edu/), which has approximately 800 full-time students. You just received budget approval to hire a new, entry-level public services librarian so as to expand library services. Review this library's Web site, and that of its parent institution in order to become familiar with its services and institutional environment.
To complete this assignment, you do not need to contact this library’s staff to find out any more about the library than that which is publicly stated on these sites.

**Analysis**

Write a short paper (6-8 pages, double-spaced, plus references) in which you describe the processes that you will follow in order to hire for this position. In particular, your paper should address the following issues:

- Based on your reading of the library and business school Web site, what 4-5 major duties are likely to be a part of this position? (You may need to make some assumptions about the library’s services and future plans. Please state any assumptions in your paper).

- Based on its major duties, what core competencies will be required for this position?

- Develop a draft job posting that will detail the primary duties for the position, and its required qualifications.

- How will you identify the applicants to interview for this position? Justify your proposed process with reference to the course readings.

- Develop a set of ten questions for the interview indicating what skills, abilities and characteristics will be demonstrated through responses to each question.

- When the new person starts work, what plans will you have to integrate them into the new position and the library? Justify your plans with reference to the course readings.

**Due Date:** Mar. 16, 2009 (Class 8) – 5 pm sharp

**4) Budget Case Study – 25%**

**Purpose:**
- To develop an understanding of theories, principles and techniques of contemporary management science and organizational behavior and their application to libraries and information services.
- To develop skills in the financial management functions in libraries and information services.

**Procedure:**
Form a work group with your classmates – each group should have 4-5 participants. Please notify our GSI, Max Chen, of the composition of your group by Class 6 (Mar. 2). As a group, choose one of the following library budget case studies on the course text Web site:


- **Cost cutting budget** – The KelTel Corporation, http://lu.com/management/keltel.cfm

or The Leafyview Public Library, http://lu.com/management/leafyview.cfm (*note:* do not complete the oral presentation at the end of this case; only the written portion is required)

Review the case scenario and complete the instructions for the written portion of the assignment as outlined on the case study web page. One budget assignment will be submitted per group, and a single grade will be assigned to each member of the group.

Due Date: April 13, 2009 (Class 12) – 5 pm sharp