



## Introduction to research methods and methodology within library and information science

### Introduktion till forskningsmetoder och metodologi för biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap 2,5 hp

2.5 credits

2.5 högskolepoäng

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**Ladok Code:** FBIRM25

**Version:** 1.0

**Established by:** The Research education committee in Library and Information Science 2021-09-27

**Valid from:** Spring 2022

**Education Cycle:** Third cycle

**Research Subject:** Others

**Prerequisites:**

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

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### Content

This course prepares doctoral students to work with quantitative methods of relevance to library and information science. It introduces a selection of quantitative methods and, in consultation with 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 of quantitative methods.

### Learning Outcomes

The overall goal is to offer participants intellectual tools necessary to use and assess specific quantitative 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 quantitative research methods, including their connection with qualitative methods;
- to demonstrate the ability to reflect on knowledge requirements from quantitatively oriented research projects

#### *Skills and abilities*

- to discuss the application of quantitative methods to create an understanding of specific research problems within the subject with adequate and correct terminology
- to select and use relevant tools, coding languages or software programs at an appropriate level;
- to choose and use relevant methods for data collection and analysis and understand how they relate to each other

#### *Evaluation ability and approach*

- to be able to assess the application of quantitative methods to research problems in libraries and information science
- to be able to identify the need for additional knowledge and formulate what expertise is required to conduct a survey using a specific quantitative method
- to consider limitations and ethical challenges with selected quantitative methods

### Forms of Teaching

The teaching takes the form of introductory lectures, seminars, and independent reading of relevant literature.

The primary language of instruction is English. Some components (e.g. reading) can be in Swedish or other Scandinavian languages in consultation with the participants.

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 Methods**

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

Oreskes, Naomi (2019), Why trust science? Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Lury, Celia & Wakeford, Nina, eds. (2014). Inventive methods: The happening of the social. London and New York: Routledge.

+ X pages 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.