Summary of impressions of LISSA survey on 700 and related technology issues

Compiled by C. Perry, 4 May 2011

1. Were you aware that there was an option to test out of 700 or to register for a higher-level technology class?

Yes: 32.5%, No: 67.5%

2. Should 700 begin on the assumption that students have a working knowledge of the following:

E-Mail: yes 95%
MS Word: yes 82.1 %
Excel 2010: No 66.7%
Access 2010: No 92.2%
Powerpoint 2010: No 53.9%

3. Should 700 assume that students already have knowledge of the following: (detailed aspects of Word, Access, Excel, PPT).

Ranged from 59.5% no to 94.6% no. Details available on request.

More detailed compilations of selected responses below available on request.

4. Were you satisfied with the quality of the 700 textbook? Please explain your answer.

General Impressions:

There appeared to be a strong divide between those who appreciated the clarity and basic introductory nature of the textbook, and those who felt it was a complete waste of time and money.   Many noted it was out-of-date. There was fairly strong agreement that more hands-on labs are needed and less of an emphasis on the computer-derived quizzes which tend to be very specific and nit-picky. Several mentioned that a book that deals with the role of technology in libraries/archives would be welcome. There were selected negative comments on some instructor's teaching strategies.

6. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest, what would you rate 700 as a class?

Note: Scores ranged from 0.5 to 10, with a mean of 4.897 and a median of 5. Many were deeply dissatisfied; others found the course quite helpful. See separate chart (available upon request).

General Impressions from comments:

Many felt that the course was a complete waste of time and money; others really seemed to need such a basic introduction. There were a number of criticisms of teaching methodology. General perception is that there needs to be a LOT more hands-on lab work.

7. What other application software programs do you think GSLIS 700 should include? You can list as many as you feel should be included in this course?

General Impressions:

MANY students felt that exposure to Adobe Photoshop and the Adobe Creative Suite would be useful, as well as publishing software (e.g. MS Publisher). There also was widespread interest in Dreamweaver web-authoring s/w and Web 2.0 tools. Many would have liked to have exposure to MS Access (this is apparently taught in some sections but not all). Some (especially Archives students) felt that exposure to XML would be appropriate (CP would note that XML requires advanced skills and that KB feels it is the toughest course that he teaches). Some felt that exposure to ILS systems would be valuable. There also was interest in exposure to both the Mac and Windows platforms.

8. To what extent did you like (or not like) the inclusion of Web authoring using SeaMonkey composer? Please explain your answer. [

CP—what other open-source web authoring s/w might we be able to use??? Maybe WordPress or Google Sites?]

General Impressions:

Many students felt this was one of the best aspects of the course, especially the opportunity to be exposed to web design.. Some found SeaMonkey clunky and would have preferred Dreamweaver or WordPress, but otherd found this to be a good introduction. There were a number of comments indicating that more time should have been devoted to this segment of the course; a couple noted that they were not introduced to SeaMonkey at all or had minimal guidance.