

New York City College of Technology  
Library Department  
LIB 1201 - Research & Documentation for the Information Age  
3 hours, 3 credits

**Prerequisite:** ENG 1101

**Course Description**

In this course we will explore issues in research and documentation for text (in print and online), images, sound, and multimedia. You will investigate where information comes from and how it is organized in both traditional and emerging media. We will examine the ethics of information use and determine how to critically evaluate sources. Throughout the course, you will create and present research and documentation projects using traditional and emerging media and technologies.

**Mode**

Can be taught in the following modes: face-to-face, hybrid, or online; consult instructor

**Learning Outcomes**

Course Intended Learning Outcomes & Assessment Methods

| Learning outcome                                                                                                        | Assessment method                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Upon successful completion of the course the student is able to</i>                                                  | <i>To evaluate students' achievement of the learning objectives the instructor will</i>                   |
| Describe the ways that information is produced and organized in a variety of formats                                    | Review annotated bibliographies                                                                           |
| Create and articulate a relevant, manageable research topic for your assignments                                        | Scaffold the process of topic selection and research question development                                 |
| Successfully search for and acquire appropriate information about your research topic in a variety of media and formats | Lecture/workshop the research process; assess in-class learning activity                                  |
| Critically evaluate and select information sources for your assignments and projects                                    | Evaluate annotated bibliography and Works Cited component of research paper                               |
| Use information ethically and responsibly with an awareness of copyright and fair use                                   | Evaluate annotated bibliography sources and discuss intellectual property in context of public blog posts |
| Synthesize information on a topic from a variety of sources and present your analysis in writing and orally             | Scaffold the research paper with critical feedback on synthesis of information sources                    |
| Apply documentation methods and citation styles appropriately in your own work                                          | Evaluate Works Cited component of research paper and online documentation project                         |

General Education Learning Outcomes & Assessment Methods:

| Learning outcome                                                                                                 | Assessment method                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Upon successful completion of the course the student is able to</i>                                           | <i>To evaluate students' achievement of the learning objectives the instructor will</i>                                                           |
| Community/Civic Engagement: Apply knowledge and analyze social, political, economic, and historical issues.      | Evaluate research paper and assess students' capacity to analyze current information issues in relation to socio-political and economic contexts. |
| Professional/Personal Development: Work with teams, including those of diverse composition. Build consensus      | Assess student contributions to final group project and informal group activities.                                                                |
| Global/Multicultural Orientation: Demonstrate proficiencies and capacities in dealing with a diverse society     | Assess student contributions to class discussions, blog posts, and group work                                                                     |
| Information Literacy: Gather, interpret, evaluate, and apply information discerningly from a variety of sources. | Evaluate information resources selected and synthesized in assignments, including the research project and group assignment                       |

Pathways Flexible Core Learning Outcomes

| Learning Outcome                                                                                                                                 | Assessment Method                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Upon successful completion of the course the student is able to</i>                                                                           | <i>To evaluate students' achievement of the learning objectives the instructor will</i>                                      |
| Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.                                                          | Assess analysis and integration of sources in annotated bibliography and research project                                    |
| Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.                                                                                      | Evaluate arguments made in blog posts and annotated bibliography and assess evidence presented                               |
| Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.                                                           | Evaluate integration of evidence to support claims made in annotated bibliography, research project, and class presentations |
| Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.*                                                           | Assess contributions to class discussion and course blog                                                                     |
| Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.*                                           | Assess analysis and integration of sources in annotated bibliography and research project                                    |
| Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.* | Assess contributions to class discussion and course blog                                                                     |

\*Pathways Flexible Common Core Learning Outcomes for Individual and Society

## **Assignments and Grading**

Your grade in this course will be based on:

Participation in class discussions and in-class assignments 15%

Blog posts/comments 20%

Research topic proposal 5%

Annotated bibliography 10%

Research paper 20%

Online documentation project 15%

Class presentation 15%

NYCCT Statement on Academic Integrity: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

## **Required Text**

There is no required textbook for the class. Links to required readings and viewings are posted on the OpenLab course site.

## **Course Schedule**

All readings and assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed below. Please write down and bring at least one question about one of the readings to every class, and come to class prepared to discuss all of the day's assigned readings.

### The Information Landscape: Media and Production

Week 1: Introduction to the course; brief history of media; the lifecycle of information

Traditional print media: journalism, academic/government/research agency publications

Week 2: Multimedia, participatory and social media

Week 3: Alternative media: zines, underground newspapers & presses, micropublishing, blogs, wikis, ephemera, etc.

### Current Issues in Information and Media

Week 4: Access: personal, institutional, digital divide, open access

Preservation: paper, digital, other formats

Week 5: Privacy: changing definitions, challenges of networked digital media

Week 6: Copyright and fair use

Week 7: Metadata: information about information, taxonomies; linked data & semantic web

### Organizing and Finding Information and Media

The research process: needs assessment, preliminary strategies, topic development

Week 8: Authority, bias, and neutrality; how and why to evaluate sources

Week 9: The research process: refining a topic, creating search strategies, citation tools & managers

Week 10: Searching for library resources; Searching the internet; algorithmic bias

Using Information and Media

Week 11: Rationale for documentation and citation

Documentation: standards, methods and styles for citing text and non-text media

Week 12: Documentation: standards, methods and styles for practices and processes

Documentation: practical applications, ethical issues

Week 13: Group project work

Presentation of Information and Looking to the Future

Week 14: Future of information and media, wrapping up

Week 15: Student presentations