

**ABMM52, Library and Information Studies: Information
Searching, Reference Services and Communication, 7.5 credits**
*Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap: Informationssökning och förmedling, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-11-08 and was last revised on 2025-06-04 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/486). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Information Studies specialisation of the Master of Arts programmes in Archival Studies, Library and Information Studies, and Museum Studies. It is also offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a general degree at both first and second-cycle level.

Language of instruction: Swedish

The language of instruction is primarily Swedish, but teaching in other Scandinavian languages or English may occur.

Main field of study

Culture and Information Studies for
Archives, Libraries and Museums

Specialisation

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle
course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of relevant theories in library and information science in relation to information seeking and dissemination,

- describe and critically reflect on the conditions of the reference work and user education and implementation in different domains,

Competence and skills

- independently be able to plan search strategies and technologies appropriate for a number of various types of information retrieval system and carry out searches and relevance assessments of the documents found,
- independently be able to conduct conversations about information habits, reference tools, and information sources with a representative of a specific target group, based on a theoretical analysis of the user's information practices,
- reflect and problematise the relationship between librarian and users based on both practical and theoretical experiences,

Judgement and approach

- discuss what consequences the increasing proportion of digital documents as well as the internet as arena have for the communication activities of librarians,
- compare and reflect on how reference work varies depending on the target group and different types of libraries,
- critically reflect on ethical aspects on conveyance and on the relationships between users, information systems and librarians.

Course content

The course studies mediation in the form of reference work and user instruction based on research on the relationship between users and information systems. Mediation in libraries is also examined from an information retrieval perspective. With the help of knowledge in these areas, as well as relevant theory, the student acquires both theoretical and practical knowledge of reference work. In one component, the student is to conduct reference interviews, search for information, and evaluate this information with users. The course also discusses and problematizes the relationship between librarian and user, and how this relationship is influenced by new media and new information and communication technology.

Course design

Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures, laboratory sessions, supervision, seminars, and study visits. Between 2–4 laboratory sessions, 2–4 study visits, and 2–3 seminars are mandatory components of the course. These laboratory sessions are different from the ones included in the examination.

Approved absences from mandatory components are compensated with substitute assignments later during the course.

Assessment

The course is examined through individual laboratory exercises (1 credit), an assignment in systematic literature searching (1.5 credits), and a referencing assignment (5 credits). The laboratory exercises included in the examination are specific components that are assessed and graded separately from the laboratory exercises conducted as part of the course activities.

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

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed the course ABMM44 or have obtained equivalent knowledge.

Further information

- The course is given at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The course replaces ABMM41 Library and Information Studies: Information Searching, Reference Services and Communication.
- 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 materials.