UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

Digital Library Research Methods

Forskningsmetoder för utveckling av digitala bibliotek

15 credits
15 högskolepoäng

Ladok Code: 32LFM1
Version: 4.0
Established by: The Teaching Committee 2014-06-11
Valid from: Autumn 2014

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 (ÖDM01C); Users and Information Activities in Digital Environments (32LAI1) at pass level.
Subject Area: Library and Information Science
Grading Scale: ECTS-credits

Content

- Methods for sampling, data collection, interpretation and analysis, including statistical methods
- Issues of quality in quantitative and qualitative research method applications
- Research context and research design, including a more profound understanding of the relation between qualitative and quantitative methods
- Research ethics

Learning Outcomes

After passing the course the student should:
concerning *knowledge and understanding*
- be able to account for and categorise foundational research method principles and explain the relation between scholarly problem formulation and research study design

concerning *skills and abilities*
- be able to formulate a scholarly research problem and, using this as basis, suggest and apply one or several appropriate methods
- be able to identify, review and strategically apply research literature relevant to the problem at hand
- be able to apply research methods for data collection and analysis of complex problems
- be able to account for correlational and uncertainty factors when collecting and analysing data

concerning *professional judgement*
- be able to account for correlational and uncertainty factors when collecting and analysing data explain how choice of method and research implementation are conditioned by and correlate with societal phenomena, with regards to e.g. research ethics and making research results publicly available

Forms of Teaching

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

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through written assignments and seminars.
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)

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. 4th edition. Oxford: University Press, 2012. 766 p. (Selected parts = 200 pp.)

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

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

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