UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

Digital Library Research Methods
Forskningsmetoder för utveckling av digitala bibliotek
15 credits

Ladok Code: 32LFM1
Version: 1.0
Established by: The Teaching Committee 2012-05-16
Valid from: Autumn 2012

Education Cycle: Second cycle
Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Library and Information Science (A1F)
Disciplinary Domain: other
Prerequisites: Applicants have acquired at least 30 credits at pass level during the first year of the programme.
Subject Area: Library and Information Science
Grading Scale: ECTS-credits

Content
The course includes the following:
- research context and research design, including insight into the relations of quantitative and qualitative methods
- sampling, data collection, interpretation and analysis methods, including statistical methods
- research ethics
- quality assurance in connection with the application of both quantitative and qualitative research methods

Learning Outcomes
After finishing the course the students should be able to:
- explain and apply basic principles of research methods and and perform a critical evaluation of a projected research design
- formulate a research problem; to suggest and apply several methods suitable for the formulated problem. The research problem has to be relevant for development, analysis, evaluation or use of a digital service or a digital product
- select, evaluate and strategically use literature related to the research problem
- use scientific methods for data collection and analysis of complex problems
- explain the relations and uncertainty factors related to statistical analysis and conduct basic statistical tests

Forms of Teaching
Teaching is conducted in the form of individual tasks, lectures, practical experience and exercises.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination
The course is examined through written assignments and seminars.

Seminars could be replaced by another, in the syllabus existing form of examination, if the student didn't acquire pass level at the seminar or have not been present at the seminar during the course.

The student is entitled to five (5) occasions for examination of which at least three (3) should be offered within one year.

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

Literature and Other Teaching Materials

Bryman, A. Social Research Methods. 3rd edition. Oxford: University Press, 2008. 800 s. (Partly = 200 p.)

Denscombe, M. Ground rules for social research. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2009. 224 p.

Egghe, L. and Rousseau, R. Elementary Statistics for Library and Information Service Management. London: Aslib-IMI, 2001. 120 p.

Gorard S. Quantitative methods in social science: the role of nubers made easy. London: Continuum, 2003. 252 p. or Griffiths, D. Head first statistics. Seabastopol, CA: O'Reilly. 2009. 452 p. (Partly = 200 p.)

Jansen, Bernard J. (2006). Search Log Analysis: What It Is, What's Been Done, How to Do It. Library & Information Science Research, vol. 28 (Autumn). PP. 407 -432. (26 p.)

Kvale, Steinar. InterViews: Learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing. 2nd edition. Sage Publication, Inc., 2009. 336 p. (Partly = 150 p.)

Oppenheim, A.N. Questionnaire design, interviewing and attitude measurement. (New Edition) Continuum, 2000. 312 p. (Partly = 150 p.)

Orna, Elizabeth and Stevens, Graham. Managing information for research. Practical help in researching, writing and designing dissertations. Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press, 2009. 270 s. (Partly = 100 s.)

Sharp, Helen, Rogers, Yvonne & Preece, Jenny (2007). Interaction design: Beyond Humancomputer interaction. 2 edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. Chap. 7, 8, 11, 14 (= approx. 206 p.).

Thelwall M. Introduction to Webometrics: Quantitative web research for the social sciences. San Rafael, CA: Morgan&Claypool, 2009. 114 p.

Wildemuth, B. M. (2009). Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited. 421 p.

Student Influence and Evaluation

Students opinions about course are collected systematically and regularly through oral discussion or/and in written form. The evaluation results are presented to the students. The evaluation result serves as a basis for further course development.

See also Policy for course evaluation (Policy för kursutvärdering, Högskolan i Borås 2005-06-07, dnr 56-02-10).

Miscellaneous

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