PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS, FALL 2015

The course material has been divided into 15 modules, one of which is covered each week (except during a University recess). The readings have been listed approximately in the order in which they can usefully be read. Explanatory and contextualizing notes are normally provided weekly. A few readings may be replaced as and when new material comes to hand.

There is no prescribed book.

“Draft chapters” refer to chapters from my book (still in progress). International and comparative librarianship: concepts and methods for global studies. They will be made available on D2L.

Module 1: Introduction & course overview. Approaches to international and comparative librarianship: values and orientations

Lor, draft chapter 1


Module 2: US perspectives on international and comparative librarianship: some illustrative issues


Johnson, E. A. (2002). The American Corners program in Russia: building successful partnerships. International leads, 16(4), 1–2,8. [International leads is the newsletter of the ALA’s International Relations Round Table, IRRT.]


Module 3: Definitions and scope of international and comparative librarianship. Understanding research assumptions in international and comparative LIS research

Lor, draft chapters 2 & 4


Module 4: Methodology of comparative studies
*Lor, draft chapter 5

Module 5: Critical evaluation of international and comparative research
*Lor, draft chapter 6

Module 6: International influences and diffusion of library theories and techniques
*Lor, draft chapter 7

Module 7: Library development aid and influence (1): Poverty, development, and aid. Official bilateral and multilateral aid and cultural diplomacy
*Lor, draft chapter 12
Hans Rosling shows the best stats you’ve ever seen | Video on TED.com. (2006). TED. Retrieved from


Module 9: Critical responses to “cultural imperialism”


Module 10: International information relations: international information flows; digital divide; political economy of information and knowledge


Module 11: LIS activities of UNESCO and other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)


*Kuzmin, E. (2012). UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) and its recommendations on national and international information policies. Unpublished paper presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Helsinki. (Will be posted on D2L)


Module 12: IFLA and other international and regional non-governmental organizations (INGOs)


Module 13: International cooperation in LIS: Cooperation, resource sharing, standardization, disaster response


Module 14: International librarianship in professional practice: International work of national library associations and institutions. Area studies. Professional opportunities abroad


Going global: the Colorado connection. *Colorado libraries* 35(1), 2011. This is a section comprising 6 articles about various international projects (in Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Nigeria) in which Colorado librarians are involved. Retrieved from http://coloradolibrariesjournal.org/ejournal/show/1/_/3


Week 15: Summative essay

In lieu of a final test there will be an essay assignment.