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Researchers and professional librarians as co-teachers - collaboration in teaching using the theory of constructive alignment

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Abstract

Title:

Researchers and professional librarians as co-teachers – collaboration in teaching using the theory of constructive alignment.

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This paper will focus on the present state and further development for the compulsory postgraduate one-week course “Scientific communication” where researchers and librarians collaborate in order to increase the quality of the course. The constructive alignment theory (Biggs, Tang et al. 2007) is used to create a common language around pedagogical issues. The course is, upon assignment of the Postgraduate education committee of the Faculty of Medicine, organized by the Library and ICT unit of the faculty.

The core of the content of the course is derived from a previous one-day course which had focus on practical information literacy skills. Thus, analyzing the information retrieval and information management sections and expanding these towards a larger and more meaningful context in the area of scientific communication required an expansion of knowledge reaching beyond the professional boundaries in library and information science. The expanded areas were; writing a scientific article, evaluation of research, writing popularized summary, constructive criticism. Consequently, the assignment to create an expanded course initiated collaboration with other professions at the faculty.

The teachers in the team use similar teaching methods. A focus at all times on constructive alignment (the red thread) in the teaching situation is necessary in order to keep a high quality in the course. Using a common language for pedagogical issues in the teaching team is essential.

The author see the collaboration in the teaching team as a professional development for the teaching librarians. The new challenges for the professional librarians will be discussed.

Biggs, J. B., C. S.-k. Tang, et al. (2007). Teaching for quality learning at university : what the student does. Maidenhead, Open University Press.