

Usage of UNESCO Cultural Diversity Declaration among Public Librarians of Isfahan Province in Iran

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Abstract

Purpose: This research aimed to survey the usage of UNESCO cultural diversity declaration among public librarians of Isfahan province in Iran to find their detailed bonds on each of building blocks of the Declaration and give some recommendation to enhance their commitment to it.

Methodology: Survey method was used to reach the aims of research. The population of study included all staff at the public libraries of Isfahan (n = 544). Based on Cochran formula for determination of sample size, we selected 110 librarians by random stratified sampling method. The tool for collecting data was researcher-developed Questionnaire based on UNESCO cultural diversity declaration components with the Likert scale, that the face validity of questionnaire was approved by experts and its reliability of it approved by means of measurement of Cronbach's alpha coefficient (0.97).

Findings: Findings revealed that the mean usage of UNESCO cultural diversity declaration among public librarians of Isfahan province is lower than the average (2.88). "Safeguarding linguistic diversity and giving support to expression in creation, production and dissemination of information" is the most application and "promoting cultural diversity in cyberspace" has the least usage and meaningfulness among public librarians. Also, there was no significant difference in viewpoints of librarians by gender and age about usage of UNESCO cultural diversity, librarians with different academic degree of education had significantly different viewpoints.

Originality/Value: Showing public librarians' low level bonds to UNESCO cultural diversity declaration can be mentioned as a value of this research. Albeit, librarians' commitment to "Safeguarding linguistic diversity and giving support to expression in creation, production and dissemination of information" was a prominent finding.

Keywords: Cultural diversity, Librarians, Public libraries, UNESCO, Isfahan province, Iran.

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