A partner in research and learning – library staff and doctoral students

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What kind of support do they need from the library?

A doctoral student has booked a librarian!

Which challenges do our librarians face?

How do we strengthen our abilities to support doctoral students and researchers?
Outline

1. Research support
   - Brief remark

2. Empirical findings
   - Selected findings

3. Changing roles

4. Developing research support
   - Modules
   - Involvement

5. Questions

1. Research support

   • Hot topic for libraries

   • Libraries versus research communities

   • In a library context?
1. Research support

Some challenging contextual factors:

- Funding regimes and international competition
- Multidiciplinarity: Areas rather than disciplines
- From print to digital publications: globalisation, critical evaluation
- Reduced gap between formal and informal scholarly communication
- Competencies

2. Empirical findings

Information Management for Knowledge Creation (2010 – 2013)
The project receives funding from The National Library of Norway

- Literature review
  - 55 studies selected and reviewed
- Qualitative research
  - 3 focus group interviews (21 doctoral-students)
  - 2 focus group interviews (15 supervisors)
2. Empirical findings

PhD candidates and the research process: The library’s contribution

2. Litteraturstudien
Gisle A. Antogn, Geirisdór Gettexts, Ingrid Carle, Eivind Folkestad, Kristin Marie Hovestad, Frode H. Andersen Knob, Susanne Møller, Thorve Skogen, Hilde Westbye

3. Fokusgruppenstudie
Hilde Roit, Eivind Gullbekk, Inge Ringvold, Tove Rullestad, Maria Carme Torras i Calvo

2. Empirical findings

Information behaviour of PhD-students (2009-11)

- Wien, Copenhagen and Oslo
- Survey: 4453 svar
- Qualitative interviews (20 informants)
2. Empirical findings

Selected findings

• Need for efficiency
  – Self-sufficiency: a strong norm
  – Time management
  – Use of information resources

• Perception of skills
  – High self-confidence, but insecurity related to gaining an overview; databases are complex systems
  – Libraries and librarians: operate according to a "deficit model"

2. Empirical findings II

Selected findings II

• Publishing
  – Disciplin based variation: formal requirements vs informal pressures
  – Random supervision
2. Empirical findings

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 multidisciplinarity
  - Tailored services
  - Strengthen knowledge about research processes

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2. Empirical findings

Selected findings IV

- **Information literacy as process**
  - Google applied in early stages of research projects, specialised databases dominate in later stages
  - Reading vs searching: reference chasing
Summing up challenges

• Competition
• Efficiency
• Complexity and multidiciplinarity
• Changes in scholarly communication

3. Changing roles

• The librarians and the doctoral students
  – The deficit model (Green og Macauley, 2007; Green, 2010)

  – “doctoral students are sophisticated information-seekers and users of complex information sources, who are not dazzled by technology and who are acutely aware of critical issues such as authority and authenticity in research and evidence-gathering”. (JISC, 2012, p. 67)
3. Changing roles

Professional practice: From action to interaction

Librarians
- Librarianship
- Searching
- Functionalities
- Publication channels
- Publication processes

Doctoral students
- Research methodology
- Vocabulary

Results/deliveries

4. Developing research support

Digital modules

- Mapping research
- Publishing research
- Reference chasing
- Choosing where to publish
- Bibliometrics

• Illustrating typical challenges
• Demonstrating procedures
• Explaining principles
• Provoking reflections and decisions
4. Developing research support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With doctoral students/researchers</th>
<th>Involving ALL stakeholders</th>
<th>With Librarians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empirical research</td>
<td>Correspond with our universities’ aims and challenges</td>
<td>Teaching material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usability testing</td>
<td>Part of a coherent library strategy</td>
<td>Opening up topics for librarians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminology</td>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing terminology</td>
<td>– Exploring methodology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding topics</td>
<td>– Exploring topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory PhD courses</td>
<td>– Exploring media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting small?</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your attention 😊

- Please visit us at [http://inma.b.uib.no](http://inma.b.uib.no)
References

- http://www.colourbox.com/
- Gullbekk, E., Rullestad, T., & Torras i Calvo, M.-C. (2012). Ph.d.-kandidater og forskningsprosessen: bibliotekets bidrag (Vol. 7). Oslo: Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo. (forthcoming in English)