



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1BO520 Biblioteks- och informationsetik I: professionsetik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

1BO520 Library and Information Ethics I: Professional Ethics, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Library and Information Science

Subject Group

Library and Information Science

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-02-07

Revised 2023-02-21 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised type of instruction. The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

Prerequisites

30 credits in Library and information science.

Objectives

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

- describe current central ethical guidelines in the field of library science, in Sweden and internationally,
- explain the role of professional ethics in daily work in the library and information sector,
- account for basic theories on ethics and their relation to guidelines for professional ethics,
- problematise the relation between guidelines for professional ethics and daily work at a library,
- analyse different types of ethical dilemma common in the library profession.

Content

This course discusses basic applications of professional ethics in general and in the

library sector in particular. This includes theoretical studies of current ethical guidelines and literature discussing library ethics and professional ethics, as well as practical studies of ethical dilemmas in actual libraries. The practical studies are conducted through interviews with librarians and study visits. In addition to giving a general introduction, the course thus also discusses relevant issues concerning democracy, personal integrity and user influence in libraries.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, text-based seminars and field-study assignments. Teaching is normally delivered in Swedish, but parts may be delivered in English or other Scandinavian languages.

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 of 4.5 credits and oral seminar assignments of 3 credits. In order to receive Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the student must have received this grade for the individual assignment. 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.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bibliotekens internationella manifest (the latest edition). Stockholm: UNESCO/Svensk biblioteksförning. 50 p.

Den femte statsmakten: bibliotekens roll för demokrati, utbildning, tillgänglighet och digitalisering (the latest edition). Stockholm: Kungl. Biblioteket/Nationella biblioteksstrategin. Selection, 100 p.

Gorman, Michael (the latest edition) *Our enduring values: librarianship in the 21st century*. Chicago: American Library Association. 240 p.

Hansson, Joacim (the latest edition). Att göra rätt och vilja väl – om lagstadgade värdegrunder och bibliotekariers professionsetik. I: Hansson, J. & Wisselgren, P. (red.), *Bibliotekarier i teori och praktik: utbildningsperspektiv på en unik profession*. Lund: BTJ Förlag. 19 p.

Lankes, David (the latest edition) *The new librarianship fieldguide*. Cambridge, MT: MIT Press. Selection, 100 p.

Rachels, James & Rachels, Stuart (the latest edition). *Rätt och fel: introduktion till moralfilosofi* (3. uppl.). Lund: Studentlitteratur. Selection, 100 p.

Schwarz, Eva (the latest edition) *Bibliotekariens praktiska kunskap: om kunskap, etik och yrkesrollen*. Stockholm: Stockholms regionbibliotek. 150 p.