PhD student support at the Library - from generic courses to contextual learning

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Time for Change
Flexible support structure vs. traditional library course

- Malmö University (background)
- Why we wanted to change
- Method
- Project results
- Which choices did we make
- Pros and cons
- Questions and feedback
MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

- Founded in 1998
- 9th largest higher educational institution in Sweden
- 5 different faculties
- 5 research centres
- 24,400 students
- 220 PhD students
- 80 professors
Subjects for PhD studies

- Odontology
- Biomedical science
- Health and Society
- Sport sciences
- Science of Educations
- New media, public spheres and forms of expression (NMOG)
- Migration, Urbanisation and Societal Change (MUSA)
WHY CHANGE?

• Timing
• Flexible support structure
• Several postgraduate programmes rather than one
• Contextual learning
• PhD students – both students and staff
• Implementing the whole Library
• We had more to offer
METHOD

• Inspired by action research
• Smaller organizational change based on user needs
• May 2015 - Aug 2016
• Reflective, agile approach / iterative process

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A RESEARCH PROCESS

- INITIATING WORK
- APPLICATION
- START A RESEARCH TASK
- COLLECT MATERIALS
- PROCESS
- ANALYZE
- WRITE

COMMUNICATE RESULTS AND MAKE DATA ACCESSIBLE
Library seminars for doctoral students

We coordinate the library seminars for doctoral students, please contact us:
- Sara Kjellberg
- Martin Vall
- Kristina Ericson
- Jonas Fransson

- 16/2 - Searching in Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar
- 24/2 - Keep track, get organized [reference management]
- 28/2 - Searching in educational science databases
- 13/3 & 22/3 Systematic Search Strategies
- 23/3 - RefWorks for systematic searching
- 19/5 - Keep track, get organized [reference management]
- TBA (May 2017) - Research data management
- TBA - Be visible – Research ID:s and Social networks for academics

http://mah.se/library/doctoralstudents
LIBRARY ORGANISATION

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

INFORMATION RESOURCES & SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

FORUM ON SYSTEM MANAGEMENT
TEAM SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING BIBLIOMETRICS
TEAM INFORMATION RESOURCES & COLLECTIONS
TEAM METADATA & ACCESS OF RESOURCES
TEAM COMMUNICATION
TEAM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
TEAM USER SERVICES
TEAM TEACHING & LEARNING

45 EMPLOYEES
3 LIBRARIES

TEACHING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

COORDINATING PHD SUPPORT
Choices, pros and cons

- The courage to pause a well-established and highly appreciated course
- Individual support AND opportunity for PhD community
- Working method

- Flexible and broader support content – involving the whole Library/use our expertise
- Progression is more difficult
- Marketing a new concept is hard!

- We “know” our PhD students better
- We have learned a lot!

- Better contact with others involved in PhD support
- Evaluating is important!
- Coordinating team – one year
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Questions and feedback?!