VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui

School of Information Management

INFO 527: Organisation of Information

Trimester One 2007

Hello, and welcome to INFO 527: Organisation of Information. I'm Alastair Smith and I'll be coordinating this course, which examines how we organise information and design retrieval systems so that users can readily find information in them. Brenda Chawner will be teaching some modules.

Alastair Smith

If you have any queries about the academic material or content of the course, you can contact me by:

Email: `alastair.smith@vuw.ac.nz`

Room: EA 227, Easterfield Building, on the second floor. If I'm not in my room, send an email message, leave a note, or a phone message to arrange a time to see me.

Telephone: (04) 463 5785 (for calls within the Wellington free calling area). Alternatively, call the Administration Office on (04) 463 5103.

Freephone: 0800 11 62 99 (for students calling from outside Wellington; ask to be transferred, or dial 5785 at the recorded message to talk to Alastair). Alternatively, the SIM Administrator can relay a message.

Fax: (04) 463 5446

If I am unavailable when you phone, please leave a message on my voicemail, or with the Administration Office on (04) 463 5103 or 0800 11 62 99. Email is usually the best way of contacting me to arrange a meeting (in person or by phone). If you wish to send something to me by **post**, my address is:

> **Alastair Smith**
> School of Information Management
> Victoria University of Wellington
> PO Box 600, Wellington

Assignments should *not* be sent to the above address; all assignments will be submitted digitally. Non-assignment material being delivered by courier or in person should go to the SIM Administration Office, EA 121, Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus, Victoria University of Wellington.

I hope you will find this course rewarding and enjoyable. Good luck with your studies.

Course materials

The course material for INFO 527 includes:

- this course information section (in which the contents of the INFO 527 course are discussed along with course-specific administrative information and Internet conference or internal session details);

- materials on the Blackboard website for INFO 527 (see 'Online information' for more on this) including a study guide for each module, discussion forum, etc.;

- a CD-ROM containing readings associated with each of the 12 modules, and the DB/TextWorks software used in the database project.

Using or quoting course notes

The course notes used in the LIM programmes have been developed over a period of time. As a result, they are likely to include new material contributed by the coordinator and staff involved in the current offering of the course, as well as material contributed by staff involved in earlier offerings. Every effort has been made by our academic and editorial staff to ensure that all material is correctly attributed and complies with the University's copyright license obligations.

If quoting or referring to material written for this course, you should treat it as being contributed anonymously rather than being attributable to the person delivering the particular module in which it appears, unless the authorship is clearly indicated.

Course description

INFO 527 examines how we organise knowledge resources, and construct information retrieval systems, so that users can readily find information. The focus of the course is tools, techniques and theories used in systems for the storage, processing and retrieval of information. Includes design principles of the implementation of databases for access to recorded knowledge.

The course content will include an overview of the following components of information organisation:

- Cataloguing, indexing, abstracting, and classification.
- Metadata structures, functions, and schemes.
- Access points and controlled vocabularies.
- Design and evaluation of databases and information retrieval systems.
- Relationship of information organisation to knowledge management.

Introduction to INFO 527

Information resources come in a variety of formats, and are found in a diverse range of settings. Whether it is information in books, maps, scores, sound recordings, pictures, or electronic resources held by a library, in records relating to an historical event held in an archive, or in plans for a new commercial venture held in the records centre of a local business, we need to establish a system to link the user with the desired information. It is not sufficient simply to provide users with access to a store of documents or other items - some method of enabling users to find material relating to a particular topic or concept must also be provided. Piles of books stacked in a warehouse, or the large number of files available on the Internet, are not useful to users unless the material can be accessed in a way that allows them to retrieve relevant information appropriate to their needs.

This is not a straightforward task, and a number of potential problems arise. First, people searching for printed information may describe the concepts they are looking for

using different language than that used by the authors of those documents. Second, the language used by the authors of those documents to describe the concepts may change over time. Third, people may in fact be searching for information that is not text-based - it may be visual or aural. Fourth, we need information retrieval systems that meet the requirements of users in particular types of environments, such as libraries, archives, and corporate records centres. And fifth, the systems must be able to store large amounts of information, and quickly retrieve the most useful information for a particular request.

While INFO 527 will consider a range of information environments, the information retrieval tools we shall examine are those used to locate document based information in libraries, archives, and information centres. These tools are:

1. Library catalogues, indexes, bibliographies, and archival finding aids.

2. Classification systems, which group together information on the same topic (INFO 526 Bibliographic Organisation, the elective course that follows on from this one, examines the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme in more detail).

