

Introducing the New Minor in Information Studies at Baruch

Using and Managing Information
in a Global Society



LIBRARY DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Chair: Arthur Downing

Professors: Stanton Biddle, Sheau-yueh Chao, Arthur Downing, Sandra Roff

Associate Professors: Jerry Bornstein, Diane DiMartino, Douglas Duchin, Qun G. Jiao, Lewis Liu, Spencer Means, Bobbie Pollard

Assistant Professors: Alan Bailin, Lisa Ellis, Louise Klusek, Eric Neubacher, Rita Ormsby, Aisha Peña, Michael Waldman

Instructor: Stephen Francoeur

INFORMATION STUDIES is a discipline that focuses on the growing importance of information in our global society. This expanding field of study examines the use of technological systems to acquire, store, organize, and deliver information and its use in decision making in a range of social contexts (the workplace, the home, political settings, etc.). The design and management of information systems to fit human needs, rather than forcing human needs to adapt to information systems, is a critical concern of the field.

Students trained in information studies develop higher-level information literacy skills and are in demand in corporations, government, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions as instructors, librarians, information architects, information managers, Web developers, information scientists, network administrators, analysts, and support specialists.

For more information, contact Professor Bobbie Pollard at 646-312-1619.

THE CURRICULUM

Students pursuing a minor in information studies must complete two courses at the 3000 level and the 4000-level Capstone Course.

LIB 3010 TOPICS IN INFORMATION STUDIES

3 hours; 3 credits

This course provides the opportunity for students in information studies to pursue topics of interest in information studies in their historical, theoretical, and practical contexts as the need may arise. The following course is one example.

Prerequisite: ENG 2100.

ECONOMICS OF INFORMATION

This course examines economic theories and analyses that have been applied to the information market and the issues on the uniqueness of information in contemporary society. Topics include asymmetry of information in various markets, demand and supply in the information market (such as the publishing market in New York City), production and cost functions and cost-benefit analysis of information products and services, and information as a public good vs. information as a commodity.

LIB 3020 PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

3 hours; 3 credits

This course teaches the theoretical and practical principles of information retrieval in an online environment. Students will learn the necessary skills to become expert-level searchers. Techniques and concepts for formulating effective search strategies for a range of information needs and formats will be examined. Students will have opportunities for hands-on practice and experimenting with a variety of online systems and explore current and emerging challenges in information retrieval.

Prerequisite: ENG 2100.

LIB 3040 (COM 3040, PAF 3040) INFORMATION AND SOCIETY

3 hours; 3 credits

This course examines the nature, production, value, and uses of information in historical perspective; the latest developments in information technology; the ways information is produced and disseminated and how they affect business, politics, media, science, arts, and culture; the growth of the "information society"; and major information policy issues.

Prerequisite: ENG 2100.

LIB 3065 (ENG 3065) ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND RESEARCH METHODS FOR WRITERS

3 hours; 3 credits

This course explores the impact of information research on writing. Students develop proficiency in evaluating, identifying, and using relevant print, electronic, and Internet sources to locate the business, government, biographical, political, social, and statistical information necessary for in-depth journalistic reportage and other forms of research.

Prerequisite: ENG 2150. *Pre- or corequisite:* ENG 2500, ENG 2550, or departmental permission.

LIB 4900 SOCIAL INFORMATICS

3 hours; 3 credits

Social informatics can be defined as the study of the production, distribution, and consumption of information from social and organizational perspectives. In this course, students will analyze systems of information in context to gain insight into the basic principles of social informatics, as well as relevant social and moral issues. This course may serve as the Capstone Course for students who have completed two 3000-level courses chosen from the course listings for the information studies minor.

Prerequisite: ENG 2100.

Additional courses recommended by the Library Department that are not part of the above minor.

LIB 1015 INFORMATION RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

3 hours; 3 credits

This introduction to the nature, sources, and uses of printed and computerized information for study and problem solving develops students' abilities in systematic approaches to analyzing information need, information searching, evaluation, and organization of data. Using the library and the online classroom, students learn to prepare bibliographies, literature reviews, term papers, and research reports in various disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Not open to students who have taken LIB 1016.

LIB 1016 INFORMATION RESEARCH IN BUSINESS

3 hours; 3 credits

This introduction to the nature, sources, and uses of printed and computerized information for study and problem solving develops students' abilities in systematic approaches to analyzing information need, information searching, evaluation, and organization of data. Using the library and the online classroom, students learn to prepare bibliographies, literature reviews, term papers, and research reports in business disciplines and social sciences. Not open to students who have taken LIB 1015.