



FLI3115 Information Searching

3.0 credits

Informationssökning

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for FLI3115 valid from Spring 2011

Grading scale

G

Education cycle

Third cycle

Specific prerequisites

Participants must have obtained a university degree in chemistry, chemical engineering or biochemistry, and have started a postgraduate course.

Students should be able to express themselves fluently in English, and have a working knowledge of chemical terminology in English. Without such knowledge, students will be unable to formulate appropriate and applicable search profiles and to evaluate the search results.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- * critically analyse and formulate his or her information needs, and
- * select - from several alternatives - the most effective way of satisfying those needs.

Course contents

More specifically, on completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- * describe the variety of information sources available to the chemist and explain the usefulness of each
- * select the most appropriate source(s) of information for a particular need, based on a knowledge of content and coverage
- * employ the full compass of search possibilities (and new ones which may be developed) provided by each source in order to obtain the most relevant results
- * utilize a variety of user interfaces, including those with which the student has no prior experience
- * critically evaluate the relevance, credibility and source of information which is retrieved
- * utilize post-processing tools for the management of search results, and
- * employ established norms for references and citations.

Disposition

The course deals with the principles and methods for computerised information retrieval with a focus on chemistry. It is partly web-based, with three practical sessions. The course covers the choice of suitable information sources and how they may be used in a most effective way. Reference management and the creation of bibliographies are also included.

Course literature

Course literature is listed in the description of the course available in BILDA and Student web, and includes:

- * "Information Retrieval When? Where? How?", KTHB's introduction to web-based information retrieval
- * "Guiding students away from plagiarism", a KTH handbook (selected chapters)
- * Handouts.

Equipment

Access to a computer with an Internet connection and web browser is an absolute requirement.

Examination

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

A pass mark requires

1. satisfactory results in the assignments (patent search and self-study course in BILDA) and the written examination,
2. satisfactory search report from the student's own research area, and
3. attendance at all three practical sessions.

Note: the assignments and written examination shall all be done individually by each student; group work is not allowed.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.