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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

Wiklund, Gunilla; Voog, Hanna; Kjellberg, Sara

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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

GUNILLA WIKLUND, FACULTY OF LAW LIBRARY, LUND UNIVERSITY
HANNA VOOG, SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY LIBRARY, LUND UNIVERSITY
SARA KJELLBERG, LIBRARY AND IT SERVICES, MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

Background

Purpose of the project:

To identify areas where the present research support services at Lund University ought to be developed

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

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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)
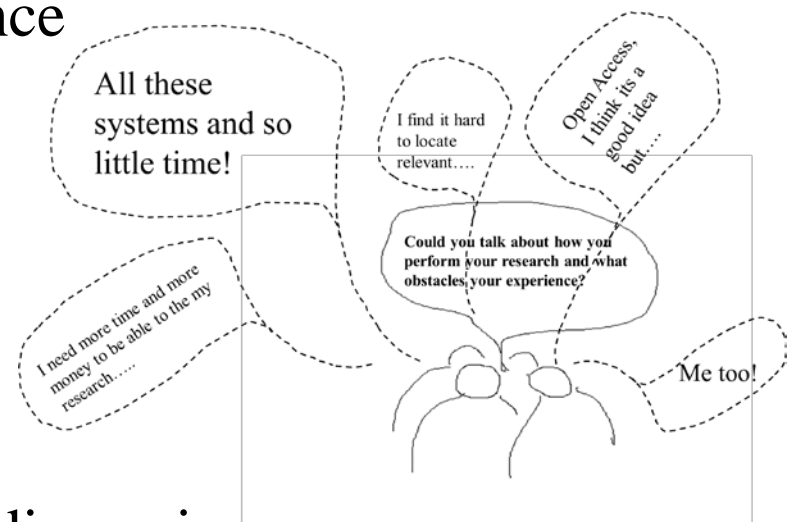
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In the focus group interview

The researchers were asked to talk about:

- o how they do their research

- o The obstacles they experience

The role of the moderator was to:

- o introduce themes

- o not be an active part in the discussion

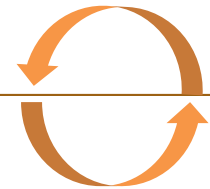# Benefits and challenges with focus group interviews

+
- Free form that sets the agenda
- Interaction between participants

−
- Challenge to keep quiet
- Some questions may remain unanswered

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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

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Want to know more?

- Wiklund, G., & Voog, H. (2013). It takes two to tango – making way for relevant research support service at Lund university libraries (LUB). *ScieCom Info, 9*(1).

- Voog H, Arnebrant K, Bank M, et al. (2013) Tillgänglighet, närhet och synlighet - gemensamma utmaningar för LUB-nätverket för att möta forskares behov av stöd vid Lunds universitet. Lunds universitets bibliotek (LUB).

Thank you for listening!

Gunilla.Wiklund@jur.lu.se
Hanna.Voog@sambib.lu.se
Sara.Kjellberg@mah.se