

## Course report, *Users and activities in digital environments*, 7,5 credits and *Användare och informationspraktiker*, 7, 5 hp – spring term, 2017

The course runs in two programs: the *Master's study programme in Library and Information Science: Digital Libraries and Information Services*, and *Masterprogrammet i biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap*. It has been going on during the first half of the spring term 2017, from January to March. When the course started, altogether 56 students were registered. 46 students have been active throughout the course (of which 21 follow the international program).

Teaching has been conducted solely over a distance. Interaction between students and between students and the teacher was primarily enabled by one web-based seminar and by a set of literature discussions in Ping Pong.

Course content and teaching was structured in accordance with the following three themes:

- Perspectives, contexts, and concepts
- Three focus areas: The position of digital resources in people's communication and learning; Relations between digital resources and various information practices; and Evaluation of digital services with focus on digital libraries.
- Literature review on an area of relevance of the course

The above mentioned parts of the course were examined one at the time. The first part was designed as a task in two steps where the first step had each student writing a reflective summary of a couple of assigned texts. In step two, students formed groups of three (or four) and collectively wrote a piece emanating from the individual contributions; this latter step also involved a web-based seminar where the students discussed their text and related course literature. The second part involved active participation in a literature discussion in Ping Pong. The most demanding task appeared in part three, where each student individually wrote a short paper in the shape of a literature review.

At the time of writing, these are the study results:

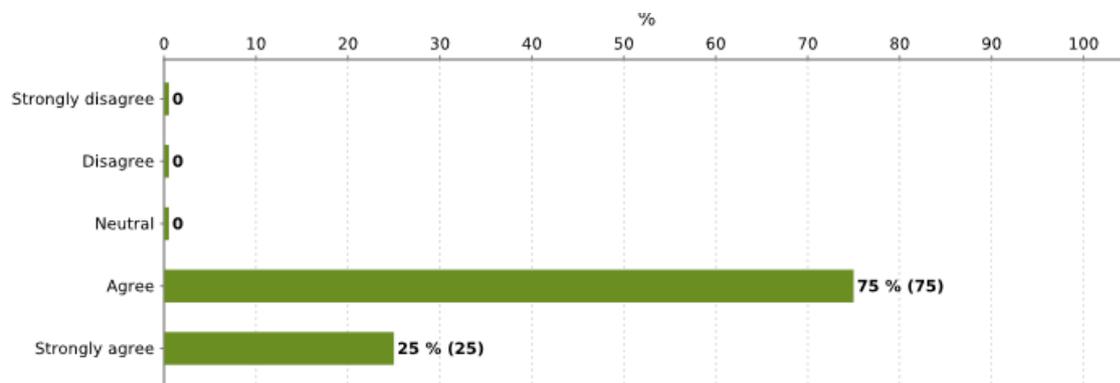
12 students following the international study program have successfully completed the whole course with the following distribution of grades: 2 A; 3 B; 6 C; 1 D.

19 students following the Swedish master program have successfully completed the whole course with the following distribution of grades: 8 VG; 11 G.

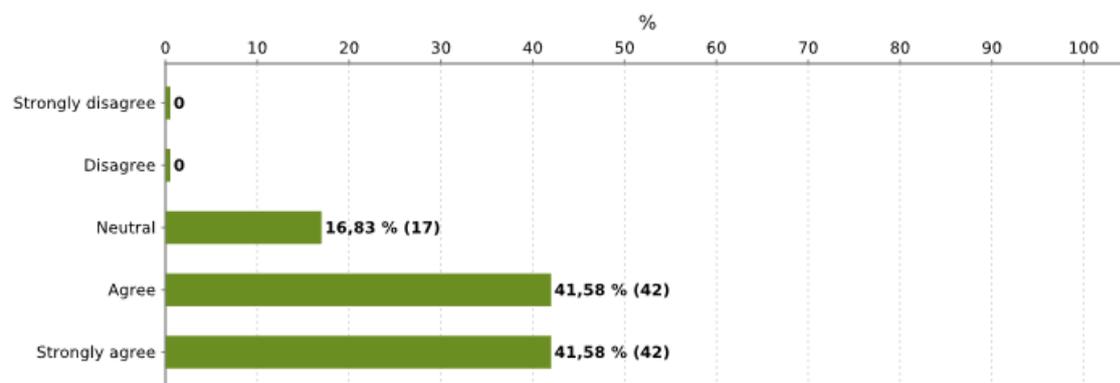
The course evaluation was conducted through a digital questionnaire published in Ping Pong at the end of the course. 12 students have filled in the questionnaire. Diagrams and percentages generated by the questionnaire are presented below:

1) According to the goals for this course the students should, after completion of the course, be able to:

