

Online search exercises will be due as indicated in the calendar. Students will work in groups. Each team will turn in answers to questions as described in the exercise. Exercises will not cover every feature of a system, but will reinforce many basics for each system and will illustrate some special features. Many exercises will require students to search on more than one commercial online system or to locate comparable Web resources. The exercises will not substitute for reading system documentation and other materials supplied by the online vendor on their web sites. Studying system documentation and Web sites, plus additional online practice on your own, is assumed. Passwords for each system will be distributed when that system is introduced. Most will remain active for the semester. (Each lab, 5 points)

2. Database Review **Due: January 22** **(10%)**

Each group will go to the Blackboard Discussion Board and select a database to review. Each group will submit a written review of the database using the principles covered in class. (10 points)

3. System Comparison **Due: February 5 (10%)**

Each group will use criteria discussed in class to compare two information retrieval systems. Your group can select either Agricola in Dialog with the public version found at <http://agricola.nal.usda.gov> or ERIC via CSA (or ERIC via Ebsco) with ERIC in Dialog. See Blackboard assignment section for more information. (10 points)

4. Choose to write either an issues paper or a vendor profile. **Due April 9** **(15%)**

Issues Paper:

Select a topic of choice related to information retrieval (such as fair use, open access journals, or ADA compliance and more options listed below – but you can suggest a topic if those do not appeal to you). As a group, perform a literature review and submit a paper on the topic and how it relates to information retrieval or using and managing electronic resources in a library setting. The length should be 5-10 pages double-spaced. Use Chicago or APA for formatting guidelines. Be sure to cite materials from electronic resources correctly. (Grading: Organization/readability: 4 points, bibliography: 4 points, content: 7 points)

Vendor profile:

A group can prepare a paper, accompanied by a presentation) about a vendor of at least one library-related information retrieval product. See details in the assignment section of the Blackboard site. (Grading: Organization/readability: 4 points, bibliography: 4 points, content: 7 points)

5. Oral Presentation **Due: April 16 or 23** **(10%)**

Each group will present their vendor profile or issues paper to the rest of the class. Your group should prepare a PowerPoint presentation and a bibliography; handouts are optional. Please submit materials early so they can be available to the class while you speak. Your presentation should last no more than 20 minutes, and then we will allow 10 additional minutes for questions and comments. (Grading: Organization/presentation style: 2 points; bibliography: 2 points; content: 6 points)

6. Final Exam **Due: May 5, 9 p.m.** **(15%)**

The take-home final exam will be distributed via Blackboard. Work must be done independently.

7. Class Participation **(10%)**

Grading scale:

| | |
|----|-----------|
| A | (93-100%) |
| B+ | (86-92) |
| B | (80-85) |
| C+ | (75-79) |
| C | (70-74) |

Attendance: Attendance is expected. Participation in class discussions and activities is a vital part of learning and thus a part of your grade. You are responsible for any information covered whether you attend class or not.

Incompletes: An incomplete will be granted only under special circumstances and only if a substantial amount of the coursework has already been successfully completed.

Technology Requirements:

Each student must have access to the hardware and software designated by SIS for online classes <http://www.anywhere.tennessee.edu/cyberclass/hardware.htm>. Considerable time will be spent searching online systems, all of which are accessible through a standard web browser and connection. Passwords and instructions will be given in class. Students must also have access to the UTK library system, Online@UT (<http://online.utk.edu>), and Centra.

Academic Integrity:

The Honor Statement (signed when applying to the University acknowledging affirmation):

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.

Academic honesty requires that all work presented be your own unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort.

The University of Tennessee Graduate Catalog states:

Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University. Some examples of plagiarism are:

Using without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source,

Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge),

Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge),

Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

For more examples of plagiarism (and how to avoid it) see the following:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/plagiarism.html>

<http://webware.princeton.edu/Writing/wc4g.htm>

Disabilities: Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 191 Hoskins Library (865-974-6087) if you need course adaptations or accommodations. They will help you register for services. Please also let me know if you have a disability that interferes with your learning.

And quite simply, let me know if you have any difficulties.