Library Resources Review

For the new course: Politics of Developing Nations (POL 149)

This report was prepared at the request of Dr. Hisham H. Ahmed in order to present his proposal to the UEPC.

I. Library Resource Needs
   A. Faculty Course Preparation: Dr. Ahmed provided a reading list of books for the class.
   B. Reserve Readings and film/videos for reserve: None indicated for this course
   C. Types of materials needed for student assignments. Students have a written research paper of 12-15 pages.

II. Currently Available Library Resources
   A. Reference Materials: The Library provides general resources on developing countries with such titles as Encyclopedia of the Developing World (2006), and Dictionary of Third World Theologies (2000). The Library also has access to online reference encyclopedias through Gale Virtual Reference Library, Oxford Reference Online, and Sage e-Reference. The reference collection is adequate for the needs of this course, based upon the information received about them.
   B. Books: While the library does not own any of the three required texts for the course, it does offer a collection of books and other titles relating to the developing world. The subject heading “developing countries” reveals 41 titles, but a keyword search of the same expands the results out to over 1,500 titles. That is due to the fact that the phrase “developing countries” is often added to the primary subject heading, such as women developing countries, globalization developing countries, poverty developing countries, etc. In addition, the Library is a part of the Link+ network to retrieve more specific materials not owned by SMC. The Library’s collection should be adequate for the needs of this course.
   C. Periodical Indices: The Library subscribes to many on-line periodical indices, with some including full access to a wide variety of articles. These include: Academic OneFile, CIAO, Hispanic American Literature Index (HAPI), Academic Search Complete, Lexis-Nexis Academic (for newspaper articles from 1980 to the present) and PAIS International. These indices should be sufficient for the research paper indicated in the syllabus.
   D. Periodicals: Examples of periodicals that the Library subscribes to include: Journal of Third World Studies, Third World Quarterly, Human Rights Quarterly, Journal of Human Rights, and World Politics. These periodicals, amongst many others not mentioned, should be sufficient based on the information received about the course.
E. Media/Videos: The Library subscribes to two online streaming video collections: Academic Video Online (VAST) and Films on Demand. Both offer films relating to globalization, and a variety of so-called “Third-World” issues.

F. Electronic Resources: In addition to the sources already mentioned, it is possible to get general resources relating to these subjects in the following databases offered at the Library:

- Europa: County studies with essays on particular social issues for different regions of the world

G. Additional Periodicals as requested
None

III. Opportunities to Develop Information Literacy Skills
A. This course offers excellent opportunities to develop information literacy skills. The 12-15 page research paper is indicated in the syllabus as being analytical and original. Students choose a case study of a developing country and apply theoretical constructs. They are asked to search for analyses, commentaries, and critiques of the country of choice. It is not explained, but it is certainly hoped, that this would involve research using library resources. I would welcome the opportunity to provide the students with help to find these resources within the library in an assigned library session at the appropriate time during the semester.

Susan Birkenseer
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