



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

1BO540 Biblioteks och informationsetik II: informationsetik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

1BO540 Library and information ethics II: information 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 2018-10-03

Revised 2023-01-18 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2023

Prerequisites

60 credits in Library and information science, including the course 1BO520 Library and Information Ethics I: Professional Ethics, 7.5 credits, or the equivalent.

Objectives

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

- account for central concepts and issues in the research field of information ethics,
- identify issues within the field using current examples,
- analyse ethical perspectives of questions concerning the availability and use of information and data,
- discuss the relation between access to and use of information and data as a political problem.

Content

This course discusses current issues such as the management of and access to information and data from an ethical perspective. Information ethics as a research field

is presented, and central issues are applied in practical examples. The course focuses on three themes: (1) the organisation and availability of information and data, (2) the use of information and data, including questions concerning personal integrity, and (3) information poverty. Within each of these themes, practical examples are analysed in relation to ethical principles and legislation. The course also discusses how problems related to information ethics are handled in the library sector. Practical parts are included, in which relevant problems related to information ethics are discussed through the retrieval and analysis of relevant source material.

Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures and text-based seminars. Teaching is normally delivered in Swedish, but parts of the teaching may be delivered in English.

Examination

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

The course is examined through seminar assignments of 3.5 credits and a group assignment of 4 credits.

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 when the course starts. Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

During the implementation of the course or in close conjunction with the course, a course evaluation is to be carried out. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are to be promptly presented as feedback to the students who have completed the course. Students who participate during the next course instance receive feedback at the start of the course.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Dijk, Jan Van. *The Digital Divide* (the latest edition). Cambridge, UK; Medford, MA: Polity, 184 p.

Floridi, Luciano (the latest edition) *The ethics of information*. Oxford: Oxford Univ.Press. 150 p. In selection.

Gran, Anne-Britt, Booth, Peter & Bucher, Taina. (2020) To be or not to be algorithm aware: a question of a new digital divide?, *Information, Communication & Society*, 24(12), p. 1779-1796. 17 p. DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2020.1736124

Haider, Jutta & Sundin, Olof (the latest edition). *Algoritmer i samhället*. Lund: Lund University. 35 p.

Helgason, Jon (the latest edition). Truth, knowledge, and power. Censorship and censoring policies in the Swedish public library system. In Erik Erlanson, Jon

Helgason, Peter Henning & Linnéa Lindsköld (eds.) *Forbidden Literature: Case studies on censorship*, p. 227-243. 16 p.

Mehra, Bharat & Rioux, Kevin (eds.) (the latest edition) *Progressive community action: critical theory and social justice in Library and Information Science*. Sacramento, CA: Library Juice Press. 100 p. in selection.

Noble, Safiya Umoja (2018). *Algorithms of oppression: How search engines reinforce racism*. New York: New York University Press. ISBN 9781479837243. 100 p. in selection.

Papacharissi, Zizi (ed.) (the latest edition). *A networked self and platforms, stories, connections*. New York: Routledge. 214 p.

Tripodi, Francesca Bolla, Stevenson, Jade Angelique, Slama, Rachel & Reich, Justin (2023). Libraries Combating Disinformation: From the Front Line to the Long Game. *The Library Quarterly*, 93(1), p. 48-71. 23 p.

Literature for practical parts of the course chosen by the student, ca. 300 p.