UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS

Master's Thesis
Masteruppsats
30 credits
30 högskolepoäng

Ladok Code: 32LMU1
Version: 13.1
Established by: Committee for Education in Librarianship, Information, and IT 2022-11-01
Valid from: Spring 2023

Education Cycle: Second cycle
Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Library and Information Science (A2E)
Disciplinary Domain: other
Prerequisites: The following courses must be approved: *Digital Library Management*, Final written assignment, 5 credits (ÖLUL13: SI18); *Users and Information Activities in Digital Environments,* Paper: Literature review, 3.5 credits (32LAI1: AI03); *Digital Library Research Methods* (32LFM1)
Subject Area: Library and Information Science
Grading Scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

Content

Students conduct a research and/or development task that is documented in the form of a 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

The student performs scientific communication by means of an independent work that may take the form of either a traditional thesis or an application where either a tool or service is developed, well documented and thoroughly analysed reflexively.

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding
1.1 identify and formulate a research problem relevant for the programme area

Competence and skills
2.1 delineate, design and conduct a research task within the area of Library and Information Science
2.2 relate research problems to earlier research by finding relevant literature, and present and assess research literature relevant to a research problem
2.3 select and apply theories relevant for a certain problem area
2.4 select and apply adequate methods for the design and accomplishment of a certain research oriented investigation within a problem area
2.5 formulate the result of an investigation as a research oriented text and possibly even as an application or service, by means of the presentation of well delimited empirical data that has been collected and analysed with selected theories and concepts
2.6 draw scientically valid conclusions from an investigation and make the relevance explicit for a scientific context or/and a certain professional activity
2.7 consequently apply rules of academic publication and follow other conventions of the scientific genres

Judgements and approach
3.1 assess independently and critically the strength and limitations of a scientific investigation
3.2 conduct scientific work following the principles of research ethics

3.3 defend a scientific investigation in a conclusive way and critically be able to scrutinize the conclusiveness of scientific work

Forms of Teaching

Tuition is conducted through seminars, lectures and supervision.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

Examination is conducted through the following means:

• Degree project
Learning outcome 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1 och 3.2
ECTS: 30
Grading: A/F

• Seminar: Defence
learning outcome 3.1, 3.3
ECTS: 0
Grading: U/G

• Seminar: Opposition
Learning outcome 3,1 , 3.3
ECTS: 0
Grading: U/G

For grade E on the entire course, the grade G or E is required for every examination part. A higher grade on the entire course is thereafter determined by the grade on *Degree project*.

Every assignment can be performed in groups of two, in case each participant must document his or her contribution according to decisions of the examinator. This documentation will be the basis for grading of the participant.

The examiner can decide that the student gets an opportunity to make editorial changes to the degree project before setting the final grade. This edited text should be submitted to the examiner within six working days after the student has received the instructions for improvement. After this the examiner sets the grade. The examiner decides the place and the way to submit the edited text. In case the edited text has not been submitted within the set time, the examiner sets the grade on the basis of the submission that provided the grounds for decision about the editorial changes.

If the thesis is failed, the student has a right to a maximum of four (4) re-examination opportunities, for a total of five (5) examination opportunities. At least two (2) opportunities for examination are offered within 12 months after the first set of scheduled thesis defense seminars.

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

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

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 allocated time for supervision is limited to one year from the start of work on the thesis, if not any other written agreement is agreed upon between supervisor and student. A student that is reregistered on the course cannot expect additional supervision.

The course is a part of the Master's programme in LIS: Digital Libraries and Information Services.