



TDO @ Berlin School of Library and Information Science

Bachelor Core Course Information Systems and Services
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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Berlin School of Library and Information Science



- founded in 1928, 1953 (post-war), 1990 (post-unification)
- Only university-based LIS education in Germany
- Based in philosophical department (humanities)
- 2 BA programs (LIS, Info Management & Technology)
- 2 MA programs (LIS Research, LIS Professional)
- New MA Digital Information & Assset Management (Fall 2014, in cooperation with Kings College London)
- Joint MA study profile with Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen
- PhD



BA Library and Information Science



- 6 semesters
- 2/3 LIS, 1/3 secondary subject (from 40 programs within Humboldt)
- 5 **core modules** (Module = lecture + seminar): Information Technology, Media, Information & Society, Information Organization, **Information Systems & Services**
- 2 **electives**: Information Searching, Databases, Electronic Publishing, Applied Information Technology (Library Systems), Management of Libraries
- 1 project seminar, 1 internship (7 weeks)
- Other university-wide electives
- BA thesis (10 weeks, 40 pages)

Information Systems & Services Course



- BA program core class for 3rd semesters
- 40-75 students, weekly 90 minute lectures + reading + short assignments, final oral exam
- **Content**: The lecture provides an overview over the “information landscape” in Germany and worldwide: information content producers, content providers and information service providers. Different information systems, information portals and user search interfaces will be analyzed and compared. The lecture’s focus is on methods and strategies for the evaluation of information systems and services – both from a user service and research as well as a technical services and functionalities perspective.
- We have a separate module on Information Organization – content from ch. 4 Description, ch. 5 Relationships, ch. 6 Categorization & 7. Classification is taught there.

Course Syllabus & TDO



- Week 1: Intro – Definition of the concepts (information & document)
- Week 2: Information systems – Definition, Ch. 1 TDO
- Week 3: Activities in information systems – Ch. 2 TDO
- Week 4: Running an information system – Ch. 10 TDO
- Week 5: Information landscape in Germany – Institutions & organizations
- Week 6: Information systems – content & publication types
- Week 7: Information systems – typology, service providers, examples
- Week 8: Information systems – typology, service providers, examples
- Week 9: (Discovery) portals and information aggregation
- Week 10: Google + Summary first part
- Week 11: Information Seeking Models
- Week 12: Information Searching Strategies & Methods
- Week 13: Search user interfaces
- Week 14: Information Systems – (information retrieval) evaluation
- Week 15: Summary

Guest lectures: Library union catalogs & services, enterprise search

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TDO Integration



- Ch. 1, 2, 10
- Quizzes on chapters 1,2,10 (developed for ch. 1, translated into German for 2 & 10)
- Peer Review Assignment: analysis of a self-selected information system with the 5 W questions
- Assignment: comparison of TDO 5 W questions and Search User Interface criteria (Hearst, 2009) on one information system
- Using the TDO framework for (5 W, activities) for evaluation

→ Works well also for Bachelor students!

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TDO Challenges



- Ch. 9 – tried last year, too complex for 3rd semester
- Ch. 3 & 8 out of scope (too detailed)
- Ch. 4-7 scope of other module (more library-oriented)
- 5 W questions: „when“ is complicated, „what“ – the idea of coverage (e.g. for bibliographies) is hard to convey