**BLS3220 COMMUNITY AND SPECIALIZED INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Short Description**

The course is designed to equip learners with knowledge and skills on how to plan for, design and apply information systems to provide information services to specialized user communities.

**Aim:**

To enable students acquire skills to provide information services in communities in their social setting

**Learning Outcomes**

**Students should be able to:**

* Identify information needs in various community settings
* plan for, design and apply information systems to provide information services to specialized user communities
* Evaluate community information systems and services

**Intellectual and transferable skills**

* Knowledge and skills in identifying information user needs.
* Skills in designing specialized information systems
* Skills of how to disseminate information in communities
* Skills on how to evaluate community information systems and services

**Teaching and Learning Pattern**

By use of lectures, field visits, group discussions and project

**Indicative Content**

Community information needs & services; user needs analysis, and compiling community profiles; components of community information systems, national and international information systems (e.g. AGRIS, MEDLINE, INFOTERA, ARIS, HMIS, etc) identification of information systems in various community settings (e.g. agriculture, health, disabled, children, women, youth, etc.), designing community information systems; information products and services, methods of community information provision; application of ICTs for rural development; Community telecentres, indigenous knowledge capture and recording, information repackaging, backup and translation services, reading promotion, gender issues in community information provision. Evaluation of community information systems and services

**Assessment Method**

Tests, coursework and project will constitute 30% and final examination 70%

**Indicative Sources**

1. Abidi, S A H. 1991. Communication, information and development in Africa. Kampala: Bano Abidi publications.