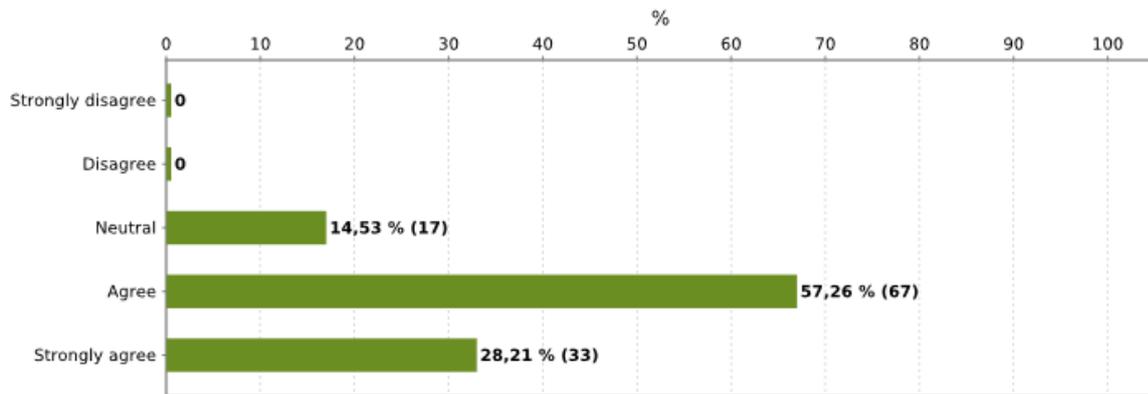
- Account for the position of different digital resources in communication and learning processes
- Explain how people in various information practices seek and use information in physical and virtual environments, and of the basis of this understanding be able to plan for development of digital resources and services
- Identify, describe and analyse the potential of digital resources concerning their benefit for library users
- From a user perspective as well as professional perspective evaluate the quality and usability of digital services



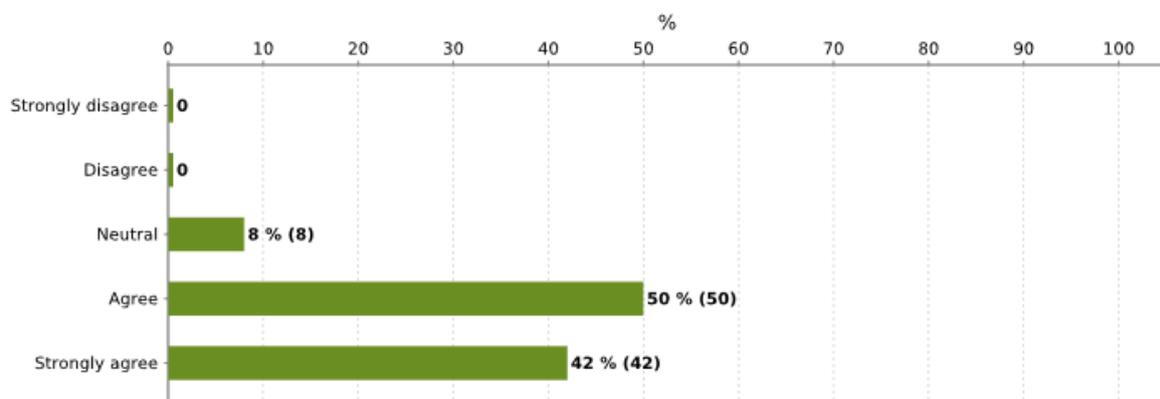
2) Teaching has been carried out through discussions in Ping Pong. The teaching has contributed to my learning and helped me reach the learning goals.



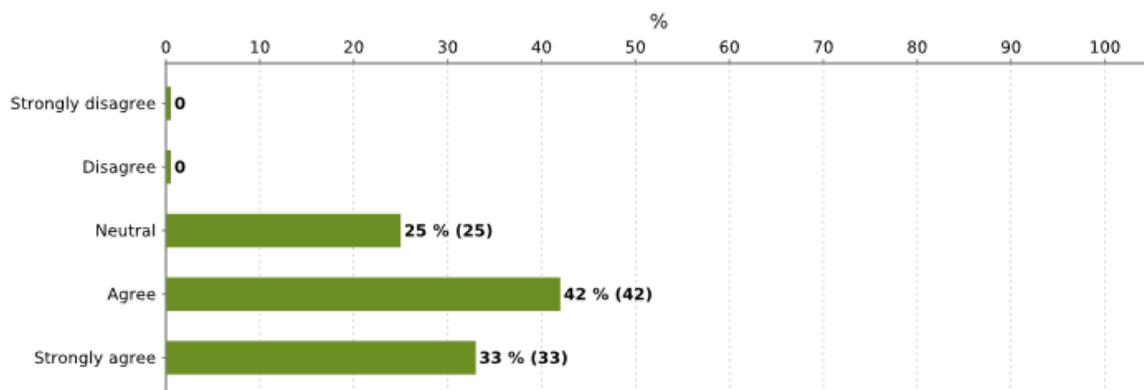
3) The course literature has been helpful for my learning.



