

Viewpoints of LIS Society Concerning Change in Content, Teaching, and Title of the Discipline

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Received: 26th June, 2010; Accepted: 1st November, 2010

Abstract

Purpose: Herein, we seek to study the viewpoints of librarianship and information science society regarding change in title, content, and teaching of this discipline and it is aimed to study those fundamental dimensions of changes in different fields of this discipline encompass from viewpoint of LIS experts, staff, and students. Also, what are the change priorities from their point of view and is there consensus in LIS society regarding these changes?

Methodology: This is an applied study and we have made use of survey study due to nature of the subject, as well as goals of the study and questions. Viewpoints of 275 members of professional society (faculty members, students, and librarians) were collected and analyzed. A researcher-made questionnaire was used for data collection. Also, statistical tests including Friedman test, Kruskal-Wallis test, and ANOVA were applied to test the research questions.

Findings: Results of Friedman test indicated that change priority from viewpoint of LIS society in order of significance is change in title, content, and teaching. Furthermore, Kruskal-Wallis and ANOVA tests showed that the three mentioned groups of LIS society have consensus for change in content and teaching; however, no such consensus exists regarding change in the title.

Originality/Value: So far, debates related to changes in different scopes of librarianship and information science has been made either as personal opinions and discussions or as those reflecting the viewpoints of merely a part of LIS society. In the present research, through survey of viewpoints expressed by three groups of members of LIS professional society, their desired priorities regarding change in title, content, and teaching of the major were studied.

Keywords: Librarianship and information science; Poll; Course content; Course outline; Title of Discipline