AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Studyboard for Humanistic Informatics
Fall 2014

Semester description

7th semester Information Architecture

Semester details School: School of Communication, Art and Technology (CAT) Study board: Studyboard for Humanistic Informatics Study regulation: http://www.fak.hum.aau.dk/digitalAssets/88/88235_ka_informationsarkitektur_2014.pdf
Semester framework theme This master module focuses on design of information architecture (IA) for communication and human-computer interaction at web sites, social network, portals, online communities, intranets, e-learning systems. User-centred design that takes into account the users as well as technology. The students will build on communication theory from the bachelor education regarding genres, metaphors and patterns, and will learn to observe, analyze and interpret Information Architecture across media and organizational boundaries, and to understand why and how categorizing and knowledge organization has formatting impact on information handling and knowledge sharing.
Semester organisation and time schedule This semester consists of three overall courses; Categorization (5 ECTS), IA rhetorics and ecology (20 ECTS), and ICT technology: Databases (5 ECTS). Categorization represents the theoretical perspective of categorization and cognition, whereas IA rhetorics presents core elements in designing information architecture. The ecology perspective was earlier represented by following the course “Design theory and method” with 7th semester HCI. However, as this course has moved to a different semester, the IA students follow (relevant) parts of the 7th semester HCI course “User practice” instead. Hence, the ecological perspective on this semester is represented by an extension of the user perspective. Lastly, ICT technology represents the technological angle on IA in that the students are presented with database principles.
Semester coordinator and secretariat assistance Anchorperson: Tanja Svarre. Course coordinator: Henrik Schärfe (Categorization), Tanja Svarre (IA rhetorics), NN (Databases). Secretariat assistance provider: Louise Mette Møller.

Module description

Module title, ECTS credits
Kategorisering/Categorization
5 ECTS

Location
7th semester
Study board Humanistic Informatics

Module coordinator
Henrik Schärfe

Type and language
Study module
English

Objectives
Aim: the module enables the student to obtain:
- Theoretically founded approaches to classical and modern forms of categorization.
- Theoretical understanding of relations between cognition and categories
- Practical competences in analyzing and developing categorical structures
- Practical competences in qualifying information architectures in terms of categorization

Academic content and basis
Cf. semester description

Scope and expectations
The module equals 5 ECTS points corresponding to a student workload of app. 137,5 working hours.

Module activities (course sessions etc.)
The module takes places once a week, 2 hrs., on Wednesday mornings, starting on September 3rd.
Point of departure is the book: 'Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things' George Lakoff, University of Chicago Press 1987.
Readings will be supplemented by lectures, student presentation of chapter notes, and practical assignments.

Examination
The course is completed by:
A) A 7-day home assignment (pass/fail) in which the student will account for theoretical and practical aspects of categorization
B) Attending at least 80% of classes and answering given assignments

Module description

Module title, ECTS credits
Informationsarkitekturens retorik og økologi/The Rhetoric and Ecology of Information Architecture
20 ECTS

Location
7th semester
Study board Humanistic Informatics

Module coordinator
Tanja Svarre (modulkoordinator), Marianne Lykke, Sandra Burri

Type and language
Project module
English

Objectives
Modulet Informationsarkitekturens retorik og økologi har et omfang på 20 ECTS-point og er placeret på uddannelsens 7. semester.
Der undervises parallelt i retorik, design, vidensorganisering og læring i informationsøkologier. I løbet af modulet opbygger den studerende forståelse af, hvorfor informationsarkitektur spiller sammen med brugbarhed, oplevelse og læring. Den studerende bygger videre på sit bachelorfundament af viden om genrer, metaforer og mønstre og lærer at observere, analysere og fortolke informationsarkitektur på tværs af medier og organisatoriske grænser samt at forstå, hvorfor og hvordan kategorisering og vidensorganisering spiller afgørende ind på informationshåndtering og vidensdeling. Retorikkens klassiske brændpunkt, det systematiske samspil mellem form og indhold, er her i fokus. Modulet afsluttes med et projekt, der danner udgangspunkt for en mundtlig eksamen. Den studerende kan vælge et individuelt projekt i stedet for et gruppeprojekt.
Faglige kompetencer (generel uddannelse): Modulet skal give den studerende faglig baggrund for at forstå, hvorfor og hvordan informationsarkitektur spiller sammen med brugbarhed, oplevelse og læring, på basis af faglig kompetence inden for:

- retorik
- design
- vidensorganisering og læring i informationsøkologier.

Praksiskompetencer (generel uddannelse): Den studerende skal gennem modulet opnå kompetence til at:

- analysere og vurdere informationsarkitekturers begrebskonsistens, kommunikative effekt og udviklingspotentiale med henblik på evaluering og benchmarking af sammenlignelige informationsarkitekturer
- reflektere over egen praksis og dokumentere refleksionen i semesterprojektet.

Faglige kompetencer (PD-linjen): Modulet skal give den studerende faglig baggrund for at forstå, hvorfor og hvordan informationsarkitektur spiller sammen med brugbarhed, oplevelse og persuasion, på basis af faglig kompetence inden for:

- retorik og etik
- persuasivt design (herunder relevant it-teknik)
- kategorisering
- vidensorganisering i informationsøkologier.9

Praksiskompetencer (PD-linjen): Den studerende skal gennem modulet opnå kompetence til at:

- kategorisere og udvikle begreber
- analysere og vurdere informationssystemer ud fra retoriske og etiske principper
- reflektere over egen praksis og dokumentere refleksionen

Academic content and basis
Cf. semester description

Scope and expectations
The module equals 20 ECTS points corresponding to a student workload of app. 550 working hours.

Participants
7th semester IA students

Prerequisites for participation

BA-level in studies accepted by the study board of Humanistic Informatik

Module activities (course sessions etc.)

