Information Workshop

Description

Experiential, participatory seminar to integrate the skills, perspectives, and knowledge introduced in the other core courses.

INF 1004 is designed to:

- blend theoretical and practical knowledge and expertise
- ensure basic proficiency in key skills of high relevance in later courses
- provide guidance, mentorship, and instruction on how to be a grad student, researcher, and info professional
- inculcate group work norms and skills
- provide an expansive appreciation for the modes and arenas of work encompassed under “information”
- serve as opportunity to develop professional identity around topics of common interest
- establish community and esprit de corps

At the core of INF 1004 is a series of two 6-week projects. Each project is designed to integrate a particular skill set with the perspectives and issues currently being addressed in INF 1001-1003 in the context of a broad topic. The skill sets would include:

- critical reading
- extended writing
- project management
- software literacy
- describing and critiquing information systems
- familiarity with web 2.0 tools
- representation
- design
- curation
- fieldwork...

The issues and perspectives can be culled from the INF 101-103 syllabi. Example topic areas include:

- The OOXML Document Standard
- The Trial of Galileo
- Privacy Rights of the Dead
- Community Memory: Fieldwork and Design
- Decision Support Systems: Fieldwork and Design
• Google’s Library of Social Web Tools

The workshops are organized around these principles/practices:

⇒ each student takes 2 six-weeks workshops
⇒ some workshops are team taught, others are taught by individual instructors
⇒ students select workshop from groups of workshops
⇒ some workshops have TAs
⇒ scheduled for 3 hours per week
⇒ offered in the winter term