

LIS 510
Assignment #3 Model Comparison or Construction
(Individual Assignment)

For this assignment, choose either Option A or B.

Information scientists use theories or models of information behavior for framing research studies, designing information systems, and as the basis for professional practice. Several such models are covered in this course.

Option A—Model Comparison

For your second assignment, compare two models or theories of information behavior. Your paper should demonstrate how well you understand the key concepts, assumptions, contexts, and practice implications of the frameworks that you choose to compare. It should also demonstrate your ability to analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and critically reflect on the range of ideas presented by the frameworks chosen.

Your assignment will be assessed in terms of:

- clarity of understanding of key concepts embedded in the chosen frameworks;
- clear interpretations based on thorough reading and careful analysis, evaluation and reflection;
- sound comparison of a range of the dimensions of the frameworks; and
- ability to link theory with professional practice.

Bear in mind that the models you're comparing may well have been developed over the course of many years and multiple articles. While it's possible to write a competent model comparison based on the required course readings and Case, your papers can be strengthened by doing further research on the models you examine.

Option B—Model Construction

You may have observed that many writers focus on one or more aspect of information behavior and limit their view to a particular theoretical framework or perspective (system oriented, user oriented, problem oriented, cognitive viewpoint, sense-making theory, social constructionism etc.). Now that you have had an opportunity to study information behavior concepts and the complexity of their interaction, it is time to form your own conception and model.

With reference to the literature, develop your own model of information behavior. Your model may focus on a particular behavior (e.g. information giving), the relationship between particular behaviors (information seeking and information searching) or information behavior in general.

You must identify the variables that most impact the interaction of concepts that appear in your model, and cite any research that focuses on these interactions. You should also explain the theoretical framework out of which your understanding of the concepts arises.

Your paper should consist of the following sections:

- Introduction - explaining and justifying your theoretical orientation
- Key variables that affect the interaction of information behavior concepts and their relative importance.
- Information behavior model. Be sure to provide a written explanation of the model and how it reflects your particular orientation.

Your paper will be assessed in terms of:

- evidence of wide reading;
- ability to explain key variables in the context of a particular conceptual orientation;
- evidence of original thought;
- capacity to summarize the relationship between concepts and variables within a process using a model.

For either Option A or Option B, please include a bibliography of works you've cited and drawn upon in your paper.

LENGTH: As long as it needs to be, but not a word longer.

Due in the instructor's mailbox by 3pm on **Wednesday, Nov. 23.**