

EDLI 277: Information Technologies for School Library Media Centers
University of Vermont
Fall 2004

Instructor:

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Rationale:

Modern libraries are technology-rich places; many methods of obtaining, organizing, cataloging and disseminating information are accomplished through the use of technology. Because of the central and increasing role of technology in libraries, professionals expecting to work in those institutions must be competent and confident users of technology. This course focuses attention on the diverse aspects of using, working with, and planning for the efficacious use of technology in modern school libraries.

Resources:

There is no required text for the course. Students are expected to read in the field and compile resources that will inform their work with technology in school libraries.

Focusing Themes and Content:

The course is focused by four themes, and students are expected to demonstrate learning within each theme. Because of the multifarious nature of technology in school libraries and the diverse experiences with technology each student brings to the class, the content and projects will be individualized to some extent, but the following topics lie within the domain of each theme

- ✦ **Becoming a competent and confident user of technology.**
 - ✦ Web page design and publishing
 - ✦ Modern productivity suites (spreadsheets, databases, presentation software)
- ✦ **Working in the technology-rich school library.**
 - ✦ Identifying needs
 - ✦ Defining technology-based solutions
- ✦ **Knowing the technology in school libraries.**
 - ✦ Hardware and software
 - ✦ Networking
 - ✦ Analog technology
 - ✦ Troubleshooting and repair
- ✦ **Understanding and supporting learning with technology.**
 - ✦ Education standards addressed in technology-rich libraries
 - ✦ Technology planning in schools

Projects:

In addition to participating in discussions and activities in all venues, students will complete the projects listed below. Students are encouraged to apply these projects to the needs or demands of their current professional positions. Students are also encouraged to propose alternative projects that arise from professional need that are similar in scope to these:

- 1) **Interview with a Librarian--** This 3-page paper (references not necessary) will summarize the technology issues encountered by a practicing school librarian during a typical week.
- 2) **School Library Web Page--** Create a web page for a school library. Include formatted text, graphics, and links.
- 3) **Reflection on an Artifact--** On the final day of class, each student will share an artifact that demonstrates growth in one of the four class themes.
- 4) **Series of 15 Tech Briefs--** Through this series of brief (1-page papers or 10 minute presentations) students will share important resources discovered and necessary skills developed during the course. Students are expected to include Tech Brief focusing on both analog and digital technologies as well as to include Tech Briefs from each of these categories:
 - a) Web Page Tour-- Describe a web site valuable to school librarians.
 - b) You Must Read This-- Summarize an article providing valuable insight into technology in school libraries. (*APA or MLA reference required*)
 - c) Tech Tip-- Describe how to perform a useful function (e.g. how to make a newsletter using a template; how to clean a VCR).
 - d) Tech Issue-- Summarize the current practice or theory surrounding technology policy and procedure in school libraries (e.g. AUP's; copyright issues, budgeting) (*APA or MLA reference required*)
 - e) Look What I Learned-- Describe how you performed some technology function you had never done before (e.g install a printer; program a VCR to record automatically).

Typical Class Sessions:

Except for the first and last sessions, which meet in-person on campus, classes will alternate between WebCT sessions and VIT sessions:

WebCT sessions-- Although no records are kept regarding the time spent on the course pages, that venue is the primary communication tool among participants, so all are encouraged to at least check the site several times each week, and are expected to make recurring contributions to the discussions.

VIT sessions-- These sessions will include discussions among participants, presentations of Tech Briefs by students, and presentations by the instructor.

Alternative in-person session-- In the past, individuals have arranged for alternative in-person sessions. Typically, participants visit a library or computer room for either a tour or a demonstration of a piece of technology. A small budget is available to support these activities.

Outline of Sessions:

Sept. 4: UVM (Introductions, Review Syllabus, Web Page Design)

Sept. 11: WebCT

Sept 18: VIT (Web Page Design)

Sept. 25: WebCT

Oct. 2: VIT (Hardware and Software Issues)

Oct. 9: WebCT

Oct. 16: VIT (Networks)

Oct. 23: WebCT

Oct. 30: VIT (Analog Technologies)

Nov. 6: WebCT

Nov. 13: VIT (Technology Planning)

Nov. 20: WebCT

Dec. 4: UVM (Sharing of Artifacts)