WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Course:	**Research Methodology and Communication**
Course code:	**VP761**

Credits for written examination: **4 credits**

Date:	2024-05-17 at 08:15 - 12:30
Examination responsible:	Richard Senington
Teachers concerned:	Jörgen Hansson
Aid at the exam:	Oates et al. "Researching Information Systems and Computing", 1st or 2nd ed. The only notes that are allowed include: i) translation of words from English to native language, ii) reference notes, such as, "see page X", iii) stickers with naming labels to allow for quickly finding the right place in the book. No electronic devices are allowed.
Other:	Choose 4 out of 5 questions. Answer each question as a short text essay composed of one or more paragraphs, supplementing your answer with diagrams if desired. Points are awarded for each reasoning/argument/part of the answer that is distinct (not a repetition of a previous part), relevant to the question and justifiable from an informed reading of the course text.
	Answer in Swedish or English. Write legibly!

Instructions		
	☐	Take a new sheet of paper for each teacher.
	☒	Take a new sheet of paper when starting a new question.
	☒	Write only on one side of the paper.
	☒	Write your name and personal ID No. on all pages you hand in.
	☒	Use page numbering. Order your answers in sequential/linear order!
	☒	Don´t use a red pen.
	☒	Mark answered questions with a cross on the cover sheet.

Failure to follow the above instructions will result in point reductions!

Grade points:	40		
ECTS grading:	A: 36-40	B: 32-35	C: 28-31
	D: 24-27	E: 20-23	F: 0-19

Examination results should be made public within 18 working days.

Q1: Originality and literature reviews
a)   Elaborate on how one can argue originality in research. (4p)
b)   Identify different two types of literature reviews. What are the characteristics of these two chose literature reviews? Develop your own examples (i.e., examples that are not listed in Oates) when these literature review types are appropriate to use. (6p)

Q2: Mixed research methods
Mixed research methods can be adopted for a several good reasons. However, diffent types of data gathering and data analysis techniques are often grounded in different epistemological and ontological paradigms, which in turn have different views/definitions on what constitutes knowledge. New paradigms have been developed by not agreeing with axioms and criteria of past paradigms, i.e., it can be argued that there are inherent conflicts between the paradigms. You are asked to elaborate and how to navigate/negotiate these epistemological and ontological conflicts when adopting different research methods. (10p)

Q3: Experiments and case studies
a)   Two different types of research methods are case studies and experiments. Do a comparison of the two methods, highlighting the differences and possibly common aspects. (6p)
b)   You have met a researcher who has built an innovative new software, and a company has agreed to participate in the research by adopting the software in the company. The researcher can then conduct various observations and other types of data gathering to determine how the software is being used and how well it works. The researcher argues that he/she is conducting case study research. Is he/she correct in stating that? Analyze and argue your case why it might/might not be case study research. If it is a case study, what type of case study is it? (4p)

Q4: Bias
a)   Explain, by use of definitions and (research) examples, the following biases: acquiscence bias, apophenia bias, and self-confirmation bias. (6p)
b)   Explain, by the use of an example, the Dunning-Kruger effect and how it can come into play in research, and what are the potential consequences Is it a type of bias? Argue your position whether it is a type of bias, or not. And if it is a bias, your reasoning, which bias is it? (4p)

Q5: Ethics
Describe two different situations in information technology or in engineering research in which ethics must be considered, defining the nature of the ethical issues involved and some research designs that can improve or avoid them. Situations that you identify should be unique examples not outlined in Oates' book.