

The knowledge level of Israeli librarians and information professionals about copyright laws relevant to the internet / Menahem Dolinsky

Abstract:

This study analyzes the extent of librarians' and information professionals' knowledge of the copyright laws which are relevant to their professional life, paying a special attention to the internet. A questionnaire which examines the librarian's and information professional's daily activities was used to examine the extent of their knowledge.

The study was on a questionnaire which was distributed among librarians and information professionals from different sectors, such as, the public sector, the government sector, industry and trade, education, etc. The respondents had been trained in different ways. The sample included 250 respondents, 100 of whom were employed by non-profit making organizations, together with 100 students of Librarianship and Information Science, all of whom had completed at least two years of study in a university or college. The remaining 50 respondents were from the private sector.

19.2% of the sample had sufficient knowledge of those copyright laws which are relevant to the internet, whereas only 11.6% of the sample demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of copyright laws in general. It can be concluded that the respondents' knowledge of both internet copyright law and general copyright law was poor.

The research looked for correlation between the respondents' knowledge and demographic factors such as academic qualifications, experience, number of employees in the place work and type of organization. No significant statistical correlation was found between knowledge of copyright law relevant to the internet and between the above demographic factors.

Those parts of copyright law relevant to internet which were known to most of the respondents, concerned demands for payment for copyright violations, use of works in the public domain use of internet domain names. The correlation between the frequency distribution for knowledge of copyright laws in general and between the frequency distribution for knowledge of copyright laws relevant to the internet was insignificant or medium, An examination of the demographic qualities of the respondents who demonstrated a satisfactory knowledge of copyright laws (i.e. a score of 61 or more) relevant to internet showed an inverse correlation between knowledge and work experience.

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