3. Controlled vocabularies, such as thesauri and subject headings schemes, which structure and standardise the terminology used to describe subject concepts (INFO 526 provides further hands-on experience with the Library of Congress Subject Headings).

4. Text-based databases and retrieval systems, which enable us to store and retrieve documentary information efficiently.

5. Image and sound databases and retrieval systems, which focus on concepts such as spatial relations, colours, textures, and audio frequencies as cues for retrieval.

6. Internet search engines and filtering systems, which 'index' millions of electronic documents available from remote sites.

7. Newer developments in information retrieval, such as information organisation in social networking tools, the semantic web, and knowledge management.

Learning objectives

By the end of the INFO 527 course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the need for different types of information retrieval systems in different contexts and organisations, in particular how enterprise information management is determined by the type of information environment, the users' information requirements, and the nature of the information resource involved.

2. Describe a model of information retrieval, and outline some measures of evaluation and effectiveness for a text-based information retrieval system.

3. Articulate the theory and functions of descriptive, administrative, and structural metadata in an information retrieval system.

4. Articulate the theory and functions of subject retrieval metadata -- including controlled vocabulary systems such as classification schemes, subject headings lists, and thesauri -- in an information retrieval system.

5. Explain the theory and practice of constructing indexes and abstracts, selecting appropriate index terms and distinguishing among the different types of abstracts.

6. Use appropriate design principles to create a database application for information retrieval.

7. Discuss issues in the provision of intellectual access to information involving newer forms of information retrieval systems.

8. Describe the relationship of *knowledge management systems* to information retrieval systems in private sector and public organisations.

Practical work

As part of this course, you will need to use resources on the Internet, as well as selected databases and online services. Access to these services is possible from the School's computer laboratories and from Victoria University Library. Open learning students will require access to the Internet to access these databases, and will also need to authenticate some databases using their Student username and password. For more on this, see *LIM Programmes Information* on Blackboard.

INFO 527 will use a database application, DB/Textworks as an example of an information retrieval system. DB/Textworks is used in a number of information centres, and you will have access to a demonstration version. This will be included on your CD-ROM of course resources. Tutorials on DB/Textworks will be held in the main centres during the course.

Time commitment

To achieve satisfactory grades, you will need to spend 10 to 12 hours per week on INFO 527, including time spent in the seminar/lab or Internet/audioconference sessions. You may find that particular aspects of the course require less time, whereas others may

require slightly more time. It is important that you manage your time wisely, ensuring that you spend time outside of the weekly sessions reading the relevant course material from your text and the CD-ROM, any additional readings posted on Blackboard, doing the module's preparation work, and working on the assignments.

Course schedule

INFO 527 will be held in the first trimester (February-June) of the 2007 academic year. There will be no sessions for two weeks during the mid-trimester break (9-20 April 2007).

- **Internal students**
  All seminar and lab sessions will be held on Tuesdays (from 9.00-11.50 a.m.) in the Murphy Building, Lecture Theatre MY102.

- **Open learning students**
  The weekly Internet conference sessions (on Chatterbox) will be held on Tuesdays from 5.00-6.30 p.m.

- **Open learning students (within Auckland)**
  Sessions for Auckland students will be delivered by a mixture of audioconferencing and face-to-face teaching. Auckland students should refer to the separate 'Auckland mode' timetable for details.

Schedule

Week	Starting	Topic	Lecturer	Text chapters
1	26 Feb.	Organising information for retrieval in diverse information environments	Alastair	1
2	5 March	Retrieval tools	Brenda	2 & 3
3	12 March	Encoding standards	Alastair	4
4	19 March	Database technology and design	Alastair	5
5	26 March	Metadata: schemes and description, FRBR	Brenda	6 & 7
6	2 April	Metadata: access and authority control	Brenda	8

Mid Term Break

Week	Starting	Topic	Lecturer	Text chapters
7	23 April	Subject analysis and vocabulary control	Brenda	9 & 10
8	30 April	Categorisation and arrangement	Alastair	11 & 12
9	7 May	Information architecture	Alastair	
10	14 May	Evaluating information retrieval systems: relevance, precision, recall	Alastair	
11	21 May	Information retrieval on the Web	Alastair	
12	28 May	New topics in information retrieval	Alastair	

Assessment

None of the LIM courses has a formal final examination. This course will be internally assessed.

