

Abstract

Title: Graduate Follow-up Study of the Bachelor Program in Library and Information Science, Srinakharinwirot University for Curriculum Development in a Knowledge-based Society

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The purpose of this research was to determine the employers' satisfaction and expectation towards the graduates of the Bachelor Program in Library and Information Science, Srinakharinwirot University and their desirable characteristics. The research also aimed at studying graduates' opinions of the applicability of course content in the program and desirable characteristics of library and information science graduates. The results of the study will be used for program planning, evaluation and development to meet the employers' demand in a knowledge-based society.

The research hypotheses included: 1) A gap existed between the employers' satisfaction and expectation towards the graduates; 2) Graduates who completed the program in different years had different opinions about course content in the program; and 3) Graduates who had different work status had different opinions about course content in the program.

Data obtained from the employers' questionnaire and graduates' questionnaire were analyzed using SPSS. Statistics applied includes percentage, means, standard deviation and t-test.

The findings showed that the majority of the employers (62.2%) were not librarians and worked in non-library organizations. The gap between employers' satisfaction and expectation towards the graduates did not exist. Both their satisfaction and expectation towards the graduates were at high level. The desirable characteristics of graduates in the

knowledge-based society included personality and human relationship; knowledge and competencies in organizational management; and knowledge and skill in information technology. The findings also indicated that the majority of the graduates (60.4%) were female. The percentages of graduates who worked in libraries or information centers and non-library organizations were balanced. Over half of the graduates (57.4%) worked in the private sector. Fifty percent of the graduates received monthly salary ranging from 10,001 to 15,000 Baht. Regarding the applicability of the course content to their work, most graduates found 13 courses in program applicable to their work at high level, 16 courses at moderate level, and only 1 course at the lowest level. The analysis of relationships between variables showed that different year of completion and different work status of the graduates did not affect their opinions about course content in the program. The graduates' opinion towards desirable characteristics of graduates was similar to that of the employers.