LI106N Information Searching 1.5 credits

Information Searching

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for LI106N valid from Autumn 2008

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Technology

Specific prerequisites

Students should have knowledge within a given area equivalent to at least three years' full-time university studies, and must be able to express themselves fluently in English in that area. Without this knowledge, they will be unable to formulate appropriate and applicable search profiles and to analyse 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:
 * present and describe the various channels of communication in the sciences and in research and the importance of each
 * use the most important databases within his or her area of study, as well as other electronic and print sources of information
  - for both simple and complex searches
  - using a wide variety of user interfaces, including those with which the student has no   prior experience
 * navigate through the major computer-based catalogues in international public libraries as well as the major bibliographic networks, in order to best utilise these and other library resources
 * when necessary, obtain documents through sources other than the library
 * critically assess the source, content and reliability of information which is retrieved.

Course literature

Course literature is listed in the description of the course available in Bilda, as well as on the Internet, and includes:
 * "Into Info", a system of programs for learning about how to obtain and handle information in engineering, science and medicine
 * "Information Retrieval, When? Where? How?", KTHB's introduction to information searching.
 * Handouts.
 * "VÄGAR TILL VETENSKAPLIG INFORMATION" by E Kihlén, A Lantz 3:e Rev Uppl, 2005 may also be used, provided that the student can read and understand Swedish.

Equipment

Access to a computer with an Internet connection and web browser is an absolute requirement. Students should obtain a library card from the KTH Library before starting the course.

Examination

• LAB2 - Laboratory Work 2, 0.8 credits, grading scale: P, F

• LAB1 - Laboratory Work 1, 0.7 credits, grading scale: P, F

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 satisfactory results in
1. Exercises and assignments,
2. Examination, and
3. A written report of searches carried out in an area chosen by the student.

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.