



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Study Board of
Communication and Digital Media
Fall 2017

Semester description: 9th semester Information Studies, Aalborg

About the semester

School: School of Music, Music Therapy, Psychology, Communication, Art and Technology (MPACT)
Study Board: Communication and Digital Media
Study regulation: Regulations and curriculum for the Master's Programme in Information Technology (Information Studies):
http://www.fak.hum.aau.dk/digitalAssets/153/153006_ka_information-studies_2016_hum_aau.dk.pdf

Semester framework theme

The framework theme for 9th Information Studies is "Information Studies in practice", thus focusing on the practical reality of Information Studies. The main component of the module is a three-to-four-month practice oriented work placement, where students collaborate on solving an issue on the basis of Information Studies in a relevant company, organisation or institution. The idea is for students to develop a knowledge and understanding of the specific work reality that this programme is directed towards

Semester organisation and time schedule

The semester comprises the following modules

- "Information Studies in Practice", project module, 25 ECTS
- "Research Methodology", course module, 5 ECTS

Semester coordinator and secretariat assistance

Semester coordinator: Ann Bygholm (ann@hum.aau.dk),
Secretary: Pia Knudsen (piak@hum.aau.dk)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (KDM_KA_INFORMATIONSVIDENSKAB + INFORMATIONSAKITEKTUR_AAL)

General Edit 

Course Description: Research Methodology

9th. Semester Information Studies and Information Architecture

Coordinator: Ann Bygholm

Teachers: Thomas Ryberg, Marianne Lykke, Tanja Svarre Jonasen, Heilyn Camcho & Ann Bygholm

The course in research methodology is meant to support student's theoretical and methodological reflection in relation to their practice in internship. The primary goal of the course is however to prepare students for planning and conducting a large research project within the field of Information Studies/ information Architecture as part of their completion of their master thesis. The course is therefore designed for student to complete a thesis application based on thorough theoretical and methodological reflections.

The course is planned as 6 late afternoon session. The sessions will be accessible both online (using adobe connect) and F2F in a classroom (room 5.237)

The course will consist of sessions focusing on research fundamentals, research styles and a thesis synopsis seminar where students present and get feed back their theisis synopsis

The course will start **4th of October at 2 pm**. You can login to the course room at adobe by the following link: (to be announced later).

If you use the online access a headset is recommended.




Basic literature is Alan Bryman: *Social Research Methods* (2016) (5th edition - earlier versions can also be used). Oxford University Press.



Additional literature appears from the description of the individual course sessions. A recurrent issues in the course is to reflect the specific topics on the course to the students on-going thesis planning. Small assignments revolving around the relation between the specific topic of the individual course sessions and the evolving topic of the students master thesis will be part of the course.


Deadline for handing in the assignment for the course in Research Methodology: **1. December**

  discussion forum 

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  Announcements 

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 Topic 1 

Edit 

Research fundamentals 1 - Research styles

v/Thomas Ryberg

Literature

	Mandatory	Sec. lit.	Dig.
	lit.	no of p.	upload
	no of p.		

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Topic 2

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Research fundamentals 2 - Research design and research questions

v/ Marianne Lykke

Literature

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	lit.	no of p.	upload
	no of p.		

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Topic 3

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Research fundamentals 3 - Conducting Systematic Literature Searches

v/Tanja Svarre Jonasen

The lecture presents different approaches to literature searching. We will apply the principles for searching in relevant library databases and use your preliminary thesis ideas as point of departure.

Literature

	Mandatory	Sec. lit.	Dig.
	lit.	no of p.	upload
	no of p.		
Large, Tedd & Hartley (2001). Information Seeking in the Online Age: Principles and practice. München: Saur. Ch 6.		35	

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Topic 4

[Edit](#) ▾

Research Styles 1 - Action Research

v/ Heilyn Camacho

The aim of this session is to introduce participants to concepts, models, methods and different perspective of action research. As the session is 2 hours long, it does not intend to develop long theoretical discussion of action research (but will provide an theoretical overview) but more to give the basic tools for a participant start the designing of an action research project. The agenda for the session is as follow:

- Brief history of action research
- Different "schools" of action research
- Principles of action research
- The action research process
- Roles of action researchers
- Designing of an action research project

Literature (the session takes as assumption that students are familiar with Kurt Lewin theory as it was part of 8th semester literature):

Literature

	Mandatory lit. no of p.	Sec. lit. no of p.	Dig. upload
Hult, M., & Lennung, S.-A. (1980). Towards a definition of action research: a note and bibliography. <i>Journal of Management Studies</i> , 17, 241-250.	11		
Pasmore, W. (2001). Action Research in the Workplace: the Socio-technical Perspective. In P. Reason & H. Bradbury (Eds.), <i>Handbook of Action Research</i> . London: Sage Publications	11		
Susman, G., & Evered, R. (1978). An Assessment of the Scientific Merits of Action Research. <i>Administrative Science Quarterly</i> , 23, 582-603.	23		
Yacine Rezgui, (2007) "Knowledge systems and value creation: An action research investigation", <i>Industrial Management & Data Systems</i> , Vol. 107 Issue: 2, pp.166-182.	22		
	77		

Note: the aim of the literature is to get solid based on the original AR literature. Rezgui's article aims to give an example of AR project. However, more examples will be provided during the session.





✚ Topic 5

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Research Styles 2 - case studies

v/Ann Bygholm

In this session we discuss issues in case study research such as:

- deciding when it is relevant to do a case study,
- different kinds of case studies
- how to design a case study

Literature

	Mandatory lit.	Sec. lit. no	Dig. upload
	no of p.	of p.	
Bent Flyvbjerg: "Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research". Qualitative Inquiry, Vol. 12(2): 219-245. Sage. Doi: 10.1177/1077800405284363. Online access via aub.aau.dk.	26		
Klein, H. K., & Myers, M. D. (1999). A set of principles for conducting and evaluating interpretive field studies in information systems. MIS Quarterly Vol. 23 No. 1, p 67-94, March 1999	28		
Robert Yin: "Case study research: Design and Methods", SAGE: Thousand Oaks, Calif. 2014. kap 1+2	70		
	124		



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Topic 6

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Thesis synopsis seminar

v/ Thomas Ryberg, Marianne Lykke, Tanja Svarre, Heliyn Camcho a d Ann Bygholm

As a preparation for this session the students hand in a version of their thesis-synopsis. In the session they will present and get feed-back from the teachers. (hand-in-date will be announced later)



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