UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

Master's Thesis
Masteruppsats
30 credits
30 högskolepoäng

Ladok Code: 32LMU1
Version: 1.0
Established by: Board of the department 2010-12-08
Valid from: Autumn 2010

Education Cycle: Second cycle
Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Library and Information Science (A2E)
Disciplinary Domain: other
Prerequisites: Passed 75 ECTC courses in the programme (15 ECTS of those in Digital Library Research Methods) in the Master's programme: Library and Information Science, Digital Libraries and Information Services
Subject Area: Library and Information Science
Grading Scale: ECTS-credits

Content
Students conduct a research and/or development task that is documented in the form of Master's thesis. Main content of the course includes:
- applied research theory and method
- scholarly communication
- research quality
- writing, defence and critical assessment of a research text

Learning Outcomes
After completion of the course the students should be able to:
- Define, formulate and conduct a research task in the digital library programme area
- Identify and formulate a research problem relevant for the programme area
- Relate the problem to earlier research by searching literature, present and assess research literature relevant to their own research problem
- Select and use theoretical framework relevant to the problem
- Select and apply methods and techniques for scholarly design and investigation of the problem
- Conduct thesis related work following the principles of research ethics
- Formulate the results of investigation in a text and also in a product or service by presenting relevant and well defined empirical evidence collected and analysed using selected theories and concepts
- Formulate sustainable conclusions from the conducted investigation. Explain the relevance of their work in the context of research and/or professional activity
- Assess independently and critically the strength and limitations of their research and development
- Consequently apply rules of academic publication and follow other conventions of the thesis genre
- Defend their work during the final seminar and critically assess another thesis as an opponent

Forms of Teaching
Tuition is conducted through seminars, lectures and supervision.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through written assignments, final seminars and thesis assessment.

The student have the rights 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

At least 400 pages of research text and teaching means selected in consultation with a supervisor.

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. The result of this assessment 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 a part of the Master's programme in LIS: Digital Libraries and Information Services.

Students investigate a research problem by practically applying relevant scientific theories and methods, practice written and oral scholarly communication in a Master's thesis that can appear in one of the following forms:

Thesis:
Follows the usual practice of writing a Master's thesis, relates to the needs or professional activity and is relevant for the research area;

or

Application:
Develops an application (an instrument or a service), which is documented, analysed and reflected upon.
In this case a student presents a product that consists of:
1. application (or a (re)presentation that can be examined properly),
2. descriptive documentation of an application (e.g.. technical description),
3. critical analysis that explains the need for and the relevance of the application, earlier research and development relevant to the application, theoretical premises, methods, discussion of the result, further implementation and development, evaluation of conducted work [demonstrating achievements of the learning outcomes of the course].