



Introduction to qualitative research methods within Library and Information Science

Introduktion till kvalitativa forskningsmetoder för biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap

2.5 credits

Ladok Code: FBIQL25

Version: 1.0

Established by: The Research education committee in Library and Information Science 2022-02-14

Valid from: Autumn 2022

Education Cycle: Third cycle

Research Subject: Others

Prerequisites: Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Priority for PhD students.

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

Content

This course prepares doctoral students to work with qualitative methods relevant to library and information science research. It introduces a selection of qualitative methods and, in consultation with the participants, explores some of them in more depth. The course is organised into seminars and workshops that encourage participation, experimentation, and discussion. The course offers theoretical and empirical perspectives on contemporary discussions about qualitative methods.

Learning Outcomes

The overall goal is to offer participants the intellectual tools necessary to use and assess specific qualitative methods, either for application in their own research or for critical discussion of the work of other researchers.

Knowledge and understanding

- to demonstrate familiarity with the general conditions for the use of qualitative research methods, including their relationship to quantitative methods
- to demonstrate the ability to reflect on knowledge requirements from qualitatively oriented research projects

Skills and abilities

- to discuss the application of qualitative methods to create an understanding of specific research problems within the subject with adequate and correct terminology
- to select and use relevant methods of data or material collection and analysis and understand how they relate to each other
- to select and use relevant tools or software and make informed decisions about their use for specific purposes

Evaluation ability and approach

- to be able to assess the application of qualitative methods to research problems in library and information science
- to be able to identify the need for additional knowledge and formulate what expertise is required to carry out an investigation using a specific qualitative method
- to consider limitations and ethical challenges with selected qualitative methods

Forms of Teaching

Teaching takes place in the form of introductory lectures, seminars, and independent reading of relevant literature.

The language of instruction is English. However, instruction in Swedish may occur.

Forms of Examination

The course is examined through continuous active participation and at least one presentation in a seminar.

Oral examination: continuous active participation and seminar presentation 2.5 credits. Grading scale: Pass/Fail

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 predominantly in English. Some parts can be in Swedish (in consultation with the participants). The course literature will be communicated about in a separate list of required course literature.

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

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.