
Education Needs of Information Professionals in South East Asia: a Delphi Study

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• PhD research
• Context
  – Hong Kong (SAR) China
  – China
  – Macao
  – Taiwan
  – Singapore
  – United States
Research Method-Delphi

- Gather experts opinions through questionnaires
- Analyse responses
- Provide feedback to experts
- Analyse responses
- Identify trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Number</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Degree of Expertise required for the profession (%)</th>
<th>Degree of Importance as a Subject of Study for a LIS curriculum (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Responses High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Research and analytical skills</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>57.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Method-Delphi-Steps

- Extensive literature analysis on library and information science programs/curricula
- Selection of statements and topics derived from analysis

- Identification of participants (panel of experts)
  - Library and information science practitioners
  - Library and Information science educators
  - Potential employers and user community
- Presentation to participants of statements and topics
  - Round one
    - Fourteen topics
    - 114 questions
    - 38 participants

- Presentation to participants of modified statements and topics
  - Round two
    - Fourteen topics
    - 93 questions
    - 32 participants
Consensus reached after two rounds

- Defined as at least 75% of experts agreeing on the same rating value for a given statement
- Data analysis carried out

Key results

- Priority curriculum areas
  - Research and analytical skills
  - Information services skills
  - Communication skills
  - Management skills
  - Collection development skills
  - Subject knowledge
Key results

- Priority curriculum areas
  - Information services organising skills
  - Archiving, preservation and conservation
  - Services skills for special populations
  - Information technology skills
  - System design
  - Perform value-added analysis

Other results

- Personal qualities
  - Mindset of continual learning
  - Flexibility, creativity, innovation, change
  - Awareness of wider professional issues
  - Ability to conceptualise
  - Be people orientated/collaborative/team centred
• Preliminary analysis of data suggests:
  Ideal LIS core curriculum in 3 areas
  – Information services skills and research and analytical skills
  – Communication and management skills
  – Collection development skills and subject knowledge

• Elective courses such as:
  – Information services organising skills
  – Archives, preservation and conservation
  – Services skills for special populations
  – Information technology skills and systems design
  – Value-added information analysis
What researcher expected to find important:
- IT skills and systems design
- Information services organising skills
- Services skills for special populations

What researcher found important:
- Information services skills
- Research and analytical skills
- Communication and management skills
- Collection development skills
THANK YOU