The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Driving Licence at the University of Helsinki: Synergy from Cooperation

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The ICT Driving Licence at the University of Helsinki: Synergy from Cooperation

- To whom: ICT (Information and Communication Technology) skills for all new students
- Modules: Information seeking is one of the five modules
- Components: Both online learning material and tests and in-class teaching
- Working together: Requires extensive coordination and offers huge rewards

University of Helsinki

- 11 faculties
- 10 libraries
- almost 4,000 new students per year
- 38,000 undergraduate students

Campuses in Helsinki
Aim of the ICT Driving Licence

- focus on those who have poor ICT skills
- compulsory for all new students in all faculties
- 3 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

ICT Driving Licence Consists of Five Modules

- How to plan information seeking
  - resource types etc.
- Finding material from the University of Helsinki Libraries
  - Helka library catalog
- Finding information on a certain topic
  - Nelli portal, boolean operators, thesauri etc.
- How to use and evaluate information
  - copyright etc.
Introductory course and ICT Driving Licence

Basic Studies Seminar or other courses

Bachelor’s seminar

Master’s seminar

Course for Ph.D. students

Components of the ICT Driving Licence

Entry Level Test (WebCT)

Library Tour & Hands-on Session

Self-learning Material

Monitored Examination (WebCT)

(obligatory in all faculties)
ICT Driving Licence: An Example of an Entry-level Test Question

Your friend recommended you an article by Sture Allén “Dubbelve dubbelve dubbelve”. The article is included in the publication called “Boken om våra modersmål” which was published 2003.

How do you check in Helka if the article is in the library? See the picture below and choose one alternative.
Factors for Success

- **Timing**
  - Because of the Bologna process the degree structure reformed → easier to introduce a new course

- **Support from the university management**
  - Steering group
  - The Vice rector Hannele Niemi has been active

- **Skilled full-time coordinator, Olli Salo, in the IT department**

Factors for Success

- **University level cooperation in the project team:**
  - IT department, pedagogical units, libraries, student union, IT teachers and IT pedagogical support persons from all faculties

- **Faculty level cooperation with IT teachers and librarians**

- **Course level cooperation with the teachers of the introductory courses and librarians**

- **One library/faculty could not have done all this.**

Students' self-assessment of their ICT skills before and after the course

![Graph showing students' self-assessment of ICT skills](image)

- **n=751**
Challenges for the Future

- How to ensure funding and coordination in the future
- How to ensure the pedagogical soundness
  - Do self-learning material and tests encourage students for further studying and learning
- Is the ICT Driving Licence the best context for the information seeking module?
- ICT Driving Licence for the staff
- The results and the way how we have worked has been promising