FIS23XX - Special Topics: Issues in Children’s and Young Adults’ Services

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Class meeting time: TBA
Class location: TBA

Prerequisites

FIS 1230: Management of Information Organizations.

Course description

This course focuses on program and policy issues in information services for children and young adults. The objectives are to ensure students’ understanding of current issues and their contexts and to prepare them for professional leadership in service and facility design and management. The course draws upon guest experts in its exploration of issues. It combines in-person and online delivery. It is complementary to FIS2139H (Young People: Collection Development) and FIS2140H (Young People: Current and Emerging Information Practices).

Course policies

Evaluation of student work will conform to the policies of the Faculty of Information and the School of Graduate Studies. Students are also reminded of policies concerning plagiarism. Assignments are due on the dates specified and late assignments are not accepted unless prior extension has been negotiated with the instructor. Late assignments may subject to penalties.

Assignments and grading

Written reports are to be submitted through Turnitin. The weighting:
25% Discussions (in class and student-moderated online)
15% Group presentation/debate
60% Two reports, equally weighted

Topics

(Please note that, because the schedules of guest lecturers, the following sequence may be adjusted during the term.)
Week 1

Introduction to the course – scope, course management software.
The context of children’s and youth services
- then and now: purpose and rationale of children’s and young adult services
- transitions: collections and connections
- issues and relationships: the public library and the school library

Weeks 2, 3

Selected legal, ethical, and organizational issues
- intellectual freedom issues – law, ethics, and policy development
- professional and institutional leadership in controversies; censorship; Internet access; selected cases (*Three Wishes*, graphic novels, cyberbullying, filtering software)
- other legal/compliance issues - volunteers and partnerships, buildings, video/DVD classification systems, privacy and “lawful access”, parent and community media awareness, unaccompanied children, children at risk, *in loco parentis* mandate (schools).

Week 4

Issues in design and redesign of physical spaces for children and young adults
- collections to connections: new models in Canada, US, UK, Europe
- perspectives of librarians, architects, funders, users
- visit to local redesigned branch
- youth-led projects and initiatives

Weeks 5, 6

Issues in media literacy
- implications of research on children’s media use (e.g., Media Awareness Network, MacArthur Foundation)
- media literacy programs: “kids for sale”, “fact or fiction”, and “safe passage” (MNet)
- Copyright and media literacy.
- Organizational implications of Web 2.0 and its successors: the library as conversation
- implications of research on gaming and literacy

Week 7

Issues in family literacy services
implications of recent research
- evidence-based service design of early childhood reading readiness programs
- selected service models

Week 8

Issues in community development: marginalized groups
- urban communities: implications of Working Together: the research, the tool kit; Neighbourhood Action Teams
- rural and remote communities: Aboriginal children on and off reserves

Weeks 9, 10

Issues in publishing and content development
- development of children’s and YA Web sites
- Canadian children’s publishing industry in its changing environment
- topics and issues in archives and museums: Ontario Time Machine, Evidence Web, BC Time Machine, Dark Archivist

Week 11, 12

Issues in reading and access
- recent studies and their implications
- inclusive services: technology, partnership
- role of reading in leisure: implications for future service development

Week 13

Issues in human resources
- recruitment, development and succession issues: generalist vs specialist perspectives, organization
- policy and management issues: volunteers, partners, and sponsors

Reading List

In development.

Draft
Wendy Newman
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