“Survivor in the Library: College Information Literacy Skills”
Olds Upton OU321B, W 25 September
“Visions of America: By Ear” (Zaide Pixley)

Our Seminar will participate in one class session called “Survivor in the Library: College Information Literacy Skills.” The session is intended to help you learn research techniques. Your work will be part of a focused research project related to Response Paper II on Sherman Alexie and Reservation Blues.

Part I. Preparation.
☞ You are part of a work team, each assigned a particular topic.
☞ Each team must look for the following four types of resources on your topic:
  i. One article from a print periodical in our library
     (if possible, bring the periodical; if not, Xerox the first page)
  ii. One electronic full text article, available on line
      (bring a reference, a copy of the first page, or a copy of the article)
  iii. One book, in our library (if possible, bring the book; if not, a reference to it)
  iv. One Web site (bring a reference or one printed page)

What you need to do
☞ Working in your group, prepare your part of the assignment. Each person should look for all four types of sources. Come as close as you can to your assigned topic. Then your group should meet to pool your results and choose one to two best items for each category.
   (Please note: you must find something, even if it is not exactly what you were looking for.)
☞ Bring your sources or references to them to the library session, and be prepared to talk about what you found and how you found it.
☞ Bring two copies of a written report from your group (one for your instructor, one for the librarians), detailing:
   a. The process: How did you find your sources? What strategies and resources did you use?
   b. The product: What did you find? We will assemble a class bibliography on Sherman Alexie and the topics outlined below.

Part II. In-class review of your work
☞ During the first 15 minutes of the library session, your group will report on its findings (approximately five minutes per group).
☞ During the next 25 minutes the reference librarians (Robin Rank or Stacy Nowicki) will lead the class in a discussion of your experiences doing research and the information and sources you found.
Part III. Follow-up (in class)

Each group works together -- for ten minutes only -- to find one more source for their topic using online resources demonstrated in class. The reference librarians will choose the resource depending on what you reported.

All groups report to the class on your experiences. Discussion will last about ten minutes. The session will conclude with a one-minute reflection and a tour of the Library at Hicks Center.

Using this information

Next week, use your new knowledge and sources as you are writing your second response paper, on Alexie (a more detailed assignment will be forthcoming).

Group I
Topic: Who is Sherman Alexie? What has he done? What is he known for? What is his particular role in the landscape of American and Native American literature?

Group II
Topic: Who are the Spokane Indians, and where do they live? How do they identify themselves? How do they describe their culture and its values?

Group III
Topic: Alcoholism among Native Americans. How widespread a problem is this? What has been identified as its root causes? What is being done to address it? How is this issue reflected and represented in Native American literature?

Group IV
Topic: Native American rock music. What is it? Who creates it? Who listens to it? How is it disseminated? What topics does it cover? What roles does it play in Native American culture?

Group V
Topic: How has Alexie’s work been received? How can you find critical reviews of Reservation Blues, Smoke Signals, and his other work. What are others saying about Alexie as a writer or as a spokesperson for Native Americans?