



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ABMF10, Digital Cultural Heritage, 7.5 credits

Digitalt kulturarv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-12-09 (U 2024/778). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a general qualification for first or second-cycle studies.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study *Specialisation*

- G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- give a basic account of how cultural heritage is digitised in the ALM sector (Archives, Libraries, Museums),
- give an overall account of the media history of digitisation and its current and future relevance for the ABM sector (Archives, Libraries, Museums),
- describe the impact of digitisation of cultural heritage on the activities of cultural heritage institutions in terms of preservation and accessibility,
- explain how digital cultural heritage is changing the public use of collections,
- discuss the possibilities and limitations of digitising cultural heritage,

Competence and skills

- problematise issues of governance, accountability, decision-making and democracy in relation to the digitisation of cultural heritage,
- demonstrate an understanding of various types of cultural heritage digitisation by reflecting on their usefulness,
- apply theories of history and cultural studies in relation to the digitisation of cultural heritage,

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically analyse how digitisation of cultural heritage involves a shift in the meaning of the media,
- discuss and consider the ethical aspects of digitisation of cultural heritage,
- discuss the digitisation of cultural heritage in relation to future opportunities and challenges,
- reflect on the potential risks of commercial actors digitising cultural heritage.

Course content

The course provides an overview of how and why cultural heritage is digitised. The focus is on Swedish conditions, but the course also includes several international examples. Different modalities of cultural heritage are discussed - text, image, audio, video - as well as the media history of digitisation. Attention is paid to copyright issues.

The course emphasises institutional and policy frameworks that have encouraged and regulated the digitisation of cultural heritage. Both large and small national heritage institutions are in the spotlight; special attention is paid to national media conversion centres as well as commercial operators. The course emphasises that all digitisation involves a form of media conversion. Emphasis is placed on the work process of digitising cultural heritage - from creation and preparation to scanning or photographing using different technologies. In addition, the course provides an introduction to several of the platforms and databases used as interfaces for both digital history and digital cultural heritage.

The course discusses different strategies for digitisation such as mass digitisation, digital preservation and the use of and research on digital cultural heritage. The opportunities and challenges of digitisation for cultural heritage institutions are highlighted. Management and technical aspects and issues of responsibility, decision-making and democracy in relation to digitisation and AI are also explored.

Course design

Teaching on the course consists of lectures, 2-3 seminars, 1-2 group exercises and 1-2 study visits.

Seminars, group exercises and study visits are compulsory. Valid absence from compulsory elements is compensated for by a supplementary assignment later in the course.

Assessment

Assessment of the course is based on a written take-home assignment.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and knowledge equivalent to 30 credits in archival science, library and information science or museology, or other historically orientated subject such as ethnology, history, cultural history.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information material.