

MLIS 7710 – Spring 2008

The Archives class, MLIS 7710, will be a hybrid course. Readings and posting of assignments will be online via Web CT. I also hope to have audio files for mini lectures. We will be covering the main “domain areas” of the archival certification test, in terms of readings, and the books you will be assigned will be part of the reading list for that test. However, we will also meet four times face to face, three meetings required. When we meet, we will meet on Saturdays, generally Saturday afternoon from 1-5. The exception is our day in Athens, which may be “all day,” something like 9 or 10-4, to take advantage of the many sites of archival interest at UGA. The dates have not been determined yet.

Here’s the rationale and idea behind the hybrid. In the past this class was a “face to face” in Milledgeville, and I knew it would be more convenient to put at least some of it on Web CT. However, I had the opportunity to teach at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame with Bill Richards (the previous professor) and being at that site and spending half the time talking about outreach and preservation and the other half the time touring the site and really seeing it in action (or repose in its boxes) made the information come alive more than anything I alone or a web page could have done. In addition, the archivist there became a colleague and friend. That was one of the strengths of face to face and I wanted to retain it.

Another reason to spend some face to face time is that I want you to spend time with some of the most qualified and knowledgeable archivists in the state, and I don’t mean me. Here’s an itinerary of our face to face visits in no set order yet:

Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Macon: Joe Johnson—outreach, exhibit design, private funding, technology of exhibits, preservation of unusual materials. We’ll see and discuss all of this and more during our back and front room tour of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

Georgia State Archives, Morrow: Christine Wiseman—preservation and conservation. Christine is the head of the conservation department of the State Archives. Her knowledge combined with the back vault view of the Georgia State Archives should be fascinating.

Georgia Historical Society, Savannah: who we’ll talk to depends on when we come, but it’s a beautiful building with a fascinating collection. We’ll see their collections and spaces and also talk about acquisition and appraisal, donor relations, and management. And we might have to discuss hurricanes as well.

University of Georgia, Athens: Sheila McAlister, Digital Library of Georgia. Description, Digitization, and Metadata, some of the cutting edges of what an archivist has to keep up with. I also hope to be able to arrange to see some other areas such as the Newspaper microfilm project, the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the University Archives, and others. Suggestions welcome from Athens folks. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear Sheila, second in command at the Digital Library of Georgia. She knows so much about digitization and metadata that she knows how to make it clear, which is a real talent.

I also hope to use the face to face time for you, and me, to make connections. If we get there early enough, we could meet for lunch, or stay afterwards for dinner. Generally, unless you are an archivist in a large institution, you will be the only one “of your kind,” where you are, and your colleagues across the state will be important to you in decision making and idea generating. So, you might as well start forging those relationships now. They will be important later on.

I’m looking forward to this class very much and will probably learn even more than you will in doing it (and not just WEB CT). If you have any questions, please write me at dsdavis@valdosta.edu.