Information Studies’ Research and Education at the University of Oulu, Finland

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Content

• Research in Information Studies

• Information Studies’ Degree Programme

• Master’s Degree Programme in Science Communication
Research Areas

- Health information behavior and practices
- Evaluation research
- Science communication
- Information and knowledge management
- Documentation and librarianship
Research on Health Information Practice and its Impact

- Since 2008 in multidisciplinary projects
- Focus on information behaviour and its ability to increase the impact of health information in health communication in preventive health care related to health disorders and diseases caused by lifestyle (e.g. obesity and diabetes type 2).
- Studies include:
  - Developing and testing a tool for measuring Health Information Literacy (HIL)
  - Augmenting behaviour change models with concepts of information behaviour and practices in the context of physical activity/exercise and weight maintenance
  - Tailoring of health information on the basis of physiological measures of health status and information behaviour
  - Creating patient value in care of obese children and youth at two Finnish university hospitals

Funded by the Academy of Finland, EU-EARK, TEKES, Ministry of Education, etc. and conducted together with Åbo Akademi University and various faculties of the University of Oulu and Deaconess Institute of Oulu.
Evaluation Research

- Evaluation of usability in different development projects of web services
- Evaluation of the impact of a development project of Library 2.0 services
- Usability evaluatoin methods, link analysis, analysis of attention data in social media, survey

Funded by European Social Fund, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
Knowledge Management

- Renewal and personal mastery. A case study approach

- Knowledge creation in organization settings in the light of Gadamer’s philosophy and his concept of play
Research Topics and Themes of Documentation and Librarianship

• Semiotics, facet analysis, FRBR, and other structural approaches within bibliography and content representation

• Knowledge organisation and communicational structures of fictive and other special documentation

• Hermeneutics within bibliographic and educational librarianship
Science Communication (1): Silenced Researchers

- Silenced Researchers - The Case of VTT Technical Research Centre

- Limitations of the scientists' freedom of expression and censorship of science

- Analysis of public debate concerning an attempt to silence critical opinions in energy related issues (peat, nuclear energy)
Science Communication (2): Scientific Communication

• Presence of Facebook, Twitter, blogs, YouTube and other interactive social media tools on scientific journal web pages

• Attention data in the social media tools of scientific journals: like, comment, follow, tweet, share, view
Aims to:

• **Create** a working model for educators, librarians and parents to **enhance** their awareness, knowhow and resources in the field of reading and literacies

• **Support** children’s and adolescents’ (6-16 years) literacy skills and desire to read, their interest and capability to diverse reading and writing, and their use of different texts and media content

• **Promote** children’s and adolescents’ access to information content (information skills and media literacy)
Development Project
"Desire to Read / Lukuinto"
(2012-2015) (2)

• The target groups are children and adolescents, teachers, librarians and parents.
• Will create a network for actors in the field of libraries, schools, publishers, authors and cultural societies
• An operations model and training format will be developed and nationally distributed
• A theme year will be nationally organized

Conducted jointly with the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oulu, funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
Annual Intake of Students

In the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Oulu since 1988 -

• 15 major subject students leading first to a BA and then to a MA degree

• Science Communication 15 MA degree students every second year
Degrees

• Grant both formal and practical qualifications for specialist work (e.g. design of information services in libraries, information management and service units or research institutions)

• 50% of graduates employed in libraries and 50% in private sector
Structure and Content of Degree Programme (300 ECTS credits)

• Studies concerning the creation, production, organization, seeking, retrieval, dissemination and sharing, usage and impact of information in different environments of human activity and society

• Research-based education

• Practical training

• Free choice of minor subject studies
Education of Pedagogical Information Specialists

• From 2012 –

• Flexible study path in cooperation with the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oulu
Master's Degree Programme in Science Communication

• Organised and run jointly by History of Science and Ideas and Information Studies at the Faculty of Humanities

• Since 2007-

• 120 ECTS; M.A. Degree in two years.

• Communication research studies; science studies; communication skills; master’s thesis; optional
Research and Doctoral Studies

- The University of Oulu Graduate School (UniOGS)
- Permission for doctoral studies can be applied in accordance with the regulations of the UniOGS
- Member of the national research programme in Communications Studies (VITRO)
- Information Studies is among the seven Centres of Excellence in Research in the University of Oulu nominated by the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in
International Collaboration (1)

• North-South-South Library and Information Studies Network (N-S-S LIS Network) funded by CIMO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Partners:
• University of Namibia, University of the Western Cape (Republic of South Africa), University of Dakar (Senegal), University of Tumaini Dar es Salaam College (Tanzania), School of Library, Archives and Documentation Studies (Tanzania)

• University of Oulu, Åbo Akademi University
N-S-S LIS Network aims to

• Develop knowledge society based on the use of modern ICT
• Develop university education and research in LIS
• Enhance quality of life and learning and sustainable development in the African countries involved
• Provide student and teacher exchanges, network meetings, intensive courses, joint research opportunities
International Collaboration (2)

• Universities involved in the Nordic Research School in Information Studies (NORSLIS)
  • University of Sheffield, UK
  • University of Kentucky, USA
  • University of Tsukuba, Japan
  • University of Vilnius, Lithuania
  • University of Iceland, Iceland
Selected Publications (1)


Selected Publications (2)


Selected Publications (4)


Selected Publications (5)


Selected Publications (6)

