

LIBR 2595: Special Topics: Aboriginal Reference Resources and Services

(Reference Resources for Aboriginal Libraries and Communities)

This 13-week course in Langara's diploma program in Library Technology is one in a series of courses designed to provide an exploration of resources for specialized subject areas, beyond the scope of our core reference course, LIBR 2416.

The Resources in this course are based on a very successful course developed by the B.C. Public Library Services Branch, and has been offered as part of the CLTP series of courses. A network of organizations and individuals with an interest and expertise in this area developed a rich array of resources that we will draw upon in this course.

LIBR 2595 provides a survey of key resources, tools and services used to support the specialized information needs of aboriginal libraries, collections and communities. The main objective of this course is to provide staff, working in a variety of library settings, with the necessary knowledge, background and insights for working with, and providing services for our aboriginal customers and communities. The areas or topics surveyed include: Government, Legal, Health, and Genealogical resources. For each topic, key resources and issues will be identified and explored. Also included is an important unit on treaty rights and negotiations, and other matters related to government.

New topics covered in this course will include surveys of important projects, initiatives and services offered in school, public and academic libraries, in support of aboriginal communities. Key individuals will join us online and discuss their projects via video presentations.

Learning Outcomes for LIBR 2595, Aboriginal Reference Resources and Services

After completing this course, participants will have acquired the knowledge, values and skills to be able to:

1. Identify core resources and tools required in aboriginal libraries and collections in key areas or topics.
2. Understand and describe important issues for aboriginal libraries/services, related to resources and the provision of services.
3. Understand and describe special knowledge required of staff in support of the provision of services in libraries and in communities.
4. Understand and describe typical service models in various library sectors in support of the aboriginal communities and collections.
5. Identify and describe key organizations, institutions and government bodies that provide information, resources and services of interest to aboriginal

libraries and communities.

Course Assessment:

The course content is organized into 7 main topics or modules. Each topic is separate and self-contained. Information on expectations and requirements will be provided for the various activities in each module.

All exercises, activities, and assignments tied to each of the topics below must be completed, in order to pass the course. Course mark distribution is as follows:

Topic 1: History/issues for library services/collections (20%)

Topic 2: Genealogical resources (10%)

Topic 3: Resources for Aboriginal Education (10%)

Topic 4: Aboriginal law, title, government resources (10%)

Topic 5: Aboriginal health information, activities/assignments (10%)

Topic 6: Aboriginal literature (10%)

Topic 7: Community projects (20%)

Class participation (10%)

TOTAL: 100%

Library/community visits:

Course participants are responsible for a variety of learning activities including: weekly readings, course lectures, discussions, "in-class" exercises and assignments. As well, an exploration of resources, in the form of library visits, is an important activity in this course. Details about exploring these resources in your community will be presented within each module. Many of these visits and observations may be virtual visits.

Participation

As active student participation is important for the success of any course, and essential for learning in the online course environment, there is a participation mark for the course. Details of the process and expectations for participation will be outlined within each module.

Course textbook available from the Langara College Bookstore:

Joseph, Robert P.C. Working effectively with Aboriginal peoples. (2006). Port Coquitlam: Indigenous Corporate Training

Course Units

Unit 1: Introduction to Aboriginal Reference & Information Sources

Unit 2: Genealogy Resources

Unit 3: Resources for Aboriginal Education

Unit 4: Aboriginal Law, Title and Governments

Unit 5: Aboriginal Health Information

Unit 6: Aboriginal Literature

Unit 7: Survey of community projects/best practices

Adapted from the B.C. Community Library Training Program (CLTP) course