UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

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

Ladok Code: 32LFM1
Version: 10.0
Established by: Committee for Education in Librarianship, Information, and IT 2021-04-06
Valid from: Autumn 2021

Education Cycle: Second cycle
Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Library and Information Science (A1F)
Disciplinary Domain: other
Prerequisites: Applicants have acquired the courses Digital Library Management (ÖLUL13); Users and Information Activities in Digital Environments (32LAI1) at pass level.
Subject Area: Library and Information Science
Grading Scale: ECTS-credits

Content

The course deals with methods for sampling, data collection, interpretation and analysis, including statistical analysis. Research quality aspects are included, such as validity and reliability when applying quantitative as well as qualitative research methods. Other central concepts in the course are research context, research design, and research ethics.

Learning Outcomes

After passing the course the student should be able to, concerning,

Knowledge and understanding
1.1 account for fundamental research method principles and explain the relation between scholarly problem formulation and research study design

Competence and skills
2.1 formulate a scholarly research problem and, using this as basis, suggest and apply one or several appropriate methods
2.2 identify, review and strategically apply research literature relevant to the problem at hand
2.3 apply research methods for data collection and analysis
2.4 perform analyses with fundamental methods for descriptive and inferential statistics
2.5 account for correlational and uncertainty factors when collecting and analysing data

Judgement and approach
3.1 explain how choices of method and research implementation are conditioned by and correlate with societal phenomena, with regards to e.g. research ethics and disseminating results

Forms of Teaching

Teaching is conducted in the form of written assignments, lectures, practical demonstrations and seminars.

The teaching language is partly, or fully, English

Forms of Examination

- Assignment: Statistical methods
Learning outcomes: 1.1, 2.3, 2.4
Credits: 3,0
Grades: UG

- Seminar: Method
Learning outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5
Credits: 2,0
Grades: UG

- Assignment: Method
Learning outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5
Credits: 8,0
Grades: A-F

- Seminar: Research context and research ethics
Learning outcomes: 3.1
Credits: 2,0
Grades: UG

To pass the course as a whole requires a G grade for *Assignment: Statistical methods*, *Seminar: Method* and *Seminar: Research context and research ethics*, and at least an E grade for *Assignment: Method*. The grade for the course as a whole is determined by the grade for *Assignment: Method*.

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.

If the student has received a decision/recommendation regarding special pedagogical support from the University of Borås due to disability or special needs, the examiner has the right to make accommodations when it comes to examination. The examiner must, based on the objectives of the course syllabus, determine whether the examination can be adapted in accordance with the decision/recommendation.

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

Literature and Other Teaching Materials

Agresti, A. & Finlay, B. (2009). Statistical methods for the social sciences. (4. ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson. (624 p.)

Bryman, A. (2016). Social research methods. (5. ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (824 p.)
or
Bryman, A. (2018). Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder. (3. ed.). Stockholm: Liber. (877 p.)

Horts, M., Davies, S. R. & Irwin, A. (2017). Reframing science communication. In U. Felt, R. Fouché, C. A. Miller & L. Smith-Doerr (Eds.), The handbook of Science and Technology Studies (4 ed., pp. 881-907). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Selected parts, 10 p.)

Vetenskapsrådet (2017). Good research practice. Stockholm: Vetenskapsrådet. (Selected parts, 7 p.)

Wildemuth, B. M. (ed.) (2016). Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science. (2. ed.). Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited. (Selected parts, ca 200 p.)

In addition: literature comprising approx. 400 pages of the student's own choice, relevant to his/her particular specialization.

Student Influence and Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with the current guidelines for course evaluations at the University of Borås, where students' views should be sought. The course evaluation report will be published and disseminated to participating and prospective students in accordance with the current guidelines, and forms the basis for future development of courses and training programs. The course coordinator is responsible for that the evaluation is performed according to current guidelines.

Miscellaneous

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