INF1006H/0102-0105  
(Digital) Libraries in the time of the Web  
Winter 2016

Class Location & Time INF1006H-0102  BL 417, Wed 9 to 12 pm
Class Location & Time INF1006H-0105  BL 417, Thu 1 to 4 pm
Instructor:      Vittore Casarosa
Office Location:     Bissel Building, Room 620
Office Hours:      By Appointment
Email Address:     casarosa@isti.cnr.it
Telephone:      TBD

Description

(Digital) Libraries in the time of the Web

The arrival of “computer technology” within libraries, a first time about 40 years ago with the online catalogs and more recently with the arrival of the Internet and the Web, has started an evolution (sometimes a forced one) in the architecture of the Information Systems supporting libraries. This evolution has introduced new requirements and new functionality in the collection and management of the library content, as well as in the access to the information and in the provision of user services. The workshop will compare this evolution of the libraries with a similar evolution of technologies and functionality that has happened in the Web in the last 20 years, to cope with the management, access and retrieval of the increasing amount of information available in the Web.

Retrieving and accessing information in the Web is setting the stage for a hands-on laboratory to learn how to design and implement a small digital library, which will provide a better understanding and some practical experience on those topics.

Students are expected to have a basic understanding of computer fundamentals, networking fundamentals and representation of digital information.

Course learning outcomes and relationships with Program outcomes

At the end of the workshop, students should be able to:

- Understand the impact of the digital environment in libraries and archives, and the changing role of the information professionals.
- Make appropriate judgments about information available through digital libraries with respect to user needs.
- Select appropriately from different technologies, tools and procedures.
- Understand the main issues in designing and implementing a digital library

The main objective of this workshop is to provide a broad overview of the interaction between technology and libraries, and how this interaction has evolved over time. This interaction can be
seen at two levels: a conceptual one (models, ontologies) and a practical one (tools, services), thereby providing a better understanding of the basic principles underlying librarianship (Program Learning Outcome 1), and (hopefully) a better mental attitude to investigate new topics and to explore new avenues (Program Learning Outcome 3). In a different perspective, the topics presented and the assignments in the course are intended to provide students with a broad understanding of how the evolution in technology can influence the evolution of long-standing institutions such as libraries and archives (Program Learning Outcome 5).

**Workshop overview**

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<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>INF1006H 0102</th>
<th>INF1006H 0105</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Mar. 2nd</td>
<td>Mar. 3rd</td>
<td>A conceptual model for Digital Libraries Entities, concepts, actors Concept maps <strong>Presentation of Assignment 1</strong> <strong>Presentation of Assignment 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Mar. 9th</td>
<td>Mar. 10th</td>
<td>Classification, cataloguing, bibliographic records, MARC Resources and metadata, Dublin Core, XML Information Retrieval and Search Engines <strong>Assignment 2 finalized</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Mar. 16th</td>
<td>Mar. 17th</td>
<td>Search engines in the Web The Greenstone system. Hands-on laboratory <strong>Presentation of Assignment 3</strong> <strong>Assignment 1 due</strong> (end of Week 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Mar. 23th</td>
<td>Mar. 24th</td>
<td>Knowledge representation: FRBR and RDF Ontologies and vocabularies Semantic Web and Linked Open Data Hands-on laboratory <strong>Assignment 2 due (beginning of class)</strong> Student Presentations of Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Mar. 30th</td>
<td>Mar. 31th</td>
<td>Internet and the World Wide Web Co-existence of Digital Libraries and the Web Hands-on laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Apr. 6th</td>
<td>Apr. 7th</td>
<td><strong>Assignment 3 due (beginning of class)</strong> Student Presentations of Assignment 3 Workshop feedback</td>
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</table>

**Suggested readings and other material**

Assignment 1 (individual project) due at the end of Week 3 (20%)
Critical analysis and assessment (from your point of view) of two Digital Library sites available on the Web, chosen based on your own taste and interest. The evaluation of the site has to be done with regard to three aspects:

- usefulness and value of the content (Who is the “designated user community?; How rich is the content? Is the content really useful? )
- richness of functionality (How complete is the interaction with the library? Is there some functionality missing or desirable?)
- ease of use (How easy is the navigation in the library? Are all the functions easily visible? How much “user-friendly” is the user interface?)

