SI 645 / SI 745 - Information Use in Communities, Fall 2009

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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