TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Information Management

INFO 528 Research Methods for Information Management Environments

Trimester 2, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer: Dr Chern Li Liew
Room RH 402, Rutherford House
Tel +64 4 463 **5213**
Email: chernli.liew@vuw.ac.nz

Senior Tutor (Other distance students and Wellington): Kathryn Oxborrow
Room RH 512, Rutherford House
Tel +64 4 463 **6557**
Email: kathryn.oxborrow@vuw.ac.nz

Senior Tutor (Auckland): Dr Li Wang
Email: li.wang@vuw.ac.nz

Programme Administrator: Chris King
Room RH 521, Rutherford House
Tel +64 4 463 **5875**
Email: chris.king@vuw.ac.nz

Calling from outside Wellington: phone 0800 116 299 and ask to be connected to the appropriate staff member.

Trimester Dates
Monday 13th July – Friday 16th October.

Withdrawal from Course
1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 24th July 2015.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 25th September 2015. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* form including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or online.

Class Times

INFO 528 will be held in the second trimester (July-October) of the 2015 academic year.

- The weekly Distance (Online) class will be held on Wednesdays between 6.45 – 8.15 p.m. There are no face-to-face classes in Wellington.

- There will also be the following Auckland classes*:

  - Saturday 25th July; 10.30 am – 2.00 pm   (Modules 1 and 2)
  - Saturday 10th October; 10.30 am – 2.00 pm   (Modules 11 and 12)

*Students based in Auckland can choose to attend the Auckland classes or the Distance classes for the modules concerned.

We are also offering the following online workshops. All students should attend:

  - Thursday 13th August;   5.30 – 6.30 pm (Conducting a literature review)
  - Thursday 8th October;   5.30 – 6.30 pm (Case study research)

- The Senior Tutors will also be arranging informal study group sessions throughout the trimester and announcements will be made about these in due time.

Expected Workload

To achieve a satisfactory result in INFO 528, a time commitment of around 15 hours per week is likely to be needed. Students who have completed university courses in research methods in a social science discipline, or who have previously written a thesis may need less time.

Part of this time commitment will be taken up in the internal class sessions or the Internet conference sessions. The remaining time should be spent reading material posted on Blackboard http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/ and doing any preparation work required for the seminars and assignments.

Before each session, please read the material for the week's topic on Blackboard and be prepared to discuss the readings in the class.

Course Prescription

INFO 528 is an introduction to the common forms of research for libraries, archives, records centres and other information management environments. The course covers an exploration of the processes and main research approaches applied within the discipline; including quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods and bibliographic research.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of how research is applied to problem solving in an information management environment.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the research process, including relevant ethical issues.
3. Undertake a critical review of relevant literature on a topic.
4. Develop a well-argued proposal for researching an actual problem in information studies.

Required Text

o Leedy, P. D. and Ormrod, J. E. (2013). *Practical Research: Planning and Design* (International edition; 10th edition). USA: Pearson Education.

Students MUST have access to a copy of the text. If you cannot get access to this edition, the 9th edition or upcoming 11th edition (available in July/August) will also be acceptable.

This text is available from Vic Books for $127.50. To order online click the link below and select Information Management from the list of disciplines then follow the prompts. https://www.vicbooks.co.nz/victoria-university/vuw-textbooks2

Course Content

Week/Module	Topic	Reading from Text
1	Course overview; What is research? Role of research in professional practice	Chapter 1
2	Identifying research topics and research problems; Reviewing literature	Chapters 2, 3
3	Planning a research project; Using theory in research	Chapter 4 (up to p.81)
4	Overview of research methodologies	
5	Quantitative methods	Chapter 8, 9
6	Quantitative analysis	Chapter 11
Mid-Trimester Break (24th Aug – 6th Sep)		
7	Qualitative methods	Chapter 6
8	Qualitative analysis	Chapter 6
9	Mixing methods; Content analysis; Bibliographic research	Chapter 10
10	Ethics in research	Chapter 4 (pp.104-109)
11	The research proposal; Reporting and disseminating research	Chapters 5, 12
12	Topic discussion	Chapter 12

Readings

The following is a provisional list of the readings for the course. The finalised list of required and recommended readings for each week's class will be available on the course Blackboard page. For some modules, there will also be articles for discussion. These will be made available on Blackboard.