The evaluation should be written (600 words at most for each library) and it may include screenshots. The assignment should be sent to me by email at the end of Week 3, not later than Sunday.

The two sites to be evaluated should be chosen (and their URLs sent to me) not later than Monday of Week 2. That will be useful to try and avoid excessive overlapping, as the libraries to be assessed in Assignment 2 (see below) will be among those evaluated in Assignment 1.

Assignment 2 (team project, max 2) due at the beginning of Class in Week 4 (30%)
Based on the Conceptual Model presented in Week 1, it is possible to define a number of desirable characteristics for a Digital Library, which can be arranged in a “conformance checklist”.

Consider one Digital Library in the Web and determine to what extent the characteristics of that library meet the requirements of the conformance checklist by assigning a score to each characteristic. As a measure of conformance, the score can be simply one of the values High, Medium, Low, Not Present, Not Applicable, Not Measurable. The assessment must also include summary considerations about the experience in using the checklist (500 words at most).

The library to be assessed should be one of the libraries evaluated in Assignment 1, to be chosen in agreement with the teacher in Week 2.

The summary considerations about the assessment will be presented by each team (about 5 minutes) during the Class of Week 4.

Assignment 3 (team project, max 4) due at the beginning of Class in Week 6 (40%)
The assignment consists in building a (small) digital library by using the Open Source system Greenstone (www.greenstone.org).

The evaluation of the project will be done based on three aspects:

- Value and richness of the content (not size, but document types and value for the “designated community”)
- Added functionality to the default Greenstone functions (the Greenstone default functions are search in full text, browse by title, browse by filename)
• Personalization of the appearance of the library (look and feel, as given by page layout, images and colors)

The projects will be presented by each team (slides and live demo, about 10 minutes) during the Class of Week 6.

Assessment and grading policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>on-going</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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Each component will be given a score between zero and its weight, and the final score will be the sum of the scores. Final grades will be assigned in accordance with the policy and grading system of the School of Information for Graduate Studies, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85 - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80 - 84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73 - 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70 - 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FZ (fail)</td>
<td>0 - 69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the final grade for the workshop will depend only on the total sum of the three assignments, and there is no notion of passing or failing a single assignment. In other words, a score smaller than 70% of the weight of an assignment simply means that the material provided in fulfillment of that assignment was rather poor, but it is still possible to get a good grade for the workshop if the other two assignments obtain a good score.

The following points have been adapted from the syllabus of Joan Cherry

**Late Assignments**

Unless a formal extension has been negotiated with the instructor in advance of the due date, late assignments will be penalized by one centesimal point per day, for a maximum of ten days. After that point, late assignments will no longer be accepted. Late assignments may not receive detailed feedback or comments.

**Extensions**

Extensions on assignments within the term must be negotiated in advance, and may require supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s note). Students must email requests for extensions to the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Exceptions will only be made in extenuating
circumstances. Extensions beyond the end of the term in which a course is taken are subject to the guidelines established by the School of Graduate Studies.

**Students with a Disability or Health Consideration**
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please approach the instructor and/or the Accessibility Services Office as soon as possible. The Accessibility Services staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner arrangements are made - the sooner we can assist you.

**Writing Support**
The SGS Office of English Language and Writing Support provides free writing support to graduate students. Services are designed for both native and non-native speakers of English, and include non-credit courses, single-session workshops, individual writing consultations, and online resources. Students are encouraged to use these services as needed.

**Academic Integrity**
The iSchool has a strict zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism, as defined in section B.I.1. (d) of the University’s Code of Behavior on Academic Matters. Before you embark on your first assignment, please make sure that you:

- Consult the University’s site on Academic Integrity at [http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/](http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/)
- Acquaint yourself with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters and its Appendix “A”, Section 2; at: [http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)
- Review the material you covered in the site Cite it Righ at [http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/workshops/2014/cite-it-right-0](http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/workshops/2014/cite-it-right-0)