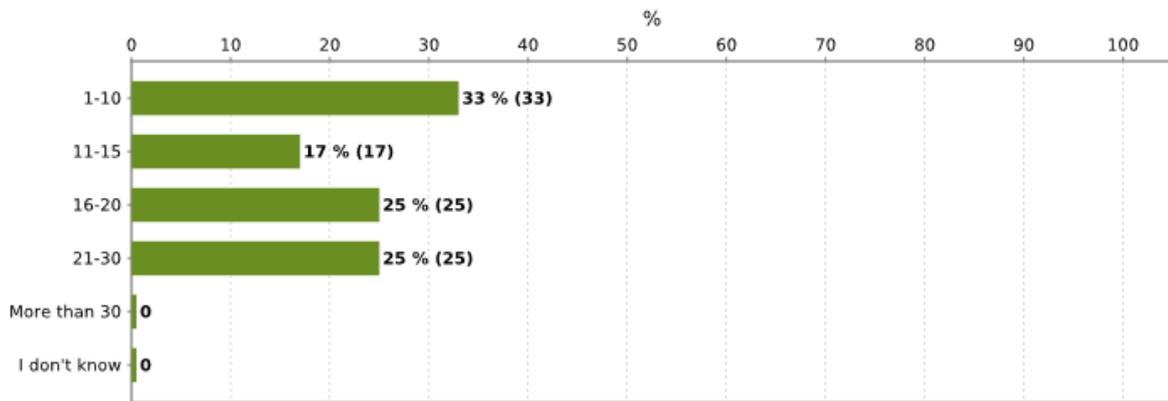
4) The teacher has been helpful and has contributed to my learning.



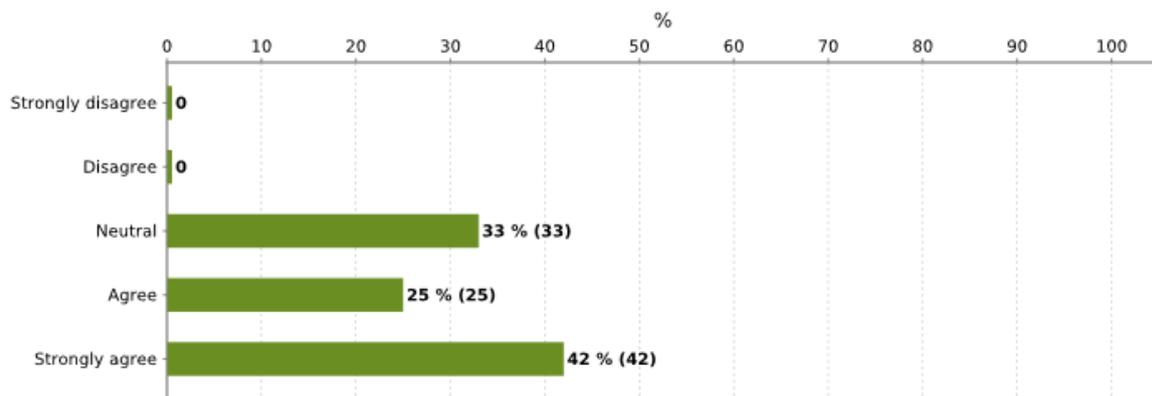
5) There has been a clear connection between the course content and illustrative examples from the research field.



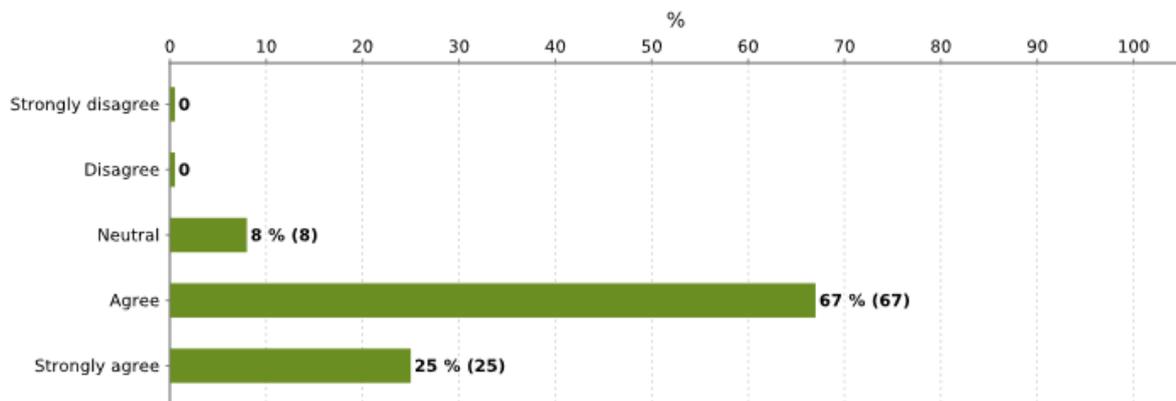
6) In average, how many hours per week have you used for course work?



