

Evaluation of Public Libraries in Kermanshah Province Based upon Dayani Standard (1374)

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Received: 2010.02.21; Accepted: 2010.05.08

Abstract

Purpose: The present research has studied the status of public libraries in Kermanshah Province (Iran) based on Dayani standard (1374). Concerning 9 criteria including daily work hours, total area, area of building, number of books, annual increase of books, number of members, number of staff, number of bookcases, and number of chairs, the libraries were compared with Dayani standard (1374) at macro- and micro-level, and the approach for each of these libraries was specified.

Methodology: The methodology of this research is of survey-descriptive type. The population under study included 52 public libraries in Kermanshah Province. The required data were collected by a questionnaire and after getting back the questionnaires, in case that they were incomplete the statistics of the Iran public libraries foundation was used. Validity of the questionnaire was tested by content analysis using experts' opinion. Also, its reliability was measured in SPSS software as Kronbach's alpha which was 0.83.

Findings: The research findings indicated that in comparison with level-6 libraries, the public libraries of Kermanshah Province are of better position except in one standard (Total area). Also compared to level-5 libraries, they are higher in two standards (annual increase of books and number of bookcases). In comparison with level-4 libraries, they have a lower position in four standards (area of building, number of members, number of staff, and number of chairs), but higher in one standard (annual increase of books). In addition, compared to level-3 libraries, they are assigned a lower position in five standards (area of building, number of books, number of staff, number of chairs, and number of members), while possessing a better rank in two standards (annual increase of books and number of bookcases).

Originality/Value: This paper is the first comprehensive study concerning public libraries of Kermanshah Province and it has provided evidence which assist the improvement of these libraries.

Keywords: Public libraries; Kermanshah Province (Iran); Dayani Standard; Measurement and evaluation.