Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap, distans, 180 högskolepoäng
Library and Information Science, distance, 180 credits

Level
First Level

Date of Ratification
Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2020-06-01

The programme syllabus is valid from spring semester 2021

Prerequisites
General entry requirements.

Description of Programme
The programme aims to provide the student with good theoretical knowledge and practical skills in library and information science, in order to be able to work professionally within the library and information sector. The programme meets the general entry requirements for studies at the advanced level.

Library and information science is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary subject, which covers issues to do with librarians and their role in society, as well as information, collections and documents, and how these are used by people. Library and information science comprises a number of different areas, such as, for instance, information seeking, document management and organisation of knowledge.

The programme prepares the student for work in all kinds of libraries, in the information-communication sector, and in different kinds of educational departments and organisations. For students who already work within these sectors, the programme may serve as professional development in a knowledge intense and changing field.

Objectives
Central degree goals according to the Higher Education Ordinance
Knowledge and understanding

For a dgree of Bachelor, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge in and an understanding of the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, knowledge of applicable methodologies in the field, specialised study in some aspect of the

field, and awareness of current research issues.

Skills and abilities
For a Degree of Bachelor the student should be able to:

- search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information for a formulated problem, as well as discuss phenomena, research questions and situations critically,
- identify, formulate and solve problems independently, and to complete tasks within given time frames,
- present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing, in dialogue with different audiences, and
- use acquired knowledge to work independently within the area that the programme concerns.

Judgement and approach
For a Degree of Bachelor the student should be able to:

- make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects,
- discuss the role of knowledge in society and people's responsibility for how it is used,
- identify their own need for further knowledge and for developing their competence.

Content
Programme overview

The main field of study is library and information science. The programme is distance-based and comprises a total of six years of part-time (50 %) study. Semesters one to eight consist of courses within the main field of study (library and information science), and from the fifth semester and on, students are required to have completed all previous courses in order to be allowed to continue. During semester nine to twelve, the student chooses a number of elective courses. These may include courses at university level that the student has already taken outside the programme. At least 30 credits of the elective courses should comprise studies outside the main field of study. The elective courses open up for individual specialisation.

The programme is grounded in a number of different problem areas:

- libraries and their users in different contexts. Here the role and historical development of libraries are studied, along with library users' conditions and opportunities. The library profession and other professional roles in the field are also discussed.
- knowledge and information practises from a pedagogical perspective. This relates to knowledge and skills within the field of media and information, as well as to mediation of literature and activities that promote reading.
- organisation of knowledge, concerning processes and systems for knowledge, information and document management. Examples of such processes are cataloguing, classification, indexing and mark-up of media data.
- library and information ethics. Here, professional ethical dilemmas for librarians as well as information ethics in general are studied.
- the study of methods used in library and information science focuses on theories

and methodologies that are relevant for research within the subject, as well as for investigative work in a relevant professional field.

Semester 1:
Introduction to studies in library and information science, along with libraries and the library profession; practice placement.

Semester 2:
Introduction to knowledge organisation and classification, information seeking, and media and information literacy.

Semester 3: Courses that deal with the building of collections and the librarian's mediating role.

Semester 4: Courses on culture policies, knowledge organisation and meta data.

Semester 5: Courses dealing with professional ethics, bibliometrics and scientific communication.

Semester 6: Courses dealing with the research fields of library and information science, as well as libraries' place in a digitalised society.

Semester 7:Current research issues, including an independent project and scientific theory and method.

Semester 8: Degree project of 15 credits.

Semester 9: Elective courses

Semester 10: elective courses

Semester 11: elective courses

Semester 12: elective courses

At least 30 credits of the elective courses should fall outside the main field of study (library and information science).

Courses in the programme

Semester 1:

1. *Studying library and information science*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course gives an introduction to academic studies in library and information science, including basic knowledge about the role of the librarian and the library as an institution. The course also introduces central areas of library and information science, and basic theoretical knowledge relevant for these areas.

2. *The library; the librarian; the book*, 7.5, G1N*
This course advances students' knowledge about libraries and the library profession in Sweden, historically as well as today. The development and history of different kinds of library, as well as libraries' management, commission and target groups are discussed. A week's placement practice is included in the course.

Semester 2:

1. *Knowledge organisation I: Introduction to knowledge organisation and classification*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course deals with how knowledge and information are organised in libraries and in society today. Libraries' practices concerning classification and indexing, focusing on users, are problematised.

2. *Information seeking*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course analyses how people in different contexts search for, handle and value information. The concept of media and information literacy is in focus, and source critical approaches, as well as different systems for information seeking, are discussed from the perspectives of students, users and professionals.

Semester 3:
1. *Library collections and media*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course deals with different perspectives on libraries' collection development and supply of information. It focuses on different libraries' internal and external conditions for developing their collections of media in relation to the needs of different target users. Media development, cultural heritage and digitalisation, along with their significance for library collections, are also analysed. The course comprises practice placement components.

2. *Library policy*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course deals with policy issues for libraries and other institutions that mediate culture. Culture, library, education and literature policy processes and structures are problematised and discussed in terms of their relation to what libraries do. The composition and management of different organisations are also discussed, from the perspective of organisation theory.

Semester 4:
1. *The librarian as a mediator*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course focuses on the librarian's role as a mediator of information, skills, experiences and culture from a library-pedagogical perspective. It deals with tools and pedagogical perspectives on the mediation of literature and promotion of reading in relation to different user groups in practical library work. The reference interview is also discussed. The course comprises practice placement components.

