

# LISSA Linkup #2

## The 709 Issue

**December 2007**

The Official Newsletter of Queens College's Library and Information Studies  
Student Association

Ask and ye shall receive.

Not along ago, I put out the call for Queens College GSLIS students and alums to tell me about their 709 experiences. Not only did I receive a huge variety of responses, I was shocked to find that many GSLIS student do not know about 709. So, before we go into all the submissions, here is a little helpful tidbit:

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### **GLIS 709 Research and Bibliographic Methods**

All students must complete this required course, which includes a research project, only after completion of at least 21 credits. The student's project report must give evidence of ability to integrate knowledge obtained from the individual courses constituting the M.L.S. program. Satisfactory completion of a research project is mandated by the New York State Department of Education for receipt of the M.L.S. degree.

Students who have previously completed a master's thesis may apply to fulfill this requirement by completing GLIS 791: Independent Study. Students who believe they are eligible to take GLIS 791 should consult the Graduate Adviser to obtain approval at the outset of their program.

So...if you are that last student who hasn't heard about this course, now you know.

It should also be said that qcLISSA wants to help you find a 709 partner (or partners). All you have to do is email a us short blurb about your topic, the professor you are taking the course with, or any other information a prospective partner might find helpful. Blurbs can be sent to [HYPERLINK "mailto:qcLISSA@hotmail.com" qcLISSA@hotmail.com](mailto:qcLISSA@hotmail.com). We will post them on the lounge bulletin board, as well as on our MySpace and Facebook pages.

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Now, without further ado:

### **Adventures in 709**

Find a partner you can work with; I really found that two heads are better than one for discussing a concept and also, keeping to deadline. The guilt factor kept me from dropping the ball.

- Kristina Billelo, Former qcLISSA Treasurer

Some suggestions for the 709 project:

1. Start thinking about thesis ideas early on. Pick a couple of subjects and the professors will help you narrow things down.
2. Do a little bit everyday starting the first week of class. That way you will feel less overwhelmed by it all towards the end.

3. Everyone does not need a partner. If you have a good partner then that is great. However, keep in mind if you are disciplined and motivated you can do the project on your own, eliminating the headache of working with someone who does not want to work.

- Salamah Adjoua-Mullen, YA Librarian,  
Gold Coast Public Library

Three of us in my 709 class (Fall '05) talked about our frustrations and the loneliness of our ordeals as we were completing our work. In particular, we shared the additional stress we felt being married or being in a relationship with a significant other, and/or having a family and the demands of the research project. The three of us agreed we felt isolated while trying to juggle all. (Each of us worked alone.)

We suggested to a sympathetic prof that perhaps there be a support system established (perhaps on Blackboard) for people in similar situations to share their feelings and to offer support and suggestions for coping. Having this appear in the newsletter is a start.

Good luck to all of you!

- Linda Greenbaum '07

Some comments about surviving 709:

Avoid, if possible taking 709 during your last semester. Why add more pressure?

If possible, pick the 709 professor who will give you the most structure (i.e. deadlines for each part of the project); yes, this may drive you "crazy," but this will lower your chance of not finishing it within a year.

Attend the 709 orientation session; the sooner you know what to expect, the better.

Start thinking of your topic and arrange your group (if applicable) before the semester begins.

If possible, pick a topic you really enjoy and/or already know something about. Figure everything will take twice as long as you'd expect, especially when dealing with feedback from other people (e.g. in surveys) and going through the IRB process.

Always remember, after it's all done, you will have gained a tremendous sense of accomplishment and self-confidence that will help you in your employment search and your life, in general. You may also have material that can be developed into a publishable work.

-Diane Lipken

(I took 709 Spring 2006. I worked alone (I used the survey method), and I took 11 months to complete my project-I'm a bit slow)

Do not get pregnant during 709.

-Randi Levy, GSLIS alum

How did I survive 709? ... Working alone. Well, firstly, plenty of prayer. Next, I

tried my best to keep up with the timeline. So if chapter one was due on Tuesday, I aimed to get it done by Monday. Next: stay focused. No late night trips to the club/bar. AND most importantly, don't stress it, DO IT! And be sure to mix some fun relaxing activities in the mix. For me, it was crocheting.

I do hope my insight is of use.

-Lassana Magassa, '07, former qcLISSA President

It should be said that the preceding submissions describe only a few of the experiences GSLIS students have had with 709. If you would like to discuss the wonders of 709 with your fellow classmates, please visit qcLISSA at MySpace ([www.myspace.com/qclissa](http://www.myspace.com/qclissa)). We also have a presence on Facebook.

To cap off the 709 portion of the Linkup, I shall quote Professor Karen Smith when I say, "Do not fear 709".

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### **qcLISSA: The Past and the Future**

In the Fall 2007 semester, qcLISSA has held elections and elected a new Secretary (Yea, Mark Alpert!). We've bowled. We've raised money for Project Cicero. We've visited the oldest library in New York.

What is next for qcLISSA? Well, a lot of that is up to you. We have gotten a *few* suggestions, but we would like more. qcLISSA is a student organization. We would rather plan activities and trips that GSLIS students actually want to be involved in. Of course, there will be the obligatory trip to Library of Congress, as well as my personal favorite event, graduation. Several students have suggested a trip to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. We are going to investigate the possibility of touring this Center in Spring 0'8..You can learn more about the Schomburg Center at <http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>. We warmly welcome any other suggestions, which can be sent to [qclissa@hotmail.com](mailto:qclissa@hotmail.com).

This LISSA Linkup was written by Ingrid Abrams, with help from many helpful GSLIS alums.

Visit us online at [qclissa.org](http://qclissa.org) and [myspace.com/qclissa](http://myspace.com/qclissa).

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