

## LIS 510

### Assignment #1 Our Information Grounds (Group Assignment)

Pettigrew (1999, p. 811) defined an information ground as a synergistic “environment temporarily created when people come together for a singular purpose but from whose behavior emerges a social atmosphere that fosters the spontaneous and serendipitous sharing of information” (1999, p. 811). Drawing upon this definition plus the propositions and findings from later information ground studies discussed by Fisher and Naumer (In Press, Fisher et al., 2005), select a setting that in your experience qualifies as an information ground.

Share your information ground ideas with the members of your group. In 5-7 pages, (1) briefly describe the different information grounds that your group identified. Then (2) select the one information ground that your group found of most interest, and discuss it in-depth. Be sure to include a description of:

- the people who frequent that information ground
- the physical setting
- its social aspects
- the types of information shared and in which direction
- how information incidents are created, etc.

Additionally, explain your group’s connection to this place or basis for your observations, address the role of technology at this place, and suggest ways that information exchange could be facilitated through physical and technological inducements. Also answer “How might this information ground be used to disseminate information about particular topics, why and by whom?”

#### **Report:**

- i) **Share your spotlight in class on Oct. 20 (510A) and Oct. 19 (510B)** (Yes, fabulous prizes will be awarded for the most convivial, most unusual and most hazardous IGs spotlighted! Feel free to show pictures, bring props, dress-up like your members, etc);
- ii) **Submit your written report in class on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> (510A) and Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> (510B).** Your reports will be evaluated according to creativity of ideas, and clarity of exposition in report writing and presentation.

#### **Optional:**

To facilitate this assignment, you can interview or observe people at your spotlighted information ground. To observe people, you may adopt the generic observation checklist at the end of this syllabus. If you want to interview people informally, the generic information ground instrument appended to this syllabus may prove useful.