2. *Knowledge organisation II: Metadata in theory and practice*, 7.5 credits, G1N*
This course deals with different ways of creating and using metadata in order to describe and organise knowledge information and documents. Focus lies on issues to do with metadata management, in the library sector as well as in cultural heritage institutions in general.

Semester 5:
1. *Scientific communication and bibliometrics*, 7.5 credits, G1F
This course discusses general structures for scientific communication, focusing in particular on the development of strategies for publication, and questions to do with open access. Specific focus lies on bibliometrics as theory and evaluative practice.

2. *Ethical perspectives on library work*, 7.5 credits, G1F*
This course focuses on ethical dilemmas and challenges for the library profession. Basic

ethics is studied in order to see how it is expressed in values and professional ethics codes in the library and information sector, historically and today.

Semester 6:
1. *Documents in theory and practice*, 7.5 credits, G1F*
This course introduces and discusses the field within library and information science referred to as *document studies*. Different kinds of document are studied, focusing on their role in social, institutional and organisational practices and processes.

2. *The library in a digitised world*, 7.5 credits, G1F*
In this course, different perspectives are discussed in order to understand and explain the impact of digital media, digitisation processes and digital information distribution on society in general, and libraries in particular. The course also deals with issues to do with information ethics and knowledge organisation in a digital world, in relation to the library as an institution.

Semester 7:
1. *Current research problems*, 7.5 credits, G2F*
This course provides an overview of library and information science as a discipline, and its various areas of research. Principles and methods for creating systematic overviews of literature are introduced, and the student creates an independent written asignment in the form of an overview of literature in a delimited area of library and information science.

2. *Theory and method in library and information science*, 7.5 credits, G2F*
This course deals with scientific theory and method in library and information science. It also discusses ethical approaches and good research practice.

Semester 8:
1. *Independent project in library and information science*, 15 credits, G2E*
This course deals with the planning of a project in relation to a deadline; the design and realisation of a scientific investigation; and the creation of a text that is scientifically stringent and accurate. Students also practise acting as opponents and respondents in argumentation. The end product of the course is an independent project.

Semester 9:
Elective courses, 15 credits, or studies abroad.

Semester 10:
Elective courses, 15 credits, or studies abroad.

Semester 11:
Elective courses, 15 credits, or studies abroad.

Semester 12:
Elective courses, 15 credits, or studies abroad.

*=course within the main field of study.

Societal relevance

The programme includes field studies and guest lectures. There are furthermore three practice placements, each of which corresponds to one week's studies. Practice placements are integrated into the following courses:

Semester 1: The library, the librarian, the book
Semester 3: Library collections and media
Semester 4: The librarian as a mediator

In their practice placements, students get the opportunity to use knowledge acquired in their theoretical studies in practice, in an institution within the library and information sector.

Internationalisation
There is opportunity to study abroad within the programme in semesters nine to twelve. Students may study abroad at any of the universities with which Linnaeus University has agreements. Students who wish to conduct their field work abroad may apply for a grant. The students are given the opportunity to partake in established international collaborations within the department, such as Erasmus+ and the iSchools organisation, for various kinds of exchange studies. International perspectives on library work and library and information science are furthermore included in the literature used in the programme courses.

Programme perspectives
The perspectives of sustainable development, gender, diversity, equal opportunity, broad knowledge and internationalisation are dealt with in the programme via the course content, the composition of literature lists and the design of examinations. As regards the perspective of sustainable development, this is brought up in connection with reflections on societal goals for library and information work. Gender, diversity and equal opportunity are brought up in discussions of the library profession, information seeking and organisation of documents. The perspective of broad knowledge is emphasised in discussions on life-long learning in relation to library users as well as the library profession. Throughout the programme, there is also focus on leadership and organisational development in line with society, adapted to the specific conditions that are characteristic of the library and information sector.

How these perspectives are integrated and examined is clear from the respective course syllabi.

Quality Development
The programme is led by a programme coordinator who is responsible for pedagogical quality, development and coordination. An Education Council, consisting of student and teacher representatives, along with external members, work on long-term, strategic development. The Education Council also coordinates the work with planning and following up on measures taken to ensure that courses within the programme, as well as the programme as a whole, is of high quality. The programme is evaluated on a yearly basis, in speech and in writing, together with teachers and students, in relation to course evaluations, among other things. The Education Council also evaluates the content and relevance of the programme. Compilations of course and programme evaluations are archived at the department. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for the follow-up and development of programmes. An Education Council prepares programme syllabi and other aspects concerning quality, such as the right to award degrees and the range of programmes offered, before the Faculty Board makes the final decisions. Revised and new syllabi are prepared in Syllabus Committees before the

Head of Department or the Dean makes the final decision about approval. The range of courses and programmes offered is evaluated regularly in accordance with the Faculty's plan for systematic quality work.

Degree Certificate

After completing their studies, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance in the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local Qualification Ordinance, the student may apply for a degree. Students who have completed the distance-based programme for library and information science may obtain the following degree:

Bachelor of Arts (main field of study: Library and Information Science)

The degree certificate is issued in two languages (Swedish and English). A Diploma Supplement in English is enclosed with the degree certificate.

Other Information

Students should arrange practice placements themselves, with some support from teachers in the programme. Any costs for travels in connection to practice placements are paid by the student.