



Information Management for Knowledge Creation

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The word cloud is made on www.wordle.net

Aim

Gain knowledge about PhD candidates interaction with information

- Information behaviour, -use and -management
- Library services and teaching
- Knowledge of various aspects in writing and publishing

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Aim

Based on the findings educational content will be developed

- Online instructional modules in English
- The modules aim to make a contribution to the overall PhD programme training in transferable skills.



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About the project

A collaboration between five Nordic libraries:

- Bergen University Library
- Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration
- Bergen University College Library
- Oslo University Library
- Aalborg University Library

Funded by the National Library in Norway



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Project phases



1. Mapping
2010-2011

2. Design of
instructional
modules
2012

3. The web sites will
be launched in
January
2013



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Methods

Literature review



Focus group interviews

- PhD candidates
- PhD supervisors



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Results

- PhD candidates' citation practice indicates
 - Major use towards freely available online sources and a declining use of printed material, partly missing authoritative sources
 - In-text acknowledgements and the reference list lack precision
- Database tools may support a critical evaluation and make research networks visible
- Performance indicators have become easily available and influence the behaviour
 - Towards more co-publishing
 - Towards open access publishing



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Results

- The information behaviour differs within different research groups and disciplines
 - The factor that influences this practice the most is the PhD project's research questions. Interdisciplinary research questions set the highest demand to information competence, because the source material complexity increases when interdisciplinary approaches are applied



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Results

- As a starting point of inquiry, researchers favour simple Google-searching
 - It is considered discrediting to display insufficient information skills in a professional context

These findings indicate that the candidates still need to further their scholarly experiences and skills



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Analysis of interview data

1. Identifying emerging themes.
2. Text items – understanding their meaning
3. Deduce categories from transcribed interviews – extract and clarify meaning (Kvale, 1997).



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Main emerging themes

- Independence
- Time and efficiency
- Literature: access and overview
- Challenges posed by citing practices
- Publishing
- Evaluating literature/sources/channels for publishing
- Libraries research support



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Selected findings

- **Need for efficiency**
 - Self-sufficiency: a strong norm
 - Time management: signals self-sufficiency
 - Use of information resources should help increase the efficiency
- **PhD candidates use of information services**
 - Habits established prior to PhD work – base for further learning
- **Perception of skills**
 - High self confidence, but insecurity related to gaining an overview
 - Libraries and librarians: operate according to a "deficit model"



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Selected findings II

- **Publishing**
 - Discipline based variation: formal requirements vs informal pressures
 - Random supervision



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Selected findings III

- **Reported criteria for successful supervision (libraries)**
 - Integration of Information literacy with other research skills
 - Make visible the complexities involved in information searches
 - Address multidisciplinary
 - Tailored services
 - Market services better
 - Strengthen knowledge about research processes



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Conclusions

- The candidates' ability to deal with information could be improved by better knowledge of databases and use of their functions
- Extended knowledge about obtaining and evaluating information will lead to a rise in quality, especially when it comes to the literature review chapter in a PhD thesis
- The demand for quick results can result in changes in research practice within some subject areas



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Conclusions

- PhD candidates meet unclear expectations in regard to research performance and skills
- There is a tendency to regard the PhD candidate's information skills and information literacy as deficient. However, the candidates themselves seem to feel confident, but indicate a lack of advanced skills in information management



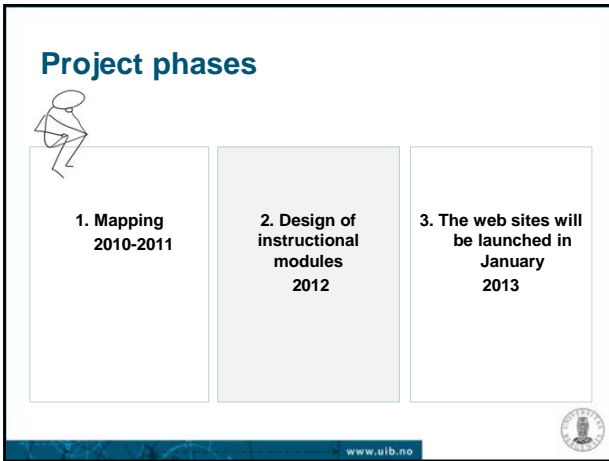
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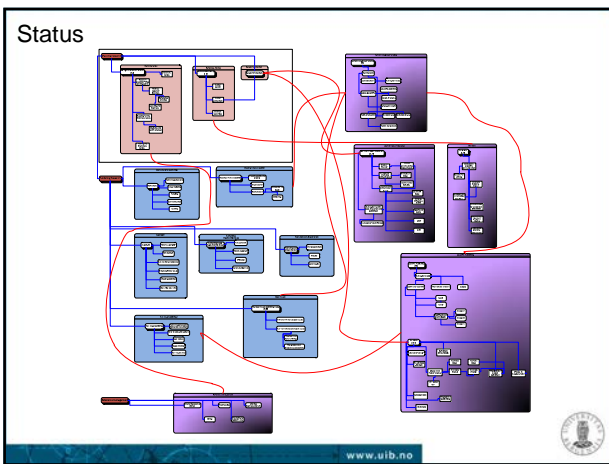
Conclusions

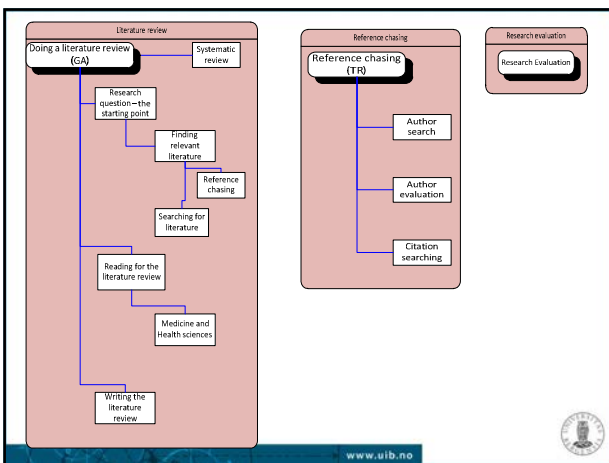
- To improve their academic skills they need some form of training.
- Since the library holds first hand knowledge about databases, search features, analyzing tools and reference techniques, it will be relevant to develop educational material for this group.



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2. Knowledge based

Digital modules



- *Illustrating typical challenges*
- *demonstrating procedures*
- *explaining principles*
- *provocing reflections and decisions*

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Thank you for your attention ☺

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Main challenges?

Research support in the library, which services should the library provide?

.....

.....

.....

... could also be our own competencies

- the dilemma
- Identifying needs for the future / recruitment
- Changing the organisation



Sharing

- But what do you think of when we are talking about “research support” in a library context?
- What do you do for your researchers?



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Content on a course for PhD students at the Library for psychology, education and health

13:00 - 16:00

Searching and managing Scholarly literature

08:30 - 10.15

Citation and publishing statistics

Publishing and copyright issues

10:45 - 12:30 Parallell sessions

The interdisciplinary reference database Web of Science

The medical reference databases PubMed and Embase

Basic EndNote (reference management tool) - no previous knowledge required

Experienced EndNote for candidates with a basic knowledge of the tool



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