

**Course Number & Name:** LIS 411 - Information Sources for Children

**Description:** This course introduces criteria and professional tools for evaluating and selecting nonfiction books, reference materials, periodicals, nonprint materials, and electronic resources to serve the varied needs and interests of children in public libraries and school library/media centers. Considers changing forms of material and aspects of how content is influenced by format. Examines the usefulness of library catalogs and other access tools in guiding children to appropriate information. Attention is given to theories of critical thinking and information literacy to expand understanding of children as users of information.

- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** Introductory/ School Library/Media Centers, Public Libraries
- **Student Learning Outcomes** [by number]: 2, 3, 4, 7, 10
- **Topics/List of Lectures:**
  - Understanding the Information Needs of Children
    - Critical thinking skills of children
    - Defining and developing information literacy
    - Theories of visual literacy
  - Evaluating and Selecting Information Materials
    - Introduction to basic, subject, and format specific selection tools
    - Trends in layout and design
    - Access features in the packaging of information
    - Assessing accuracy, authority, and clarity
  - Characteristics of Major Formats
    - Nonfiction forms
    - Children's magazines
    - Audio and film formats
    - Electronic resources
  - Children as Users of Access Tools
    - Library catalogs
    - Indexes
    - Databases
    - Websites and search engines
- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**
  - Readings come from many selected sources rather than a required textbook.

- **Course History:**  
December 2004: discussed at curriculum retreat -- went from two credits (LIS 5200) to three (voted on in 12/04)
- **Document prepared by:** Maggie Bush, 12/04