Assignment	Date due	Value	Length
1. Weekly online test	Midnight Sunday following class	20%	Each week approximately 5 multiple choice or short answer questions
2. Report and presentation on a reading	Allocated week	35%	1500 words approx. + 5 minute presentation
3. Creation of a database	29 May 2007	35%	10-record database + report of 1200 words approx.
4. Participation	Evaluated weekly	10%	

Late assignments

Assignments submitted after the due date and without prior arrangement with the course coordinator will have the mark reduced by 10 percentage points.

Presentation

Details of the LIM Group's assignment policy, including presentation, will be found in the *Administration Handbook*.

Plagiarism

You should read and take heed of the statement on collaboration and plagiarism above, and also in the *Administration Handbook*; you *must* acknowledge all sources you use.. While you are encouraged to work together while preparing for the weekly sessions, assessed work must be completed individually, and collaboration confined to discussion of general points. You are expected to present information in your own words, based on your understanding of the background material you read. ***Any assignment which is extensively plagiarised will receive an automatic fail grade***.

Submission

All assignments for INFO 527 will be submitted digitally. See the Assignment section of the INFO 527 Blackboard site for details

Prescribed text and recommended reading

The text for INFO 527 is:

Taylor, Arlene G. (2004). *The Organization of Information*. 2nd ed. Westport, Conn.:
Libraries Unlimited. The price, including student discount, is $117.95 approx.

Recommended reading

Links to further recommended texts will appear on the INFO 527 Blackboard site

Ordering the text

The prescribed text is available from Vic Books, PO Box 12-337 (or c/- Students'
Union Building), Wellington, ph. (04) 463 5515 or freephone 0800 370 370, fax (04)
471 2124, email vuwtexts@vicbooks.co.nz. You can use any of these methods
to place an order. Please give the details of the book(s) you want, your delivery
address, and your daytime phone number. If you have a credit card, you can also give
your credit card number and expiry date, and the book will be sent to you directly.
Otherwise, once your order is placed, you will be asked to send a cheque for the
book(s) and postage. There is an $8.00 handling and delivery charge. It is also
possible to order texts through the Vic Books' online book ordering service at

http://www.vicbooks.co.nz/cms_display.php

Online information

You will be required to use the resources for this course, which are available in the
School's Blackboard online learning environment:

http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/

The Blackboard environment will contain a weekly module study guide, a Web-based
forum for discussion of issues related to the course, links to sites of interest, additional
readings and information, updates, etc. You should read the module study guide in
conjunction with the reading supplied on CD-ROM. Details on how to access
Blackboard are in the *Administration Handbook*, but if you have any difficulties
logging on please contact the Help Desk, at:

its-service@vuw.ac.nz

All LIM students will be automatically enrolled in LIM Programmes Information on Blackboard. General announcements and information will be posted here, and students should check this site regularly.

Internet conferencing

Distance sessions are now being conducted via the Internet using the Chatterbox application; in order to participate students will need an Internet-connected PC running Windows XP or Windows 2000, microphone, and headphones/speakers. To connect, go to the Internet conferencing page (and read the "Getting Started" information) at

> https://conferencing.sim.vuw.ac.nz/

There is also an 'Internet Conferencing' button linking to this page in Blackboard.

Some days before your first session, and at least 15 minutes before each subsequent session, you should test your system by going to the Echo Room. Regular classes will be held in the LIS Room; additional Discussion Rooms are available for breakout groups, and as a "waiting room" if a class is proceeding in the main LIS room. Study groups can use the discussion rooms out of regular class times.

For further information, follow the help links on the Internet Conferencing page; details, including screen name conventions, are also available on Blackboard under LIM Programmes Information.

LIM Students email list

Mass communication between the school and students is via the email list. It is your responsibility to ensure you are on the email list; subscription is essential.

To subscribe: send an email to

> lim-students-subscribe@vuw.ac.nz

To unsubscribe: send an email to

> lim-students-unsubscribe@vuw.ac.nz

No text in the body or subject line is required. You will be sent a confirmation email, and must confirm the operation by clicking reply and send. You will then receive a welcome or goodbye email.

General University information

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.

- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.

- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).

- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy.

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website -- http://www.vuw.ac.nz/fca -- under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

- Student and Staff Conduct

- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5233 ext. 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.