It’s all about keeping quiet - using focus group interviews to understand the everyday life of researchers in order to support their research

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It’s all about keeping quiet

- USING FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS TO UNDERSTAND THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF RESEARCHERS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR RESEARCH

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Background

By shifted perspectives …

… from the library’s point of view

… to the researchers’ everyday lives & key obstacles in their research processes

*We did not want to:* evaluate library support services or resources

*Purpose of the project:* To identify areas where the present research support services at Lund University ought to be developed
Schematic model of the research process

✓ To focus on the researchers’ perspectives…

✓ To develop questions…

✓ To categorise and analyse their experiences…

... we decided to use a schematic model of the research process:

| Start a research project | Collect material | Process/analyze/write | Communicate results and make data accessible |

Figure 1: The research process, a schematic model: (Voog et al., 2013)
In the focus group interview

The researchers were asked to talk about:

- how they do their research
- The obstacles they experience

The role of the moderator was to:

- introduce themes
- not be an active part in the discussion
Benefits and challenges with focus group interviews

- Free form that sets the agenda
- Interaction between participants

- Challenge to keep quiet
- Some questions may remain unanswered
Shifting back the perspective

The necessity of analysis:

- To identify different parts of the research process and obstacles
- To identify different needs for different disciplines
- To understand the researchers’ experiences in relation to existing research support services
Want to know more?


Thank you for listening!

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