



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm speaking Musqueam people.

iSchool Mission: Through innovative research, education and design, our mission is to enhance humanity's capacity to engage information in effective, creative and diverse ways.

LIBR 576 Public Libraries – Course Syllabus (3)

Program:	MLIS, MASLIS
Year:	2020-2021
Course schedule:	Asynchronous, online weekly modules
Location:	N/A
Instructor:	Dr. Tess Prendergast
Office location:	IKBLC 494
Office phone:	604-822-5007
Office hours:	Zoom meetings by appointment, please email me your preferred times
E-mail address:	tess.prendergast@ubc.ca

Learning Management Site:

<https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/62390>

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Course Goal: In accordance with the UBC Mission Statement, the overall goal of this course is to enable students to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural progress of the community by preparing them for positions of responsibility in public libraries. More specifically, students will be able to describe general missions and values of public libraries, the environmental changes affecting those missions, and how those changes affect the current and future management of public libraries.



Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe some of the key factors in the history of municipal and regional public libraries (1.4., 3.2)
2. Name some traditional commitments/values of the public library and compare and contrast those to the commitments/values of today's public library (1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 5.1)
3. Explain the composition and governance responsibilities of both municipal and regional library boards (1.4, 3.2)
4. Describe the role of public library legislation and its implementation across Canada (1.1., 1.4, 3.2,)
5. Describe the various roles assumed by Friends of the Library (1.1, 1.4)
6. List the various types of in-house statistics that should be used for management purposes and demonstrate how those statistics can be compared to those gathered at provincial and national levels. (1.1., 2.1)
7. Discuss why media skills are important for public library managers, describe those skills, and demonstrate their application through dramatization (1.1, 1.4, 4.2)
8. Identify the key economic, labour union, and supervisory elements regarding use of volunteers (1.1, 1.4)
9. Describe the leadership qualities possessed by effective public library managers (1.4, 5.1)

Course Topics:

- Purpose and history of Canadian public libraries
- Public library legislation: history and current situation in Canada and internationally
- Library Boards: different types in municipal and regional systems
- Managing Volunteers and Friends Groups
- Unions in Public Libraries: Managing with and without unions
- Staffing levels and responsibilities: role of library technicians & clerks
- Leadership styles: Different situations, different styles
- Managing problem customers
- Writing policies, goals, and objectives
- Developing media smarts: Press releases, media interviews
- Public library statistics



- On the horizon: Future issues in public library management

Prerequisites: MLIS and Dual MAS/MLIS: completion of MLIS core; recommended co-requisite: 504

MAS: completion of MAS core and permission of the iSchool Graduate Advisor

Format of the course: Lectures, guest speakers, in-class discussions and activities.

Required and Recommended Reading: Except for the course textbook, all other course readings will be posted in the Library Online Course Reserves Tab within the Canvas course.

Required Course Text: (available at the UBC Bookstore and the UBC Library)

de la Peña McCook, K., & Bossaller, J. S. (2018). *Introduction to public librarianship* (Third ed.). Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman.

Course Assignments

FNCC specialization: Most of the assignments in this course can serve the requirements of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC). If students would like to take this course for FNCC credit, they are invited to contact the instructor to discuss this option. We will then consult with the FNCC coordinator.

Assignment Name	Due Date	Weight	Graduate Competencies
Public Library Analysis and Profile	Feb 15, 2021	20	1.4, 2.1,
Group assignment: Video presentation on a broad public library theme	Mar 29, 2021	30	1.4,2.1,3.1,4.2,5.1
Final paper: Student selected, focus on leadership in public libraries	Apr 22, 2021	30	1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1,5.2,5.3
Participation	Various activities & discussions due throughout the term	20	1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2



Course Schedule: Most weeks run from Tuesday to the following Monday to allow for time over weekends to complete the module's viewings, readings, and activities. You may set your own schedule for doing the work but you must complete each module before moving on the next one.

Topic	Date
Week 1: Course introduction	Jan 11-Jan 18, 2021
Week 2: Public opinion, popular, news, & social media about public libraries	Jan 19-Jan 25, 2021
Week 3: Equity, access, and the public library as "the people's university"	Jan 26-Feb 1, 2021
Week 4: Demonstrating the public library's value to society	Feb 2-Feb 8, 2021
Week 5: Political, legal, & financial aspects of the public library (shorter week)	Feb 9-Feb 14, 2021
TERM BREAK	Feb 15-Feb 19
Week 6: Public library workers: Staffing structures, unions, friends' groups & volunteers	Feb 23-Mar 1, 2021
Week 7: Public library buildings: Planning and creating community spaces	Mar 2-Mar 8, 2021
Week 8: Lifelong learning in public libraries: Leadership in adult & youth services	Mar 9-Mar 15, 2021
Week 9: Collaborations & consortia and Technology in public libraries	Mar 16-Mar 22, 2021
Week 10: Global perspectives on public libraries and Pro-D for public library leaders	Mar 23-Mar 29, 2021
Week 11: Student presentations	Mar 30-Apr 5, 2021



Weeks 12: Student presentations (longer week)

Apr 6-Apr 14, 2021

Attendance: Attendance and punctuality is required in all class meetings. If you know you will be late or absent you must notify me in advance. Unexplained absences without prior explanation may result in a lowered participation grade.

Evaluation: All assignments will be marked using the evaluative criteria given on the [iSchool website](#)
[Links to an external site.](#)

I will give a brief overview of my qualitative approach to grading in the introduction to the class.

Please edit your written work very carefully before submitting. Marks will be taken off if formatting issues, typographical and grammatical errors, and incorrect citations and references appear in your written work.

*NB: This standard **does not apply** to discussion board posts which are meant to emulate informal conversations. I will not be grading your discussion posts for grammar, spelling etc.*

Required Materials: de la Peña McCook, K., & Bossaller, J. S. (2018). *Introduction to public librarianship* (Third ed.). Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman.

This book is available in the UBC bookstore and as an e-book in the UBC library.

Policies and Resources to Support Student Success: UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>
[Links to an external site.](#))

Centre for Accessibility: Centre for Accessibility works with the University to create an inclusive living and learning environment in which all students can thrive. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Centre for Accessibility unit:

[<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>
[Links to an external site.](#)].

You must register with the Disability Resource Centre to be granted special accommodations for any on-going conditions.



Religious Accommodation: The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss with the instructor before the course drop date. UBC policy on Religious Holidays: <http://equity.ubc.ca/days-of-significance-calendar/Links to an external site.>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism

The Faculty of Arts considers plagiarism to be the most serious academic offence that a student can commit. Regardless of whether or not it was committed intentionally, plagiarism has serious academic consequences and can result in expulsion from the university. Plagiarism involves the improper use of somebody else's words or ideas in one's work. The UBC policy on Academic Misconduct is available

here: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>Links to an external site..

It is your responsibility to make sure you fully understand what plagiarism is. Many students who think they understand plagiarism do in fact commit what UBC calls "reckless plagiarism." The UBC Learning Commons has a resource page on how to avoid plagiarism, with policies on academic integrity and misconduct found here: [<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/Links to an external site.>]

If after reading these materials you still are unsure about how to properly use sources in your work, please ask your instructor for clarification.