Males in librarianship and information science satisfaction and motivation 1990 - 2000 / Zahava Weisshouse

Abstract:

The current research examined the motivations of students choosing Librarianship and Information Science as a profession, and the satisfaction of males engaged in the profession. In addition this thesis examined whether there was growth in the last decade in the number of males who joined the profession compared with the previous decade.

The research was conducted in the Bar-Ilan University, in the 2000-2001 academic year, subjects included 128 students from the Information Science Department, 105 females and 23 males.

It is a combined quantitative and qualitative research, and includes a survey of demographic data and a questionnaire divided into five parts. Moreover, an interview was conducted with 14 librarians of different professional levels regarding their present occupation and what is expected in their opinion, in the future, concerning males joining the profession.

The research shows that a small increase occurred in the number of males graduating from the Librarianship Department of the Bar-Ilan University in the last four years. It is impossible to determine at this time if the number will continue to rise or if the increase of the last few years is only accidental.

The differences between males and females were examined in a number of subjects related to motivation and satisfaction: intrinsic and extrinsic considerations, attitude towards computers, willingness to persist with the choice and preference of professional roles.

Regarding the subjects professional preference, it was found that the "traditional" considerations, such as love of books or personal preference

have a greater weight among both males and females. Satisfaction is higher among males, but the willingness to persist in the profession is greater among females. Management and reference roles are preferred by all the subjects and in the attitude towards computers there is no difference between genders.

Concerning demographic data it was found that the men are younger than the women, and all the men studied information science, while women study society information science also.

Male librarians are satisfied with their profession and their career patterns match the studies conducted among males engaged in other female professions, i.e., males occupy senior roles much beyond their relative number in the library, they do not expect the number of men entering the Librarianship and Information Science profession to rise.

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