Doctoral autumn meeting 2023

2023-11-09 | Meeting chair Zanna Friberg (zanna.friberg@abm.uu.se)

# **Information**

The need for a national doctoral network has been articulated several times since the NORSLIS network ran out of funding in 2008, e.g. in the 2021 report of the Swedish Government Commission on School Libraries (SOU 2021:3).

A group of faculty from all participating universities drafted a plan for a doctoral school with the aim of strengthening the Swedish LIS PhD education in 2021. In addition to working towards a doctoral school, this group (although with slightly shifting members) have become a *steering group* of a *network* working for community and network building activities for all LIS doctoral students in Sweden.

The current members of the steering group is:

* Björn Hammarfelt (current chair, University of Borås)
* Anna Lundh (coordinator, University of Borås)
* Anette Trennedal (secretary, University of Borås)
* Joacim Hansson (Linnaeus University)
* Olof Sundin (Lund University)
* Pamela Schultz Nybacka (Södertörn University)
* Rickard Danell (Umeå University)
* Isto Huvila (Uppsala University)
* Zanna Friberg (PhD student representative, Uppsala University)

The steering group secured funding from the Swedish Library Association and the University of Borås for the coordinator role Anna Lundh has, and a yearly writing retreat, the first writing retreat was held in Örebro in 2022. In addition to the writing retreat, there is an annual Swedish PhD Worshop in Information studies where doctoral students submit text for feedback in seminar form. On each of these occasions there is a doctoral student meeting in the program where we can discuss feedback on network activities and other issues and ideas about our national PhD community. Today’s meeting is the second spring meeting and the third meeting since the network was formed. Other activities organised within the network is:

* An international online seminar series, next instalment is the 16th of November.
* Shut Up & Write sessions where all doctoral students, as well as senior researchers are invited to monthly Shut Up & Write sessions – last Friday of each month at 1.15pm to 3pm.
* Desk exchanges where you all have the opportunity to spend some time at one of the participating schools/departments and present your work-in-progress at the local seminar series.

In December 2022, the coordinator and the steering group secured funding from the Swedish Research Council for 11 new PhD student positions, making up the Resource Research School.

# **Feedback**

## The Annual Swedish PhD Workshop in Information Studies

(This is the event in spring, where we submit texts for feedback, it is held in different places each year, the 2024 one is in Uppsala 25-26 April with a text deadline on the 11 of April)

Following feedback from the last workshop, we agreed that it is important that information about the workshop is clear and provided early in order for everyone to prepare for the workshop in a way that makes it as useful as possible. Some notes on the information needed:

* The information sent out so far, save the date and deadline for text submission, does not seem to have reached everyone. The information should be **sent out again** after double-checking if every new doctoral student are included in relevant e-mail lists.
* Information about style, length and types of texts that are suitable should be sent out early too, preferably at the same time as the save the date and text deadline.
* Information *to* senior researchers/advisors about what is expected of the them in regards to attendance should be clearly communicated *from the organisers to the senior researchers/advisors* in good time. In order for them to plan but also to make sure that no doctoral student is put in the position of having to talk their supervisors into going.

## This year’s writing retreat

* We were happy with the different set up for the shut-up and write in the afternoon (25+5min instead of 45+15 min).
* We would like an open office/ask for advice session, where a senior researcher can be available for discussion of different topics around the writing process.
* An active workshop is preferable to a more lecture style session, provides more of a stimulating break from the writing.
* It is nice to have several options for activities. We would like to keep it that way even though most (everyone?) chose the SPA this time. It would actually be nice to have one of the activities being a more active one, depending on what is available at the place where the retreat is held next time.
* Good if the next venue allows for some variation in seating when writing, for the body and the mind.
* If needed, we are happy to work on a motion to be presented to the Library Association for the continued support of the writing retreat. This should however be coordinated with Anna Lundh.

## Zoom-Shut up and write

It will be counter-productive to have them be or feel mandatory, they should be an opportunity to set a side time not feel like they are there to dictate how or when you should do your writing. We should be mindful of this when we communicate about the sessions. Could it be useful to go hybrid? The name could be changed to “Just write”.

**New doctoral representatives**There should be two doctoral students representing all of us in the steering group for the network, one from among the Resource doctoral students and one that is not a Resource doctoral student. The work amounts to approx. 1 steering group meeting per semester + chairing the spring and autumn meetings.

* Replacing Zanna Friberg is Camilla Lindelöw (Borås)
* No representative from Resourse was chosen but Nikolina Nordin will organise a selection