I. Catalog Information

LCEN 50 Introduction to Online Research 1 Unit(s)

Advisory: English Writing 200 and Reading 200 (or Language Arts 200), or English as a Second Language 261, 262 and 263.

Two hours lecture-laboratory.

Introduces skills needed to locate, evaluate, and cite information found on the Internet and in subscription databases. Prepares students to do the basic research necessary to effectively complete written and oral assignments.

II. Course Objectives

A. Use a library catalog to search for books, electronic books, and non-print materials.

B. Practice searching using commercial search tools such as Google and Yahoo!

C. Gain awareness of non-commercial search tools (directories).

D. Practice using subscription databases to locate journal, magazine, and newspaper articles.

E. Gain awareness of using local, national and international newspapers as research tools.

F. Learn to read and recognize the necessary elements for citing information from journals, newspaper articles, and web pages.

G. Develop critical thinking skills that can be applied to evaluating Web pages.

III. Essential Student Materials

Access to a computer networked to the Internet and a personal e-mail box.

IV. Essential College Facilities

Computer lab with Internet access and/or Distance Learning support.

V. Expanded Description: Content and Form

A. Use a library catalog to search for books, electronic books, and non-print materials.

1. Search library catalog by subject keyword; determine title and call number of a book.

2. Search library catalog for DVDs on a particular topic.

3. Search library catalog by title and recognize a book that is "physically" in the library and one that is electronic in format.

4. Search library catalog for a book that is not owned at De Anza. Practice searching for an alternative library to locate book.

B. Practice searching using commercial search tools such as Google and Yahoo!

1. Use the phrase search and image search techniques.

2. Locate statistical sources.

3. Locate encyclopedias, dictionaries, and thesaurus.

C. Gain awareness of non-commercial search tools (directories).

1. Librarians' Internet Index

2. Internet Public Library

D. Practice using subscription databases to locate journal, magazine, and newspaper articles.

1. Learn to identify and use a periodical database.

2. Recognize the differences between scholarly journals and popular magazines.
3. Locate articles from a DeAnza College Library database.

E. Gain awareness of using local, national and international newspapers as research tools.
   1. Describe and locate newspaper editorials.
   2. Locate and analyze the importance of international newspaper articles.
   3. Locate local newspaper websites.
   4. Distinguish the difference between using a newspaper's website and accessing a newspaper database subscribed to by a library.

F. Learn to read and recognize the necessary elements for citing information from journals, newspaper articles, and web pages.
   1. Review the primary elements of a bibliographic reference for newspapers, journals, and books (print format).
   2. Determine necessary elements of citation for electronic materials.
      a. full text newspaper articles from a subscription database
      b. full text journal articles from a subscription database
      c. web pages

G. Develop critical thinking skills that can be applied to evaluating Web pages.
   1. Examine criteria for evaluating web resources.
   2. Examine some "hoax" websites and compare them to reputable resources.

VI. Assignments
   A. Reading: Course introduction and website.
   B. Reading: introductory paragraphs preceding each assignment.
   C. Five online assignments corresponding to the categories above.

VII. Methods of Instruction
   In-class exploration of Internet sites
   Assignments based on Internet sites.
   Quiz and examination review performed online.
   E-mail communication and feedback.

VIII. Methods of Evaluating Objectives
   A. Completion of five assignments based on Course Objectives listed above.
   B. Completion of final exam which reviews websites and research skills introduced in the class.

IX. Texts and Supporting References
   A. Examples of Primary Texts and References
      1. There is no required text for the class.
   B. Examples of Supporting Texts and References
      1. Website: Citing Sources Guide to Library Research from Duke University Libraries
      2. Website: What is a Scholarly Journal vs a Popular Magazine? University of Texas Library
      3. Website: Evaluating Information Found on the Internet from Johns Hopkins University Libraries
      4. Website: Teaching Library, University of California, Berkeley