

Users and Information Activities in Digital Environments **Användare och informationspraktiker i digitala miljöer**

7.5 credits

Ladok Code: 32LAI1

Version: 2.0

Established by: The Teaching Committee 2013-12-11

Valid from: Spring 2014

Education Cycle: Second cycle

Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Library and Information Science (A1N)

Disciplinary Domain: other

Prerequisites:

Subject Area: Library and Information Science

Grading Scale: ECTS-credits

Content

The course places digital information services in a societal and institutional context and provides an overview of different kinds of digital libraries and services. The course takes as its starting point a user perspective on development and implementation as well as evaluation of digital resources. A constant focus is thus on the conditions of the users and on information practices, and on the role that interaction between digital libraries and services plays for the users communication and learning. In the context of the course the term user relates both to so called capable users who seeks, create, organise and use information in connection to web based tools, and to potential users within the target groups for digital services. The course content can be described as three mutually related focus areas:

- The position of digital resources in people's communication and learning
- Relations between digital resources and various information practices
- Evaluation of digital services with focus on digital libraries

Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course the students should be able to:

- Account for the position of different digital resources in communication and learning processes
- Explain how people in various information practices seek and use information in physical and virtual environments, and of the basis of this understanding be able to plan for development of digital resources and services
- Identify, describe and analyse the potential of digital resources concerning their benefit for library users
- From a user perspective as well as professional perspective demonstrate capability to evaluate the quality and usability of digital services

Forms of Teaching

Tuition is conducted through written assignments, seminars and lectures.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through written assignments, seminars and paper.

Seminars can be replaced by other forms of examination specified in the course syllabus if a student has failed to fulfil the seminar requirements or has been absent.

In the event of changes in course plans students who wish to complete courses can be examined on the basis of the most recent version of the course plan. For courses that are no longer running, students who wish to complete such courses can read all or part of an equivalent course. (This is in accordance with the Director's decision, Dnr 516-13, 11th June, 2013)

Grading scale

EC-scale: F/FX/E/D/C/B/A

Student rights and obligations at examination are in accordance with guidelines and rules for the University of Borås.

Literature and Other Teaching Materials

Bawden, D. & Robinson, L. (eds.) (2012). Introduction to information science. London: Facet Publishing. Chapter 4, 9 and 13 (= 65 p.)

Bishop, A. P., Van House, N. A. & Bittenfeld, B. P. (eds.) (2003). Digital library use: social practice in design and evaluation. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT. Part II and III (= approx. 240 p.).
(Accessible as an e-book through the university library)

Dobrev, M., O'Dwyer, A. & Feliciati, P. (eds.) (2012). User studies for digital library development. London: Facet Publishing. (= 298 p.)

Comment to the above list: in addition to the listed literature, the student is also expected to search for and select relevant literature. approx. 300 pages. In order to make it possible for each student to individually enter deeply into the respective fields of libraries, museums, and archives, lists with recommended readings will be presented in connection to the separate modules of the course.

Student Influence and Evaluation

Students shall be involved in further development of the course and are therefore given the possibility to assess the course in a systematic way by written or oral means. How this assessment falls out and how it affects further development will be reported back to the students.

For course evaluation, the standard University College of Borås rules as of 7 June 2005 apply, dnr 56-02-10.

Miscellaneous

The course is part of the Masters programme: Library and Information Science, Digital Library and Information Services