The module is scheduled with 30 hrs distributed on 10 days (see schedule below).

Tuesday 2/9 9.15-12
Lecturer: Tanja
Introduction

- Semester
- Information architecture

Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 1-4
Toms (2002)

Tuesday 9/9 9.15-12
Lecturer: Tanja
Organization systems
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 7
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch. 6 & 9

Tuesday 16/9 9.15-12
Lecturer: Tanja
Navigation
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 5-6
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch. 7-8
Kalbach, p. 2-118

Tuesday 23/9 9.15-12
Lecturer: Tanja
Search
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 7
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch. 5-6 & 9

Friday 26/9 8.15-11
Lecturer: Marianne
Labelling
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 7
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch. 5-6 & 9

Tuesday 30/9 8.15-11
Lecturer: Marianne
Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS)
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 7
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch. 5-6 & 9

Tuesday 7/10 9.15-12
Lecturer: Sandra
Rhetorics/persuasive
Readings:
Hasle (2006)
Pertou & Iversen (2009)

Tuesday 21/10 9.15-12
Lecturer: Sandra
Rhetorics/persuasive
Readings:
Hasle (2006)
Pertou & Iversen (2009)

Tuesday 4/11
Lecturer: Tanja

Mobile/social search
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 8-10

Tuesday 11/11
Lecturer: Tanja
Users
Readings:
Russel-Rose & Tate ch. 1-4
Morville & Rosenfeld, ch.3

Examination

En intern mundtligt prøve i: Informationsarkitekturens retorik og økologi (The Rhetoric and Ecology of Information Architecture). Prøven foregår som en samtale mellem den/de studerende, eksaminator og censor med udgangspunkt i det skriftlige arbejde, hvad enten dette er udarbejdet individuelt eller i samarbejde med andre. Projektrapporten/det skriftlige arbejde betragtes som gruppens fælles ansvar. Projektrapporten udgør grundlaget for eksamination og bedømmelse, og der foretages en samlet bedømmelse af projektrapporten og den mundtlige præstation. Rapporten må højst være på 15 sider pr. studerende, højst 20 sider ved individuelle projekter. Prøvetiden er normeret til 20 minutter pr. studerende samt 10 minutter pr. gruppen. 30 minutter ved individuelle prøver. Der gives en karakter efter 7-trinsskalaen.

Module description

Module title, ECTS credits
It-teknik, databaser/IT Tecnology: Data Bases
5 ECTS

Location
7th semester
Studyboard for Humanistic Informatics

Module coordinator

Type and language
Study module
English

Objectives

The course gives students a basic knowledge about databases and search engines and their use in knowkedge organisation sa well as practical skills in:

- Choosing a data modelling approach and carrying out data modelling on a limited data set
- Defining appropriate search functions
- Reflecting on own practise and documenting this reflection.

Academic content and basis
Cf. semester description

Scope and expectations
The module equals 5 ECTS points corresponding to a student workload of app. 137,5 working hours.

Participants
7th semester IA students

Prerequisites for participation
Relevant bachelor's degree

Module activities (course sessions etc.)
Block 1: Introduction to databases

Introduction to databases and search engines.
Introduction to structured data and SQL.
Exercises in creation of databases in MySQL.

Readings block 1:
Ullman (2011), chapter 4.pdfUllman (2011), chapter 4.pdf
Ullman (2011), chapter 5.pdfUllman (2011), chapter 5.pdf
Tutorials etcTutorials etc
7sem-DB-B1-01-Intro.pptx7sem-DB-B1-01-Intro.pptx
7sem-DB-B1-02-Databases.pptx7sem-DB-B1-02-Databases.pptx
7sem-DB-B1-03-DataModelling_updated.ppt7sem-DB-B1-03-DataModelling_updated.ppt
7sem-DB-B1-04-Exercises_updated.pptx7sem-DB-B1-04-Exercises_updated.pptx
7sem-DB-B1-05-LinuxIntro.pdf7sem-DB-B1-05-LinuxIntro.pdf
7sem-DB-B1-06-Day1summary+Exercises.pptx7sem-DB-B1-06-Day1summary+Exercises.pptx
Data_Modeling_by_Example_Vol_1.pdfData_Modeling_by_Example_Vol_1.pdf
examples.sqlexamples.sql

Block 2: Databases on the Internet

Introduction to databases on the Internet
Introduction to PHP.
Exercises in making database content available on the web using PHP.

Readings - block 2:
Ullman (2011), chapter 1.pdfUllman (2011), chapter 1.pdf
Tutorials etc.Tutorials etc.
7sem-DB-B2-01-Intro.ppt7sem-DB-B2-01-Intro.ppt
7sem-DB-B2-02-FirstProgram.ppt7sem-DB-B2-02-FirstProgram.ppt
7sem-DB-B2-03-Lab.ppt7sem-DB-B2-03-Lab.ppt

Block 3: Search engines

Introduction to searching text.
Exercises in search engines (indexing, search and display)
Chapters 1-3 from http://www.search-engines-book.com/
In chapter 3 read up to page 247, and only if you are extremely math happy page 256-265.

Readings:
chapter1.pdfchapter1.pdf
chapter2.pdfchapter2.pdf
chapter7.pdfchapter7.pdf
Slides etc:
7sem-DB-B3-01-IRmodels.pptx7sem-DB-B3-01-IRmodels.pptx
7sem-DB-B3-02-LabSessionIR.pdf7sem-DB-B3-02-LabSessionIR.pdf
7sem-DB-B3-03-IRevaluation.pptx7sem-DB-B3-03-IRevaluation.pptx
7sem-DB-B3-04-Exam.pptx7sem-DB-B3-04-Exam.pptx

Examination
The test takes the form of a set take-home assignment to be handed in after 3 days.