	Provisional Reading List (Text chapters and Additional Readings)
Module 1	- Text Chapter 1 The Nature and Tools of Research - Tolich, M. and Davidson, C. (2011). An Introduction to Research Methods: Getting Started. Auckland: Pearson – Chapter 2 The world of social science. - Wallace, D.P. and van Fleet, C. (2012). Knowledge into Action: Research and Evaluation in Library and Information Science. Oxford: Libraries Unlimited – Chapter 1 Knowing, Research, and Evaluation. - Haddow, G. and Klobas, J.E. (2004). Communication of research to practice in library and information science: Closing the gap. Library & Information Science Research, 26(1), 29-43. - Booth, A. (2012). Evidence Based Library And Information Practice: Harnessing Professional Passions To The Power Of Research. New Zealand Library and Information Management Journal, 52(4).
Module 2	- Text Chapter 2 The Problem: The Heart of the Research Process - Text Chapter 3 Review of the Related Literature - O'Leary, Z. (2010). Working with literature. In The essential guide to doing your research project (2nd ed., pp. 71-87). Los Angeles; London: Sage. - Rocco, T.S. and Plakhotnik, M.S. (2009). Literature review, conceptual frameworks, and theoretical frameworks: terms, functions, and distinctions. Human Resource Development Review, 8(1), 120-130. - Levy, Y. and Ellis, T.J. (2006). A systematic approach to conduct an effective literature review in support of information systems research. Informing Science Journal, 9, 181-212.
Module 3	- Text Chapter 4 Planning Your Research Project (up to p.81) - Williamson, K. (2002). The beginning stages of research. In *Research methods for students, academics, and professionals: Information management and systems* (2nd ed., pp. 49-65). Wagga Wagga, NSW: Centre for Information Studies, Charles Stuart University. - Creswell, J. W. (2009). The use of theory. In *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (3rd ed., pp. 49-71). Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage. - Bates, M. J. (2005). An introduction to metatheories, theories, and models. In K. E. Fisher, S. Erdelez & L. E. F. McKechnie (Eds.), *Theories of information behavior* (pp. 1-24). Medford, NJ: Information Today for ASSIST.
Module 4	- Text Chapter 4 Planning Your Research Project (pp. 95-104) - Bryman, A. (2012). Social Research Methods. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press – Chapter 3 Research designs.
Module 5	- Text Chapter 8 Descriptive research - Text Chapter 9 Experimental, Quasi-experimental, and Ex Post Facto Designs
Module 6	- Text Chapter 11 Strategies for Analyzing Quantitative Data - Williamson, K. and Johanson, G. (2013). Research Methods: Information, Systems and Contexts. Tilde Publishing – Chapter 18 Quantitative data analysis. - Ghauri, P. and Gronhaug, K. (2010). Research Methods in Business Studies, Fourth Edition. Harlow: Prentice Hall – Chapter 10 Preparation and analysis of data.
Module 7	- Text Chapter 6 Qualitative Research - Re-read pp. 26-30 of Wallace, D.P. and van Fleet, C. (2012). Knowledge into Action: Research and Evaluation in Library and Information Science. Oxford: Libraries Unlimited – Chapter 1 Knowing, Research, and Evaluation.
Module 8	Text Chapter 6 Qualitative research
Module 9	- Text Chapter 10 Mixed-Methods Research - Stokes, P. & Urquhart, C. (2013). Qualitative interpretative categorisation for efficient data analysis in a mixed methods information behaviour studu. *Information Research*, 18(1). - Herring, S. C. (2010). Web content analysis: Expanding the paradigm. In J. Hunsinger, M. Allen, & L. Klastrup (Eds.), *The International Handbook of Internet Research* (pp. 233-249). Berlin: Springer Verlag.

Module 10	• Text Chapter 4 Planning Your Research Project (p.104 - 109 'Ethical Issues in Research') • Pickard, A.J. (2013). Research Methods in Information, Second Edition. London: Facet Publishing – Chapter 7 Ethics in research. • Hudson, M. et al. (2010). Te Ara Tika - Guidelines for Māori research ethics: A framework for researchers and ethics committee members.
Module 11	• Text Chapter 5 Writing the Research Proposal • Text Chapter 12 Writing the Final Research Report • Punch, K. F. (2006) Writing the proposal. In *Developing effective research proposals* (2nd ed., pp. 59-74). London: Sage.
Module 12	• Text Chapter 12 Writing the Final Research Report

Assessment

INFO 528 is internally assessed, with the following assignments to be completed in order to satisfy the mandatory course requirements. Any further details will be available under "Assessment" on Blackboard.

Assignments	Date due	Value	Length	Learning objectives
1. Identification of a Research Topic and Draft Research Objective	11:59 pm on 16 August 2015	25%	1000 words	Relates to LOs 1, 2 & 4
2. Preliminary Literature Review	11:59 pm on 20 September 2015	30%	1500 words maximum	Relates to LO 3
3. Draft Research Proposal	11:59 pm on 18 October 2015	45%	3500 words maximum	Relates to LOs 1-4

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses, see http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf.

Penalties

Late assignments

Assignments submitted up to one week after the due date will have a **10% penalty** imposed, unless an extension on the grounds of medical emergency or family circumstance has been granted in writing in advance, BEFORE the due date by the course coordinator.
Assignments submitted more than one week after the due date will NOT be accepted.

Word count

All written assignments submitted MUST contain a word count, easily available from your word-processing program. The word count should appear under your name. **A penalty of up to 5% will be imposed for going over the maximum word count or for not including a word count with your paper.**

Submission

All assignments for INFO 528 will be submitted digitally. **See the Assignment section of the INFO 528 Blackboard site for details.** Remember to keep a copy of each assignment you send, just in case the original goes astray.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Submit all assignments by the deadlines specified in the course outline, unless an arrangement has been made with the course coordinator prior to the deadline, or a major personal emergency prevents submission (evidence supporting this must be supplied as soon as possible to the course coordinator).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Any student who is concerned that they have been, or might be, unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Use of Turnitin
Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Class Representative
The IST programmes have a student committee which provides a communication channel to liaise with the Programmes Director and course coordinators on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information
Further details about the course, and additional information, will be made available through Blackboard.

Student feedback
Student feedback on University courses may be found at
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information
For general information about course-related matters, go to
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information

Note to Students
Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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