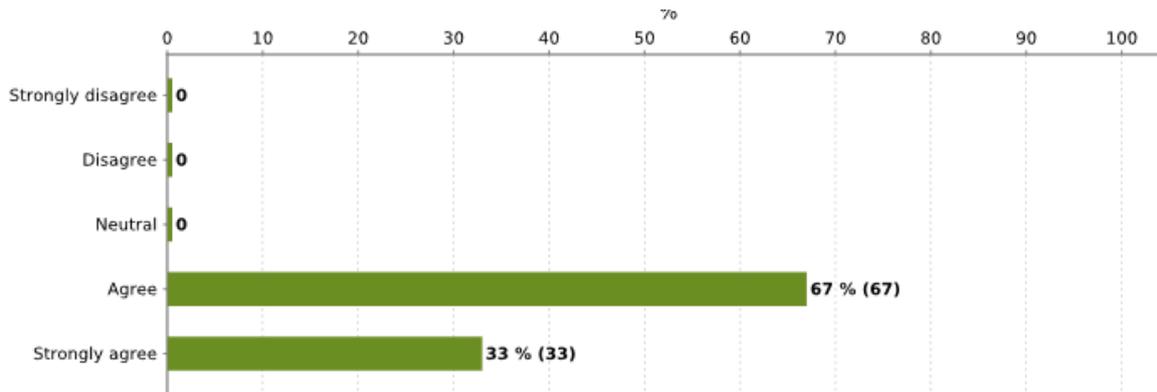
7) The workload has been evenly distributed over the course.



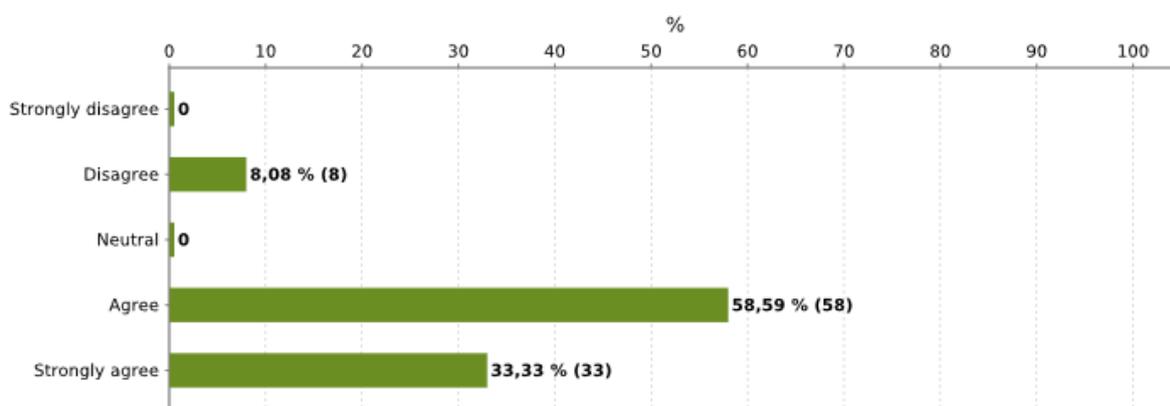
8) Examination has been conducted through written assignments, an online seminar, and a course paper. The assignments correspond well with the course goals.



9) I have read all or most of the course literature.



10) There is a clear connection between the course and the professional activities the course serves as a preparation for.



First of all it should be noted that only 12 students filled in the questionnaire. It is therefore difficult to make any general conclusions on the basis of the results. However, it is nevertheless gratifying to note that all of the 12 students either agree or strongly agree with the proposition that the course goals have been reached. In addition to the questions accounted for above, there were also two questions that offered the opportunity to express opinions on how the course can be improved and if it was perceived as lacking something of importance. Only six students have taken the opportunity to address these questions. Apart from one comment, which stated that the workload was too heavy throughout the course, all other comments expressed very positive opinions about the course. The following two excerpts from the comments illustrate this positive stance: “very stimulating with interesting content and excellent teaching” and “Jag måste säga att jag uppskattade verkligen hur den här kursen är utformad”.

From my teacher perspective, I think the course has worked out well.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have responded to the questionnaire. Your opinions are of great value.

Borås, 2018-03-01

Ola Pilerot, teacher.