

Competency Check

Nicholas Westbrook

11/12/13

Southern Connecticut State University

Part One: Information Resources:

2A: The book doesn't cover much about the lifecycle of knowledge. The lifecycle of knowledge is something a little challenge to tell where it begins and ends. Distributing knowledge is covered better by this course than the creation. The course covers the distribution and collection of knowledge by the librarian. The various outlets covered in the lecture notes, such as databases and physical books, are the outlets through which the knowledge is delivered to those who need it. The role of the reference librarian in regards to this portion of the competencies is to provide patrons with the tools and knowledge to use these modes. The course covers the distribution and maintenance of a collection better than the creation of knowledge.

2B: The assignment for this class where we had to create a collection based off of an information literacy problem provided a great deal of insight into the process of choosing references for selection of collections. It required examining each potential item with a critical lens across a set of criteria. By actually examining each item and deciding whether or not to purchase it for a collection with a specific purpose in mind for it, I feel as though I have a better understanding of these concepts. Notes within the lectures also helped me understand the specific criteria for removing specific reference resources, such as items that are out of date, inaccurate or no longer used. Storage of materials was covered more thoroughly in the preservation of materials course, but the information provided in this class was useful in understanding the organization of materials after they have been purchased and processed. The course lecture notes provide details on the

organization of bibliographic control, which leads to authority control. These elements blend together to provide information about the organization and maintaining of selected library materials.

2C: The class notes provide a set of suggestions for maintaining a reference collection according to RUSA standards. The class notes and reading material provide an extensive amount of information about analyzing the reference collections and department abilities, but focus more on the staff than the collections. I feel like most of management issues are dependant on the staff. The book covers a variety of ethical issues within the library world, such as censorship and equitable access of information to all patrons. The class notes helped describe what the staff needs to do in order to manage a collection correctly. The ethical issues presented by the book, such as censorship, rely on the staff to build a collection that reflects the truth, not just the preference of the librarian in charge of creating the collection.

Part Two: Reference and User Services:

5A: The information provided by the lecture and the material in the book gives a good amount of knowledge pertaining specifically to the reference interview. The book covers methods of using search techniques of databases and Internet search engines to provide patrons with the correct information that they need. Other courses in the program provide information about web searches and searching catalogs for the appropriate resources. The librarian also has the job of updating their records to maintain an accurate and up to date collection. The project that required a building of a collection provided experience in understanding what materials are accurate as well as recent. The book also covered methods of using

reference sources for children and young adults, providing not only what types of services are available and how to integrate digital technology into their library experience.

5B: The material offered about the reference interview was also useful in this particular component. The lecture notes and readings also provide information of how to use the resources available to answer the questions presented by library patrons. The exercise that required finding and evaluating resources to answer reference questions was useful in filling this competency. The exercise required looking at reference resources and determining their value to the question that needed to be examined. It also required considering multiple sources, not just the sources provided by the Internet. The Reference Review was another important assignment for this competency since it provided a strong overview of all of the types of resources available to provide patrons with answers that they need.

5C: The section in the book about the 'Reference Interview' provided a collection great deal of information about talking with patrons of any age or group level in order to narrow down their question to something that the librarian can answer. In my experience, the reference interview is a crucial part of this competency as well as understanding the of reader's advisory (an important part of consultation and guidance). Reference Services for Young Adults and Children, which is covered in the book, is an important part of working with individuals of younger ages. However, the section on reader advisory is more crucial to understand how to properly mediate a patron in their use of recorded knowledge. The sections in the

book and parts of the lecture notes discuss which tools to use for which questions, an important part of guiding patrons in their quest for knowledge.

5D: The informational literacy discussed in the book relates primarily to how librarians can integrate digital technology into the various library settings. The book and lecture notes briefly cover some ethical topics concerning information literacy. The primary concern when considering open access to all information is plagiarism, especially in the academic library setting. With access to a world of information, libraries have to be concerned with people taking the ideas of others and taking them as their own. This is especially true of school or college libraries, wanting to encourage students to obtain knowledge, but also wanting to carefully monitor their online activity. This course covers less than the technology courses offered, but the information provided looks directly at the duties of reference librarian, especially on the subject of one-on-one instruction. One-to-one instruction is an important part of providing reference services, not only providing patrons with information, but also giving them the skills to find the knowledge on their own in the future.

5E: There are many examples of advocacy through out libraries, focusing on how libraries use advocacy programs to promote new services. In the class notes, the subject is touched briefly. A lot of the information regarding library advocacy focuses on advocacy to provide communities with more technologically literate individuals. A common phrase in the notes and the book is how librarians partner with other organizations to help create informational literate communities. Librarians are constantly trying to engage younger people to use libraries by

integrating social technology into their daily routines. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter are becoming an important part of libraries to connect to the public to promote events and other library programs.

5F: The Reference Review led to a better understanding of what materials a library needs to have available to its users. By examining the reference sections of local libraries, the exercise provided a framework for better understanding the needs of a well-developed reference collection. Other section of the lecture notes provide details of how to find useful resources to provide patrons with answers to questions. Sections of the lecture notes and book helped to understand how to determine which materials will be more useful to respond to user needs. The lecture notes help determine that a sense of accuracy, scope and other factors are necessary in determining which resources are the most useful in a reference section. The book also offered resources about how to choose which reference tool to answer certain types of questions.

5G: The book covers the future of information by discussing the various future representations of reference librarians. Since the introduction of digital technology, including Internet and digital databases, librarians have adopted new roles beyond just finding books with information. Now, librarians have to be skilled in using search engines and other digital platforms. The book and notes cover a lot of information on Reference 2.0, a new universe in the world of libraries that requires not only the librarian, but also requires the collaboration of patrons, it also integrates modern social media to promote and develop the use of libraries. In the notes, the final unit discusses the future of the Invisible Web.