



## Big Wheel – big deal?

Academic library contributes to education reform: case  
veterinary medicine

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Hola!



(Fuerteventura)

# *Outline:*



**BIG WHEEL**  
EDUCATION REFORM

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# What is the Big Wheel?



**BIG WHEEL**  
EDUCATION REFORM

The education *reform* "Big Wheel" has started at the Helsinki University in 2015

The aim is that the University educates future experts for future careers

The three-tier degree structure (Bologna model) must now be taken advantage of in a field-specific way



# Objectives (1)



The content of the degree education provided by the University of Helsinki is based on *learning outcomes* and meets the future demands of the *labour market*.



Digitization is *integrated* with the *learning environment*, and education provides the skills necessary for operating in various constantly changing operating environments.

*Mobility* within the University and between universities and universities of applied sciences is seamless, and prior learning is recognized.

## Objectives (2)

Helsinki University Library (HULib) is responsible for the *Information Literacy (IL) training* in all the Faculties and all the study stages.

In this Big Wheel carriage the Library supports the University by updating the IL planning and training process.



*The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is situated on the Viikki Campus of Life Sciences. A part of the Faculty is the Veterinary Teaching Hospital which is an important learning environment during the fifth year of studies. The hospital is located in two different towns and the students have to rotate between those.*

*The **Viikki Campus Library** provides the IL training. The IL training reform of the veterinary curriculum is carried out by the veterinary librarian.*



# Methods (1)

- examination of the process of development which will result in a new IL teaching practice
- the IL teaching team (ILTT) will process the IL study plans for each study degree, each frame will be applied across different study degrees.
- each subproject implements the IL frames to the IL training program.
- the study degrees are:
  - first year students
  - bachelor degree students
  - master degree students
  - doctorate students

## IL Threshold Concepts (Six Frames)

Scholarship is a Conversation	Research is Inquiry	Authority is Constructed and Contextual
Format as a Process	Searching as Exploration	Information has Value

# Methods (2)



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In order to achieve the learning outcomes in the *Searching as Exploration* –frame of the candidature phase the student has to be able to:

- determine the initial scope of the task required
- identify information producers
- match information needs and search strategies to search tools and search results
- understand how information systems are organized
- use different types of searching language (e.g. controlled vocabulary, keywords, natural language) appropriately
- manage searching processes and results effectively





# Methods (3)



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## *Research as Inquiry*

The student sees the information seeking as a part of scientific investigation and is able to:

- formulate questions for research
- determine an appropriate scope of investigation
- deal with complex research by breaking complex questions into simple ones
- use various research methods based on need, circumstance, and type of inquiry
- organize information in meaningful ways AND follow ethical and legal guidelines





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## Results (1)

The Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine degree – offered by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - forms a continuum with both professionally oriented and academic postgraduate degrees. In this degree intended learning outcomes have been specified for each study module and are continuously developed to meet the needs of employment.

The Faculty increases dialogue with employers by engaging colleagues working in different fields in specifying intended learning outcomes and in developing learning assessment.

HULib is involved in the IL teaching to the veterinary students. The IL program is embedded in the curriculum and the veterinary librarian provides both basic library services and research services to the scientific community of veterinary researchers and teachers.



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## Results (2)

All that is required in the Big Wheel reform have already been present in the curriculum of the Licentiate in Veterinary Medicine.

Working life has been a guiding principle throughout the six year curriculum; however, the business environment has dramatically changed during the last five years.

It remains to be seen how this affects research and teaching in the field of animal health.



# Discussion



- Library is involved in many other aspects of this reform e.g. open science, helping teachers in choosing electronic study material etc.
- Libraries also continue to be important study environments for students
- All the information literacy material will be collected into one place online
- Library and student services develop together new digital learning environments, e.g. DOO:

*The goal of the Digital Teaching and Learning Environment (DOO) project is to create a user-friendly, modern IT system which will form the primary environment for all University students and teaching staff.*

*The services will be piloted and taken into use during the year 2016.*





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# Conclusion and future plans

Big Wheel is a big deal to the whole academic community. The faculties as well the library will change their processes to produce better learning outcomes. Lifelong education includes continuous need of information retrieval – the competence to find new relevant information is essential for success in professional tasks.



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