



## Research methods 2

### Forskningsmetoder 2

7.5 credits

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**Ladok Code:** C3LFO2

**Version:** 1.0

**Established by:** Committee for Education in Librarianship, Information, and IT 2023-04-18

**Valid from:** Autumn 2023

**Education Cycle:** Second cycle

**Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation):** Library and Information Science (A1F)

**Disciplinary Domain:** other

**Prerequisites:** Research methods 1 (C3LFO1)

**Subject Area:** Library and Information Science

**Grading Scale:** Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

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### Content

The course takes its point of departure in core library and information science questions. Connected to these, the students are expected to develop an understanding of how different research questions require specific methodological approaches. The course provides an overview of central methodological traditions within library and information science as well as examples of specific methodical applications for the collection, production, and analysis of data. Research ethics principles are presented and discussed, as are issues of managing and documenting research data. The various elements of the course are brought together in a construction and defense of a written research plan.

### Learning Outcomes

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

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- 1.1 Argue for the choice of methods for collecting creating and analysing empirical data in a proposed study within library and information science
- 1.2 Explain the relation between formulating a research problem and choosing research design

#### *Competence and skills*

- 2.1 Produce a research plan for a proposed study
- 2.2 Identify some previous studies within the proposed study area, analyse their methods for collecting and analysing data, and draw conclusions on how this affects one's own proposed study
- 2.3 Account for how correlational and uncertainty factors occurring when collecting and analysing data might affect the proposed library and information science study
- 2.4 Produce a research data management plan for the proposed study
- 2.5 Identify areas of research ethical concerns and challenges in the proposed study

#### *Judgement and approach*

- 3.1 Assess the researcher's role in relation to identified research ethical concerns

### Forms of Teaching

Teaching is conducted in the form of:

- Lectures
- Practical demonstrations
- Seminars

The language of instruction is English.

## Forms of Examination

The course will be examined through the following examination elements:

*Seminar: Research plan draft*

Learning outcomes: 1.1, 2.2–2.3, 3.1

Credits: 1

Grading scale: Fail (U) or Pass (G)

*Written assignment: Research plan*

Learning outcomes: 1.1–1.2, 2.1–2.5, 3.1

Credits: 6.5

Grading scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

To earn the level of E for the course as a whole, a G grade for *Seminar: Research plan draft* and an E grade for *Written assignment: Research plan* are required. A higher grade for the course as a whole is determined by the grade for *Written assignment: Research plan*.

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

Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research methods* (5th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (selected parts, ca 300 p.)

or

Bryman, A. (2018). *Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder* (3. ed.). Stockholm: Liber. (selected parts, ca 300 p.)

Vetenskapsrådet (2017). *Good Research Practice*. Swedish Research Council. (selected parts, 25 p.)

or

Vetenskapsrådet (2017). *God forskningssed*. Vetenskapsrådet. (selected parts, 25 p.)

Wildemuth, B. M. (red.). (2017). *Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science* (2nd ed.). Libraries Unlimited. (selected parts, ca 200 p.)

In addition: literature comprising ca 200 pages of the student's own choice, relevant to his/her particular specialization.

## Student Influence and Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with current guidelines for course evaluations at the University of Borås in which students' views are to be gathered. The course evaluation report is published and returned to participating and prospective students in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines, and will be taken into consideration in the future development of courses and education programmes. Course coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the evaluations are conducted as described above.

## Miscellaneous

The course is part of *Master's Programme in Information Science: Digital Environments* and *Master in Library and Information Science, distance education*.

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.