



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1BO410 Bibliotek, information, samhälle I: biblioteks och informationssektorn, 7.5 credits

Libraries, information, society I: the library and information sector

Main field of study

Library and Information Science

Subject Group

Library and Information Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2017-01-25

Revised 2022-06-08 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.
The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- account for libraries' social mission on the basis of current Swedish legislation and international policies;
- explain the basic kinds of activity in the most common kinds of library, in terms of user relations, organisation of collections, and societal knowledge development;
- describe the main features of libraries' historical development;
- account for and problematise the emergence of the modern librarian profession, its central values and its main duties,
- discuss libraries' roles in relation to current developments within, among others, the culture and education sectors.

Content

The course gives an introduction to the societal role and historical development of libraries. Current Swedish library legislation as well as international guidelines for libraries constitute the basis for all parts of the course. Different kinds of library, such as national libraries, university libraries and libraries at other institutions of higher education, public libraries, school libraries, hospital libraries, and government libraries are discussed in terms of their respective roles in society and their specific user relations. Libraries' historical development is discussed from a power theoretical perspective, focusing on libraries' relation to societal change as regards culture, economics and ideology. Specific focus lies on the librarian profession and its historical and current development. The role of today's librarian is discussed in relation to current organisational development, increasing digital resources and tools, and political and economical changes of norms. The theoretical and historical components of the course are supplemented with a work placement.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and text-based seminars. The course also includes a compulsory work placement of 1.5 credits.

Teaching is normally conducted in Swedish, but parts may be conducted in English.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is examined through an individual assignment (5 credits) and oral seminar assignments (2.5 credits). In order to receive Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the student must have received this grade for the individual assignment. Supplementary examination of the work placement is carried out in consultation with the teacher responsible for the course and the contact person at the placement.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified in writing when the course starts. For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examinations at the first and second levels at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

Course Evaluation

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Blomgren, Roger, Michnik, Katarina & Sundeen, Johan (the latest edition). *Biblioteksgeografin: en antologi om biblioteksväsende och biblioteksforskning*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (365 p. in selection)

För det demokratiska samhällets utveckling: bibliotekslagen enligt lagstiftaren (the latest edition) Stockholm: Svensk Biblioteksörening. 45 p.

Hansson, Joacim & Wisselgren, Per. (eds.) (the latest edition). *Bibliotekarier i teori och*

praktik – utbildningsperspektiv på en unik profession. Lund: BTJ förlag. 100 p in selection.

Lankes, R.David. (the latest edition) *The New Librarianship Field Guide*. Cambridge, MT: MIT Press. (150 p. in selection)

Lerner, Fredrik. (the latest edition) *The story of libraries: from the invention of writing to the computer age*. (150 p. in selection)

Limberg, Louise & Hampson Lundh, Anna. (the latest edition) *Skolbibliotekets roller i förändrade landskap: ens forskningsantologi*. Lund: BTJ Förlag. (70 p. in selection)

Profession, utbildning, forskning: biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap för en stärkt bibliotekarieprofession (the latest edition). Eds. Joacim Hansson, Åse Hedemark, Ulrika Kjellman, Jenny Lindberg, Jan Nolin, Olof Sundin & Per Wisselgren. Stockholm: Kungliga Biblioteket. (11 p. in selection).

Thomas, Barbro (the latest edition) *Bibliotekslagstiftning: perspektiv och exempel*. Stockholm. Svensk Biblioteksörening. (100 p. in selection).