

Research methods

Forskningsmetoder

15 credits

Ladok Code: C3MFM1

Version: 2.0

Established by: Committee for Education in Librarianship, Information, and IT 2022-09-20

Valid from: Autumn 2023

Education Cycle: Second cycle

Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Information Science (A1N)

Disciplinary Domain: Natural sciences 50%, Social sciences 50%

Prerequisites: Degree of Bachelor

Subject Area: Library and Information Science

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

Content

The course takes its starting point in central questions in information science and explains in connection with these how different research questions require specific methodological approaches. The course deals with central concepts and questions in theory of science and provides an overview of the dominant methodological traditions in information science. Focus in this regard is placed on methodology rather than on specific research methods. Furthermore, it is discussed how research methods have been described and applied based on articles, essays and other genres of academic writing. In addition, the course presents and discusses principles for and application of ethics in research.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- 1.1 Identify and explain methodological approaches that are relevant to the research field of information science.
- 1.2 Explain and discuss concepts in theory of science.
- 1.3 Explain the connection between the formulation of a scientific problem and the choice of research design.

Competence and skills

- 2.1 Describe the process of selecting and applying methods for the collection, production, and analysis of empirical material.
- 2.2 Analyse the collection, production, and analysis of data in empirical studies, in relation to research purpose and chosen research method.
- 2.3 Based on a formulated research problem, propose and describe one or more suitable methods.
- 2.4 Carry out analyses using methods for descriptive and inferential statistics.
- 2.5 Account for factors of correlation and uncertainty when collecting and analysing data.

Judgement and approach

- 3.1 Identify and problematise research ethical positions in research studies.
- 3.2 Value the researcher's role as research subject in relation to identified research ethical dilemmas.

Forms of Teaching

Tuition is conducted through

- lectures
- seminars

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through the following examination elements:

Seminar: Research methodology

Learning outcomes: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 3.1

Credits: 3.0

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

Seminar: Research plan

Learning outcomes: 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 3.2

Credits: 1.0

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

Written assignment: Statistical methods

Learning outcomes: 2.4, 2.5

Credits: 4.0

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

Written assignment: Research plan

Learning outcomes: 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 3.2

Credits: 7.0

Grading scale: A–F

For the grade E on the entire course, the grade E is required on Written assignment: Research plan, the grade Pass (G) on Seminar: Research methodology, the grade Pass (G) on Seminar: Research plan, and the grade Pass (G) on Written assignment: Statistical methods. A higher grade for the entire course is thereafter determined by the grade on Written assignment: Research plan.

When the course plan is changed, students who wish to finalise course components from a course instance will be examined based on the new content and structure of the course. When the course has ended, students who wish to finalise course components can follow all or parts of another 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

The course literature is in English.

Bryman, A. (2016 or later). Social research methods (5 ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (747 p.)

Lane, D. M. (Ed.) (n.d.). Online statistics education: An interactive multimedia course of study. Rice University. (692 p.)
[Electronically available]

Wildemuth, B. M. (Ed.) (2017 or later). Applications of social research methods to questions in information and library science (2 uppl.). Santa Barbara, California: Libraries Unlimited. (433 p.)

Self-selected literature totalling approximately 100 pages.

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 included in Master's Programme in Information Science: Digital Environments

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.